

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for Tuesday, April 26, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: 21 virtual participants: Beverly F, Delia J, Shawn G, Fatima G, Matt G, Anita V, Ioan, Elvia V, Charlotte B, George K, Jorge T, Elina T, Alexandra, Alissa P. Cynthia G, Abdulah H, Matthew P, Sylvia KC, Grace A, M Refarian, Justine

1. Welcome and Introductions

Delia created a poll to find out if parents have attended the meeting before. 5 parents attended for the first time. Delia welcomed the new parents and had the parent council members introduce themselves.

2. Review of the School Council Code of Ethics

Delia created a slide show for the code of ethics to present to the meeting. The review is a reminder about respect for all members of council and to ensure everyone is aware disrespect of any individual will not be tolerated. The first warning will be the member gets muted. If the inappropriate behaviour is continued, during virtual meetings and while members are collaborating on tasks outside of meetings, they will be banned for the duration of that meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 29, 2022, meeting

Motion – Alissa P, seconded – Delia J – Approved. All in Favour - approved. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the Rockford website.

4. Principal and Vice-Principal's Report

a. Staffing Update

We have a returning teacher from an extended childcare leave; Sandra Lovell, she is in the role of Special Education/Resource. We are excited to have her back. We are still operating with an unassigned Head Caretaker. Which means all our caretaking staff are temporary and unassigned. They can be assigned to any TDSB school at any time. Our Caretaker now, Omar Azizi is amazing, responsive, a clear communicator, everybody is happy with him. We would love to keep him but unfortunately, we do not know how much longer we will have him, because he is not eligible to apply for the position. We have a lot of

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support staff or occasional teachers that come into the building on a regular basis and that is connected to staff illnesses/covid and responsibilities. We are fortunate to have constant occasional teachers.

b. Parking Lot

The weather got warmer over the long weekend and there were some cases of people getting in (past the chain). The drifters in the parking lot are very loud, they are trespassing, they are a disturbance to the community and there is a concern of danger and litter. Mr. Gauthier reached out to the city councilor again, left a message again and has not received a call back yet. Mr. Gauthier reminds the Caretaker to put the chain up at night and checks with him regularly. When the Caretaker comes in in the morning it is up. We are hoping to get 2 swings arms, that is something that is being discussed.

c. Facilities

The sinkhole is still at the back of the sinkhole will eventually be fixed; we just have so many projects on the go. It is on the list to get done and still in discussion. There is a major water pipe in the community being updated. Mr. Gauthier was assured there would not be any water interruptions in the school, unfortunately that was not true. There was a day that the water pressure in the school was low. This issue was resolved within an hour.

d. EQAO

EQAO is an assessment that is done provincially every year for grade 3s and 6s. It is reading, writing and mathematics. There is a six-week window, and we are already in discussions. This year it will be done electronically. There have been concerns with students not being comfortable using devices. The committee is doing some training with the students. If there are any issues, there will be an option to download a hard copy. May 4th to June 24th is the timeline to complete it. We still do not have enough computers in the school for 1:1 for everyone, we are working on a schedule that is going to allow the least amount of stress for students and staff. We are still in the early talks and EQAO has starting to send us details.

e. Staffing Model

Every year we get our teaching allocation for the following year, based on the number of students enrolled in the fall of the previous year. Our allocation is based on October 2021 enrollment. The board gives an allocation of our teachers, support staff, office staff, administration and caretaking. They roll it out in stages. When we were given our allocation for staff, teachers who are not assigned a class are surplus. This year we have 5 virtual classrooms, next year there will be 1 virtual classroom. So, we have been surplus 3.5 teachers. The

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staffing model has us at 5 Junior classes, 4 FDK (Full Day Kindergarten) (English track) will have 3 classes of 29 students and 1 class of 28. The cap for English track FDK is 29 students, that provides a teacher and 1 DECE (Designated Early Childhood Educator). Primary, from grades 1-3, the cap is 20. We are often given an exemption and we can go up to 23. Junior, grades 4-6 (English track) all classes are at 30 students. There is no real cap, often they go up to 36. Currently, early French Immersion starts in SK. This year we had 2 SK classes. Next year Early French Immersion starts in JK. Because of this, we will lose one English FDK class and gain one French FDK. The cap in French FDK is 32, currently we have 2 classes of 30, which will have a teacher and a DECE, and one class of 15 with just a teacher. Primary grades cap is 20 students. There is also one virtual class with 10 students from Rockford and 10 from other schools. If our student numbers continue to go up now, throughout the summer, and fall. Mr. Gauthier will then reach out to employee services to request additional staff.

f. Covid Update

All TDSB schools are mask-friendly schools. We remind the staff and students of that, and we remind that people are to be respectful of other decisions. PPE is still used through the school; sanitizing is highly recommended. There are no more cohorts and zones. It is required by TDSB to send out new cases to the community.

g. Breakfast Booster Program

This is to help students if they are rushed in the morning, no time to eat, food insecurities, etc. We want to be able to give an opportunity for everyone to have something healthy to eat if they need it. We have reapplied to Toronto Foundation for Student Success, we are hoping to have this up and running by September. We ask for a donation, however, not required. Sylvia KC will contact Mr. Gauthier regarding setting up a pantry in the office using School Council funds in the meantime to bridge the gap.

h. Graduation

Tentative date for graduation ceremony, Thursday June 23rd. There will not be a graduation trip, but there is something being planned for the graduates after the ceremony.

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5. Rockford Community Safety Issues Update

a. Student Attendance, Safe Arrival and Safe Departure Policy

As discussed in the last meeting. An email from the TDSB was sent to parents regarding student attendance, safe arrival, and safe departure. They are drafting a new policy and would like parents' input on it. A second email was sent out to school council chairs to push. If you would like more information, webinars are available to attend as well. Running from March 25th to May 9th. Must preregister to attend the webinars. Delia attached link in chat.

b. Parent and Community Involvement Policy

TDSB is revamping and want to hear from parents and caregiver engagement. TDSB wants to be inclusive. There will be a public consultation on May 5th for anyone interested. You can register on the TDSB website

6. School Council Update

a. Pizza Lunches

Unfortunately, because of the hit from Covid, the prices have increased significantly. Previously the total cost of the pizza was \$3, and we were charging \$5 (\$2 goes to fundraising), which included Pizza, fruit up and juice. The current costs are \$7.75 if we wanted to make anything on it for fundraising would cost \$10! Delia will look into lunch box order.

b. Outdoor Dance Party

Delia spoke with DJ Danny regarding the dance party. We just need to set a date. Mr. Gauthier will get back to Delia with a few dates. The outdoor dance in the field seemed to be a bit hit with the students. A good opportunity for the kids to get out, move and have fun!

c. Online Safety Presentation

Mr. Gauthier and Delia will discuss a date. The options are a date in June or in October/November. Note: The online safety presentation is a one-day online presentation for children during the day on online safety and what to look for online and how to keep safe. The presentation talks about how children can expose can themselves and what they need to look for when online. There is an evening presentation for parents.

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d. Graduation Plans

School Council will cover the cost of the graduate sweatshirts. Mr. Gauthier gave an update in the Principal's Report.

7. Slido Questions & Answers

Q: Thank you for sending the covid emails, I appreciate knowing when there is a case in my child's class.

A: You're Welcome!

Q: Some parents do not want to know about new covid cases. How can those parents unsubscribe from the emails?

A: If you are subscribed to school messenger you will receive all emails. There is no way to separate email addresses for different events, so if you are a parent or guardian in the system, you will receive all emails.

Q: Is there an update on the teacher/classroom wish list, for which parent council can use funds to provide any requested resources or materials?

A: There are certain items the committee cannot purchase. Technology and Outdoor accessories are OK. Mr. G will get staff and student suggestions. A list will be made of all needed items.

Q: Does Rockford offer summer school or any summer camps?

A: Rockford does not offer summer school or camps.

Q: Can the teacher's names/grades be next to the room on the covid email? I do not know which grade is in each room, and there is a lot of crossovers during recess.

A: Teacher names cannot be used for confidentiality reasons. The room number and the last time the individual was in the building must be reported. Mr. Gauthier will add grade numbers next to the room numbers going forward to make it a bit clearer.

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Q: Why was a question (or questions?) deleted last month? It was respectful.

A: There were not any questions deleted - there was one question that had been split into two posts because of the length, and so I put them together in the back end when it came time to answering them and made a note that the two questions had been edited back into one!

Q: Why are there no garbage bins outside on school property?

A: Garbage bins are not placed outside because of vandalizing and persons in the community removing the bins

Q: Is there any chance to continue online school for 2022-2023?

A: If you have registered you would have already received confirmation, as registration closed in March. While they have stated at this point that there will not be any additional opportunities to switch into virtual, it is always possible that things may change next year - but as it stands right now, registration is closed.

**Everybody is working hard, and we all are doing the best we can with the resources we have. Parents please, this is a public forum, we need to show mutual respect and compassion for everyone.

8. Other Business

No new business

Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm

Next meeting will be held Tuesday May 31st @6:30pm over Zoom