

# Rockford School Council

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Minutes for October 2, 2019

Time: 6:30-8pm

Attendees:

Delia J., Thane J., Monica O, Grant S., Gulseren B, Neeraja C, Anna K, Beverly F, Camila C, Azi M, Calvin T, Deeba A, Ian M, Ivana L-M, Tatiana B, Farzana L, Narie J-H

## **1. Welcome**

## **2. Approval of Minutes from September's meeting**

Once approved, the minutes should hopefully be posted on the Rockford website for all of the parents to reference.

Motion – Grant Sernick, Seconded – Monica O – Approved

## **3. Approval of Budget from September's meeting**

At the previous meeting, Thane proposed a budget for school council to approve, with 6 major line items in it – Scientists in the School, buses for trips, technology, performances, athletics – teams, and music. All of the line items are within the appropriate budget of \$15,500.

Question – how is the budget decided? Answer – the council funds aren't allowed to pay for educational expenses, but are allowed to pay for things to enhance education, like buses to pay for an educational field trip. Council has felt that class trips is beneficial to our students and that is why we have decided that funding buses is one of our priorities. One of our plans is also to pay towards graduation trips, as most of our students will end up benefitting from a graduation trip at some point during their time at Rockford. We are certainly open to feedback from other parents to find new ways to use our funds to add to our children's educational experience.

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Secretary – Delia Jarczyn

Treasurer- Grant Sernick

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Monica – we are very happy to see new parents here to provide input into their children’s experiences at Rockford and give their feedback. We can only make Rockford a better place with everyone’s feedback and involvement.

Grant – Motion to accept the budget. Seconded – Delia. Approved.

## **4. Presentation from Freshii**

Joanna and Rahi are from our local Freshii restaurant at Dufferin and Steeles, which is a casual healthy eating restaurant that launched a healthy school lunch programme last year. The goal at Freshii is to make healthy food available to the masses and serve food that is fresh and mostly produce. They have a kids menu at the restaurant and they have a lot of kids eating there. They offer 9 options, but you can remove items if you want. They go into the schools and package it by classroom and the kids will open it and their lunches will be there and labeled. For example, a school in Brampton charges \$6.50, with \$1.50 going back for fundraising, or \$8 for the added in protein with \$1.75 going back for fundraising.

Question – is it organic? Answer – no, it was too difficult to be organic and not sustainable for them yet.

Question – is there a minimum? Answer – a small amount, probably a class worth of kids, about \$100 worth, around 25 kids.

Question – how is it handled? Answer – right now, where it’s being done, a parent has organised it. In future, they’re hoping it would go online and then it would be even easier for parents to order.

Question – drinks aren’t included, could they be? Answer – the drinks they offer in the restaurant are more like vegetable juices, so the cost would be a lot higher.

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Question – what age of kids are more likely to order? Answer – there really is a range of kids who order, it's not limited to one age. The wraps and the bowls have been the most popular with a certain group of kids.

Question – if school council decides to go ahead with it, could they produce advertising? Yes, they could.

Question – could we try it for a couple of months and see? Yes, we could.

This was a very interesting presentation with lots of information and we will enjoy trying the samples that they have left!

## **5. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report**

It was nice to see a new vendor brought forward to school council. They waited for approval before going ahead with renewing the permit for our chess provider, but he has now had his permit renewed on approval by school council. Grant explained how he was contacted by the chess provider to ask why his permit hadn't been renewed, and how he contacted Thane to find out the process for renewing it since we don't currently have anything better to offer in its place. School council's policy is always to pay for programmes that are worthwhile if it is not affordable for students, so if other people are willing to step forward to find programmes that are desirable for the students and present them, we will gladly listen to them.

With regards to the job action, the caretakers are unable to sweep the gym, so Thane went in to sweep the gym after lunch so that the students would be able to have their gym classes. He also took the green bin out because it was a hygiene issue.

EQAO – the results have been published. For grade 3, the scores were 70, 68, 56 – percentiles for reading, writing, and math, meaning they achieved level 3

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or higher. For Grade 6, the scores were 77, 88, 47 – percentiles for reading, writing and math.

Question – Grant: is there something that you think would specifically improve these scores, year over year? And if so, then we should get it. Answer – not something that we can specifically pinpoint, it depends on a lot of different issues.

We're also still operating on a negative budget. The teachers have to submit their budget plans in order to release the funding. Everything starts at kindergarten and works its way up. Grant – if the staff can figure out together something specific that would help, then we would be happy to contribute to the cost of a programme like that.

Question – how do these numbers compare to the previous year? Answer: The numbers were similar, but the grade 6 writing numbers went up significantly, because Thane has been enforcing the importance of it. We will have to see if the numbers will be on the same pathway next year – they are looking at where the marks are currently as a predictor for what the scores will show next year.

Monica – there is a family night coming up about literacy and numeracy, and how parents can help students at home. The learning has to continue at home, but parents often don't know how they can help their children at home. Last year, the school invested in an online reading programme called MyON so that parents could help their children with reading at home – some children used it all the time, and others never used it at all.

Question – there isn't a set way for parents to communicate with teachers, is there? Answer – no, many teachers use different ways of communication, some are more comfortable with technology, others prefer using agendas, etc.

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Question – can't we set a standard and say that we want teachers to use a certain model and encourage them to use that model? Why don't we try standardising it? Thane – the board isn't consistent with what they approve, and technology is constantly changing. He is more concerned that teachers communicate in some way, as long as they do communicate. But he will speak to the teachers and see what their feedback is. We would like it to be consistent so that parents will deal with one format throughout their time at Rockford. However, not every parent has access to technology and we do also have to be mindful of that.

Terry Fox Run was a success – the kindergarten kids stayed in the yard and walked around, the older kids walked around the area under supervision.

Parents are reminded to please call the school if your child is going to be away from school for a day or longer.

French programme applications have come out and will be in process shortly.

The pathway on the west side of the school was examined and wasn't paved because the kindergarten site was supposed to close off that pathway to the school. It has been added as one of the problem areas, but the bottleneck at the east end of the school is higher priority.

The school will be an election site for the federal election, and student safety will be top priority so that anyone here for the election will not have any access to the students.

## **6. School Council Elections**

Grant and Delia have agreed to remain on the executive for the 2019-2020 year. The request was put forth for new members, and the following individuals are willing to stand: Azi Mogoumei, Anna Kornits, Ivana Lukic.

Motion: Delia Jarczyn Seconded: Deeba Ali

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All in favour – welcome to the new members of the School Council Executive!

## **7. School Council update**

### **i. Pizza update**

We currently have 273 students who have ordered pizza. There are a number of parents who have still been calling because they were late and missed the deadline, so we will likely open it up again for one final chance for late orders.

### **ii. Class parent update**

Deeba has said that she will manage the class parent process and will liaise with parents to have the lists created.

### **iii. Spirit wear update**

The online store for spirit wear will be live soon so that parents can order. There will be \$2 added in per item (\$1 per toque) for fundraising that will go back to the school. Parents and students who came to Curriculum Night seemed very interested in seeing what the clothing will look like and seemed excited at the idea of purchasing Rockford clothing.

## **8. Support Staff Job Action Update**

Monday would likely only be a one-day strike and the school will keep parents updated as to the status of any further job action.

## **9. Other Business**

None at this point

## **10. Next Meeting Date**

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Date to be determined – could the meeting dates be changed to a day other than Tuesdays?

**Meeting adjourned: 8:10 pm**



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