

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for September 10, 2019

Time: 6:30-8pm

Attendees:

Delia J., Arie J., Thane J., Monica O, Grant S., Lori P., Tatiana K., Conie B., Aida A., Pella W., Shann W., Joan C., Gina A., Reena K., Tatiana B., Roselle D., Elisa I., Sophia J., Maryam J., Beverly F., Camila C., Lilian L., Gulseren B., Deebea A., Neeraja C., Irakhi M., Muradova G., Shafiga T., Jocelyn Y.

Principal/Vice Principal's Report (Thane):

Welcome to our school community – our enrollment is around 700 right now, we had planned for 730, the board will look at the numbers and give direction as to whether or not changes need to be made. School budget is not complete yet, it is in progress – once a full discussion has occurred, it will be tabled until everyone has a chance to look at it and then brought to the next meeting for approval.

Safety is a big priority – there will be a fire drill tomorrow, and procedures were discussed at the first staff meeting, which was held today. They don't surprise the students with the drills, they put it on the announcements and the children practise first so that everyone is aware of what to do and where to go. They are able to clear the entire building in approximately four minutes at this point. There will also be a letter coming home about typical series allergies that are present for children in the school (peanut, shellfish, etc.) and instructions about what not to send in order to avoid them.

Secure access – parents are reminded to go to the office and sign in when they arrive at the school. There are cameras in place and videos are recorded and held by the board for about a month for when people enter the school.

Monica – the students have been reminded at assemblies about how important safety is, and it's very important for parents to go to the office and get a visitor's badge, because the children are instructed to check to make sure that adults they encounter are wearing the badges in the school, and if they see an adult without a badge, they know to report that adult to a teacher. So, it's very important that visitors always check in at the office, sign in, and get a badge. If parents do come into the school, please do not use the children's washrooms – this can be very startling for students, even when it is done very innocently. If

Fundraising-Lori Ponte

Chairperson- Sara Agée-Glazier
Secretary – Delia Jarczyn

Treasurer- Grant Sernick

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parents need to use the washroom, they are able to use the staff washrooms. The teachers and admin do need to go into the bathrooms when there are fire drills, and they make sure to announce themselves very clearly so that the students are aware that they are coming in.

There are continuing education programmes offered through the board and information will be sent out through the newsletter.

The Nutrition Programme will be run through the school again, and we need a new person to run it this year. It is run based on requested donation, but no child is excluded based on not being able to pay for it. The contributions for the nutrition programme go above and beyond what the board provides for the programme coordinator to purchase the food, so the donations are very much appreciated as the food does become expensive. It is run through the board, but the coordinator we have had in the past has resigned, so we need to find someone new to run it – the admin will be meeting with the board to get the information to post the job opportunity for it. It does require someone to be in the school each day to prepare the food and organise the distribution, but it is a very important position.

The newsletter is very important for parents to receive to stay up-to-date on events happening within the school – please sign up for it if you haven't already done so.

Thane: The school budget request is similar to last year (see handout). They really appreciate the help and contribution made by school council and are appreciative of the input provided by parents who come out to the meetings.

School Council update:

Grant – welcome to all of the parents, new and returning! We have had few parents in recent years, but we really need to have more parents involved in order to be able to run events. We have tried to run events in the fall and in the spring, and haven't always been able to run them because there haven't been enough people to make those events happen.

We are trying to get Class Parents to run again, to try to get parents to represent each class to organise things like a class gift, class distribution lists, etc. and it's a great way to meet with the class teacher and the other parents.

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When we put on events, we need help – now that Lori has left, we need someone to fill that role. He is also willing to give up the treasurer role if there is someone who wants to take on more work than him. His wife will also be looking into spirit wear, and will be organising grad parties as well.

Pizza – Delia explained the process of how Boston Pizza supplies our school with the personal pizzas that students are able to order each week, and how we use it as our biggest fundraiser. Boston Pizza charges us \$3.00 for each personal cheese pizza, juice box, and fruit cup, and we charge \$5.00, so we get to keep \$2.00 from each one sold, and then Boston Pizza also gives us a donation at the end of each year as a thank-you for using their service.

Monica – is there a vegan option for pizza? Delia will investigate.

Other Business:

Question – Cross-country forms went out today, and it listed the practice dates and stated that all practices must be attended. One of the dates is on Rosh Hashanah – is it safe to assume that they won't be penalised for missing a practice on that day? Yes – they will make exceptions for illness or religious holidays.

Boys volleyball and girls basketball are also open now – but there hasn't been a lot of interest so far.

Question – apparently choir is at the same time as cross country? They will try not to have any overlap.

Question – Parents have a child who is attending aftercare at Pleasant, but the school bus is always late and they don't want to have a staff member wait each day, is there anything that can be done about it? Thane – they will give the parent the board contact number and the contact for the bus company so that they can speak with them and try to figure out why it is always so late. There is a transportation website that is supposed to show delays online, but part of the problem is also that people are parking their cars on the driveway.

Grant – can we put cones on the driveway to stop people from parking on the driveway? We would be willing to pay someone to stand there – Monica to put this idea out in the newsletter.

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Delia – can we pave the area in front of the new kindergarten play area, where there is a space without a sidewalk that means that children have to walk on the driveway? Monica and Thane to investigate.

Budget:

Grant – see budget handout. We are often constrained by what we are allowed to spend money on according to the board.

Other Business:

Question – can we do anything about the ice that builds up? Thane – they hopefully dealt with that when they redid the playground in the back. When they redo the play area on the east, they will hopefully re-level the area there.

Question – someone’s daughter didn’t get pizza twice, because the teacher said that she didn’t get it. What should she do in this case? Answer – contact Delia with any issues such as this.

Question – there isn’t a lot of information available for parents who are new to the school, shouldn’t there be more information sent out about where to go and who the teachers are? Answer – we do have an information session for new kindergarten students in May, but unfortunately, we don’t have the ability to have this information ahead of time from the board at this point, or control as to when the teachers will be here, but if we have volunteers from School Council, for instant, they can direct parents outside on the first day of school to direct parents.

Question – at what age can students be released on their own? Answer – it really depends on the parents’ preference, but students don’t technically need to be released hand-to-hand after grade 1.

Question – when will the agendas be coming? Answer – some of the agendas have started to arrive already, but the others are still on order and will be arriving hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

Next meeting: The next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 2nd – it will be on Wednesday to accommodate the religious holiday on the Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned: 8:10pm.