

# Rockford School Council

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## **Minutes for Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Time: 6:30-8pm

Attendees: Attendees: 13 virtual participants including Thane J, Monica O, Delia J, Anna K, Carmit G, Alissa P.

### **1. Welcome/Introduction**

Message from Delia, chairperson: Delia shared zoom meeting etiquettes.

Delia Jarczyn – Chairperson

Kate Borg – Fundraising

Carmit Gonen – Treasurer

Ivana Lukic-Miloloza – Member Without Portfolio

Alissa Park - Member Without Portfolio

Natashia Anderson - Member Without Portfolio

Anna Kornits - Member Without Portfolio

Delia, Alissa, Carmit, and Anna introduced themselves, Kate, Ivana and Natashia were not in attendance.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from November 11th meeting**

Motion – Anna Kornits, Seconded – Carmit Gonen, All in Favour – Approved.

Minutes will be posted on Rockford website.

### **3. School Council Update**

#### **a. Outdoor Dance Party**

Delia mentioned that the dance party was a success. Kids very much enjoyed and appreciated the event.

#### **b. Water bottle fundraiser**

Anna provided an overview of the fundraising opportunity.

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## **c. Rockford Spirit Wear**

Kate was going to contact Eagle Beaver to investigate doing another order of Spirit Wear.

## **4. School Council Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and School Statement of Needs**

Delia presented the School Statement of Needs, School Council Code of Ethics and the Rockford School Council Bylaws documents and shared links on the chat.

**SSON (School Statement of Needs):** Principal to submit to the superintendent and kept on file for use, if required.

- Motion – Anna Kornits, Seconded – Carmit Gonen, All In Favour – Approved.

**School Council Bylaws:** The bylaws will be kept internally and copies can be posted at school.

- Motion – Alissa Parks, Seconded – Anna Kornits, All In Favour – Approved.

**School Council Code of Ethics:** Principal to provide a copy to the superintendent.

- Motioned by Anna, seconded by Carmit, and all in favour.

## **5. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report – Mr. Jovanovich and Ms. O**

### **Thank Rockford School Council for the Outdoor Dance**

With exceptional gratitude, the students and School appreciated the fun time all the students had at the outdoor dance. Given the pandemic and restrictions, it was great to have a dance party. The students had a great time and enjoyed the excitement.

### **Rockford PS Information Guide 2020**

#### **Expected Practices For Understanding, Addressing And Preventing Discrimination**

Rockford is committed to an inclusive and positive learning and working environment which actively promotes and supports human rights and social justice. Rockford is committed to teaching and supporting the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code by providing a safe school that respects the rights of every individual. Every

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student, employee, parent and community member have the right to learn and work in an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

Discrimination is when people are treated unequally and unfairly based on their race, disability, sex, creed, sexual orientation or any other personal characteristic (“ground”) protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code. This includes actions that occur when we act upon our biases, hate, stereotypes and prejudices about another group of people in our schools and workplaces.

Toronto District School Board condemns and will not tolerate any expression of hate based on race, age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, creed (religion), disability (includes mental, physical, perceived), family status (includes child, adoptive, elder relationships), marital status (including single, separated, widowed, common law and covers same and opposite sex relationships), gender identity, gender expression, receipt of public assistance (in housing only), record of offences (in employment only), sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding), sexual orientation, and the TDSB Human Rights Policy (031) also includes the ground of socio-economic status. Confronting discrimination is everyone’s concern. Discrimination and harassment based on legislated prohibited grounds will not be tolerated and such behaviour will be addressed.

PR728 Reporting and Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools details steps and processes for responding to racism incidents, hate/bias incidents and hate crimes involving students in TDSB schools/learning environments. This includes incidents that take place at a school or school related activity, and incidents involving a TDSB student, parent/guardian, staff person, or TDSB community member that impacts the school/learning environment.

## **Continuing Education - International Languages Elementary and African Heritage Programs**

The International Languages – Elementary / African Heritage Program is offering online language classes to students (TDSB and non TDSB) Kindergarten to Grade 8. One day each week, students have live face-to-face interactive lessons with their instructor and classmates for approximately 30 minutes. *Activities are focused on building student’s abilities in oral communication, reading and writing.*

Visit [www.ILEprograms.ca](http://www.ILEprograms.ca) for more information. @TDSB\_ConEd

## **Adult ESL**

Gaining proficiency in English is a critical skill for many newcomers to our city. Every year, nearly 20,000 adults benefit from the TDSB's English as a Second Language classes. Through general language training, and a host of specialized courses, we serve learners at all levels - from those with little or no formal education to those with post-secondary degrees. Currently, all Adult ESL classes are on-line.

Visit [www.ESLToronto.ca](http://www.ESLToronto.ca) for more information. @TDSB\_ConEd

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## **The International Bilingual Education Project**

Good evening, everyone. We would like to invite Grades 2-3 students in French immersion programs to participate in our research project, titled the *International Bilingual Education project*. This project has been reviewed and approved by Research Ethics at the University of Toronto and by the Toronto District School Board. Your child may have completed the first time point of this study in the Fall of 2019 or may be joining the project for the first time.

**Please note that this study will now be completed entirely online.**

The research project has the following two objectives. The first objective is to evaluate dynamic assessment (DA) tools for early identification of at-risk reading status for French immersion children. The second objective is to provide interventions to at-risk readers through evidence-based computer games. If you decide to participate in our study, your child will be followed for two years and tested at two time points: at the end of Grades 2-3 in January-May of 2021, and at the end of Grades 3-4 in January-May of 2022. Students will receive language and literacy measures one-on-one with a professional research assistant from the University of Toronto in English and French. At each of the time points, individual testing will take place in several 1-hour sessions online via Microsoft Teams, or your preferred method of communication. The results of this research will help educators and parents gain new information and skills that can be used to support at-risk readers in French immersion programs. Moreover, when our educational games are developed, they will be provided to your child's school for free. Finally, you will receive an honorarium \$10 for allowing your child to participate in the study. If you and your child decide to stay in the project next year, another \$10 honorarium will be provided. For more information, please see the Parent Information Letter (provided in our initial email) or our consent form:

[http://rotman.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9KpBpKKxm7RMgbr](http://rotman.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9KpBpKKxm7RMgbr)

## **Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season**

As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Below are some tips that might be helpful to review.

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Stop, look, and listen for traffic.

Only cross at corners and crosswalks.

Make eye contact with drivers.

Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.

Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.

Never run into the street.

Obey crossing signals.

Cross only if clear.

Walk on sidewalks.

Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer.

- Action: For Than and Monica to contact the City to try to change the traffic flow / allowance sign.

## **Middle French Immersion**

### French Programs Application Deadline

For families interested in the Toronto District School Board's system-wide French Programs, we offer an online process to apply for Middle French Immersion (begins in Grade 4). An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. The timeline to apply to the Middle French Immersion Program for September 2021 is:

*Middle French Immersion: Applications must be completed online between January 4 and January 29, 2021.*

Offers of placement within the program (not a specific school) will be made to all on-time applicants in the weeks following the close of the application window. Families with an older sibling currently in a French program are still required to complete an online application for the new student.

### Virtual Web-Chat Information Sessions – Middle French Immersion Program:

-January 14, 2021 – 10 a.m.

-January 21, 2021 – 7 p.m.

-January 27, 2021 – 7 p.m.

For more information about the Virtual Information Sessions, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/School-Choices/French-Programs/Information-Sessions).

For more information about French as a Second Language programs, the application process and important dates, please visit [www.tdsb.on.ca/french](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/french)



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**Budget:** Presented by Mr. Jovanovich

40% less school attendance; thus, the budget from TDSB is \$72000 (refer to the attached).

## 6. Other Business

Safety with masks at school

- Anna presented information about safety with masks. She suggested doing an experience with glitter (represented as water droplets as potential virus). When touching the masks with the “glitter”, it can transfer the glitter to other surfaces. Therefore, it is better to replace masks each time you take them off. She also suggested use of alcohol gel hand rub for 15 seconds.
- Mask protocol – it’s mandatory that parents must wear a mask. If parents are exempted then it is recommended that they still need to wear a face cover.

## 7. Questions & Answers

1. Q: Is there a way we can access the questions and answers if we can't attend the meeting?

A: Q & A will be available in the minutes.

2. Q: Who will make the decision if a child has a runny, stuffy nose from being outside in the cold or in a class with the windows open and being sent to be tested?

A: Ms. O – The guideline called “Know when to Self-Monitor, Self-Isolate or Send your Child to School” can be used to make assessments. This guideline was created by Toronto Public Health. Ms. O will post it on the Newsletter.

3. Q: If the child ends up staying home for at least 10 days, will learning still be available to them while not being in classroom?

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A: Ms. O – Teachers are set up for remote learning and are providing all homework online through Brightspace or Google Classroom at this point, so students are able to log on and keep up with their homework this way, but classes are not set up to be taught as virtual school during a child’s absence.

4. Q: I no longer get calls when I forget to report my child’s absents!

A: Ms. O – There are safety arrival processes that the teachers must follow. If the automated system did not call, parents are encouraged to call the school to inform Ms. O. Thane will follow up internally to figure out if there are issues with the automated system.

5. Q: Are we getting the result of CCAT test with feedback for grade 3 students? And when would it be?

A: Ms. O – CCAT results are in the process now. This is taking much longer and will not be on the report card.

6. Q: I wonder how teachers approach and teach students regarding skin ship like hugging each other among friends during this pandemic as it should be avoided.

A: Ms. O – School is encouraging cohorts to stay together, and to give air hugs, etc.

7. Q: Can we give the teachers gift cards as gifts? Or will they not be accepting anything from home?

A: Ms. O – Gifts will to be kept a side for some time before giving them to the teachers.

8. Q: What is the protocol for last bell? My daughter was left alone in the class because the teacher said she was too slow. My daughter was scared and cried.

A: Ms. O – There’s a buddy system so this should not have happened. This will be addressed with the teacher.

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9. Q: Does the school provide testing for Dyslexia or learning disabilities?

A: Ms. O – TDSB psychologist would conduct the test.

10. Q: My child in kindergarten told me today the teachers don't take the students to fill up their water bottles. A small thermos of water isn't enough for the day.

A: Ms. O – Kids are allowed to fill up the water bottles throughout the day. Not sure where the miscommunication occurred, but this will be communicated to the teachers.

**8. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

**Meeting adjourned: at 8:35 pm**

