

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for January 16, 2024

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: Sheri Fineberg, Delia Jarczyn, Veronika Hzynchede, Limin Cao, Jayar Burcanay, John Erick Mari Angagan, Shima Majidi, Alexey Goloman, Ijulle Hausvater, Kizito Kiramda, Gonza B, Yuliia Dudchenko

Admin: Ian Wilson, Kin Irving

1. Welcome and Introductions

Delia Jarczyn, Chairperson of School Council
Ijulle Hausvater – Member without Portfolio
Sheri Fineberg – Secretary
Mr. Wilson – Principal
Mrs. Irving – Vice Principal

Absent: Nigel Mohammed, Kate Borg-Lacey, Nusrat Jahangir

2. Reminder of the School Council Code of Ethics

Main goal is to make the school the best place it can be for all of the children. Be respectful of all.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2023

Tabled. No quorum

4. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report – Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Irving

Mr. Wilson:

- Scholastic Book Fair – success. Holiday sing along before winter break.
- Author visit – spoke to grade 6 re: The St. Louis ship/Holocaust education
- Term 1 report based on Sept to mid January – PA Day Jan 19th for teachers to work on report cards. Parent teacher interviews Thursday February 15th (PM), Friday February 16th (AM).

Chairperson: Delia Jarczyn – Treasurer: Nigel Mohammed – Secretary: Sheri Fineberg
Members Without Portfolio:
Kate Borg-Lacey – Ijulle Hausvater – Nusrat Jahangir

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Mrs. Irving:

- December – holiday singalong was a big success kindergarten/primary/senior. Door decorating for winter.
- School council provided a breakfast for the teachers before the winter holidays. Thank you!
- Upcoming activities: Ms. Papas and Ms. Kozierok – basketball and volleyball for grade 6s at lunch. Will add grade 5s if there is interest. Ms. Papas is doing a guitar club. Mr. Lovell is putting together a junior choir (grade 4-6). Ms. Pineta is putting together a friendship club – groups of 10 kids who will sit and talk about stories. Mila (settlement worker) does arts and crafts on Wednesdays at lunch to help newcomers talk and interact with others.
- Marina – settlement worker – asked if we can open up a newcomers information night for anyone new to the country, new to the school re: understanding the school system, building language skills.

5. Rockford Community Issues

a. East passage “swamp”:

Area was leveled off several years ago (~3) however it now gets swampy and floods again. Becomes ice/slush when the temperature drops.

High traffic, narrow area, limited sunlight.

Mr. Wilson will follow up with TDSB facilities.

b. Schoolyard – salting before school?

Several children have slipped on the ice in the back. Can salting be done earlier in the day?

There is a path that the caretaker is required to follow re: salting. The middle of the backyard isn't part of the path. Caution tape has been put up in the areas that are full of ice.

Parents to walk on the path area for safety, don't cut across the yard. The path is down to bare pavement. Mr. Wilson will send an email to the parents re: the path.

Chairperson: Delia Jarczyn – Treasurer: Nigel Mohammed – Secretary: Sheri Fineberg

Members Without Portfolio:

Kate Borg-Lacey – Ijulle Hausvater – Nusrat Jahangir

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

The kindergarten play area is very icy as well.

The amount of salt available to the caretaker is limited by the TDSB.

c. Gym wall – update?

Gym wall cannot be opened therefore can't hold big events.

Facility services have been asked to remove, replace or repair.

Waiting for response from facility services.

Fisherville PS. Had a similar issue and the wall was removed. Nigel Muhammaed to find out how this was achieved.

6. School Council Update

a. Pizza lunches

- First term report: big success. Highest number of orders since pizza lunch started with Dominoes. 490 orders.
- Second term date reminders – flyers went out to the classes, email was sent, was included in newsletter. Deadline January 22, 1pm. 6 weeks to March Break. Can order 6, 3 or 2 weeks.
- Schoolcashonline.com to order.

b. TDSB Information Sharing

- Understanding Your Child's Report Card – Zoom webinar: How to prepare for your parent teacher interview
Wed Jan 24, 6:30-8pm. Must register.
- More Joy of Reading Series: Monday Jam 29th, February 26th, 4:30-5pm on Zoom
- Virtual Community Fair: Let's Talk about Camp and Funding: Monday Jan 22 5:30-8pm for child/youth with special needs, complex needs.

c. December Events update – School Council

- Staff appreciation breakfast and staff lunch contribution.
Coffee, donuts and muffins were provided for a staff breakfast. School Council also contributed funds to a staff lunch.
- Grade 6 Food Drive gift cards – 6X\$50 Walmart gift cards for families to buy winter gear.

Chairperson: Delia Jarczyn – Treasurer: Nigel Mohammed – Secretary: Sheri Fineberg
Members Without Portfolio:
Kate Borg-Lacey – Ijulle Hausvater – Nusrat Jahangir

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

d. Staff Rep

- Budget requests
 - Newcomer information night – food, childcare, parent council reps to share information.
 - Kelly Hand – requested books, resources and PD for literacy development with the new curriculum.
 - 60 books per class X 6 classes (\$3,600 + tax) for kindergarten book bags (+French immersion classes) – they will look into costs of French books too and come back with a full estimate.
 - Grade 6 class going on a field trip for an author event – may need bus funding.
 - Teachers are looking into field trips. Timing of bus availability is a big challenge as the buses can't pick up before school day route is complete and must return field trip students before the bus is needed for a school route.

7. Winter Events

- Movie Nights – the children can bring a blanket and pillow for watching. School council sell chips, juice boxes etc. for fundraising. TDSB has license for video distributors (for classroom viewing – can this be transferred to the parent council for a movie night?). We may need to split Jr/Primary for movie and due to number of students at the school vs. gym space. Parent/caregiver to stay with child, not dropped off.
Approximately 6:30-8:30 so that students can eat dinner beforehand. Must leave school by 9 for caretaking staff.
Register online (school cash online) to get an idea of numbers of people who will attend. Prepare a plan and possible date to discuss at next meeting.
Proposed date: not February due to parent teacher interviews.
- Clothing drive – School parents can donate extra/no longer needed items to the school to be distributed to Rockford students/families who need. Would we like to run something like this? Yes.
- Other suggestions

Chairperson: Delia Jarczyn – Treasurer: Nigel Mohammed – Secretary: Sheri Fineberg
Members Without Portfolio:
Kate Borg-Lacey – Ijulle Hausvater – Nusrat Jahangir

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

8. Questions & Answers

- Activity bags for indoor recess – Ms. Szeto was looking into vendor prices and options to be more cost effective, age-appropriate activities. Need one bag for every class. Is there a cost limit to what parent council can fund?
- Adding a drain may help with the water collection in the back. The water needs to go somewhere. Leveling the area won't be enough of a solution.
- There are 3 outdoor recesses. If/when clothing gets wet, they shouldn't go outside again with wet clothing.
- Use of virtual technology (Google classroom, YouTube etc) is high in the classrooms. Many resources are used to teach the children throughout the day.
- March break – March 11-15th – there are no programs run through the school for that week.
- TDSB cold weather policy – students go outside if warmer than ~-26C with the windchill.

9. Other Business – N/A

10. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday February 27th, 6:30pm
- Tuesday April 2nd, 6:30pm

11. Adjournment – 8:43pm

Chairperson: Delia Jarczyn – Treasurer: Nigel Mohammed – Secretary: Sheri Fineberg
Members Without Portfolio:
Kate Borg-Lacey – Ijulle Hausvater – Nusrat Jahangir