

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Time: 6:30-8pm

Attendees: Attendees: 12 virtual participants including Thane J, Monica O, Delia J, Carmit G, Alissa P, Elena, Bahareh E., Beverly F., Rebecca S., Chris M.

Regrets: Anna K, Kate B, Ivana LM, Natasha A

1. Welcome

Delia welcomed everyone and introduced herself. Carmit introduced herself as well.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2020 meeting

December minutes was not approved due to School Council quorum. They will be held until the next meeting.

3. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report – Mr. Jovanovich and Ms. O

Registration for all TDSB Kindergarten programs begins in February. We look forward to welcoming you and your child at our school in September!

To attend Junior Kindergarten in September, children must turn four-years-old by December 31. To register for Senior Kindergarten, children must be five-years-old by December 31. You may choose to register in person at the school or begin the process online.

For more information about the Kindergarten program and registration requirements, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten.

Reminder Recess during Cold Weather

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold

When temperature and wind chill measure -28C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hour may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28C and -20C.

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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 for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

Continuing Education - Community Programs

Online Learn4Life winter registration is now open! Take up a new hobby or learn a language from home. Stay active with our many fitness classes or gain knowledge in condo investment, graphic design or film. Classes are for adults 18 + and seniors, and start the week of Saturday, January 23, 2021.

Register today at www.learn4life.ca. @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 for more information. @TDSB_ConEd

School Budget and Planning

- School Purchasing 40 Chromebooks
- Supporting families with needs for technology
- Board will not fund local school needs

COVID-19: About the Vaccines

<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-about-the-vaccines/>

The Province's vaccination program is in Phase 1 Opens in new window and COVID-19 vaccines will be available to the general public in Phase 3. Details about Phase 2 and Phase 3 timing, who

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is eligible and the status of completed vaccinations Opens in new window is on the Province's website.

Toronto Public Health is currently not booking COVID-19 vaccination appointments for the general public. While vaccination is not mandatory, everyone is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Join your family and friends and plan to get vaccinated once vaccines become available to you.

4. Presentation from Sari Haber

- a. Paint Night (community event)
- b. Family Math Night
- c. Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) - 6 to 8 week course for parents for nurturing and building strong relationships with their children

Sari is a supply teacher at Rockford who has many years of experience working with children and parents. She has passion for art and nurturing approaches to parenting and teaching. Since 1993 she has been teaching things like craft science, kitchen science, music and movement. She would like to do workshops for teachers, families and for parents to help people during these grey, lockdown days of COVID. Sari feels that mental health is important to all of us, including our children and hopes to help bring some fun into our home through things like paint night or math night, via zoom. She hopes this will help kick start Spirit Day events at Rockford.

Sari is offering to run the paint/arts workshops for free. School administrators and the parent council will review budget and see if we are able to fund kits to families or create workshops that can be done with materials children already have at home. Carmit will coordinate this initiative between Sari, school admin and the School Council.

Sari is also interested in running workshop for parents and teachers to focus on how to raise and work with intense children. She is a certified trainer for this methodology (Created by Howard Glasser).

<https://childrenssuccessfoundation.com/about-nurtured-heart-approach/>

<https://childrenssuccessfoundation.com/shop/transforming-intense-child-workbook/>

This approach focuses on building healthy relationships for all situations to all people. It teaches you how to manage your own emotions so that you can build child self-esteem through words. For example, there is a difference between saying "good job" to "I really like how you tried to solve this problem on your own and can see you put in a lot of hard work on this project". She wants to share how the use of powerful words

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can impact kids in a big meaningful way and build their character, confidence and self-esteem.

Sari is offering this workshop for parents but would like some compensation for her time to set up the workshop and present it.

Carmit will lead this project and coordinate between Sari and school Administration.

5. Online Vigilance for Students

Delia shared an incident that happened in a class while using a coding application called Scratch. A child/person who is not in the class was trying to participate in the application room – where a message was sent to a student stating “I really like your work and I can help you build it more.” The student felt uncomfortable and informed the parent. The parent took action and informed the teacher right away.

It was mentioned that the coding application is open for everyone where there are options to create a room for a person, class or public. The solution was for the teacher to share within the class and not share the work beyond that. For now, the accounts were disabled; thus, this will not happen again. The teacher was uncertain about the chat option until the teacher signed in as a student.

We, as parents, need to remind our kids that we need to be vigilant. This reminds us that we need to talk to our kids and for our kids to let us know and teachers right away.

Monica O. will post a Code of Conduct on the newsletter to remind all of us.

6. School Council Update

Not much update on fundraising initiatives.

7. Questions & Answers

1. Q: When will information about orientation or info night from Willowdale M.S. be available to the current Rockford grade 5 FI?

A: Monica O. > We will send out the information when it is available.

2. Q: I know it is important to have meeting with teacher but not enough learning through online for now. Would it be too much if they have recorded lecture? I mean not from youtube. They would like to hear more their teacher’s voice. Please consider this for our children’s better learning.

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A: Thane J. > It would be up to the teacher to record the lesson.

3. Q: Can you ask teachers to make the online chats so kids can only write to the teachers and not other kids?

A: Monica O. > Not sure if it can be done in Google Meet but Monica will look into it and get back to everyone.

4. Q: When and how will the kindergarten registration happen?

A: Thane J. > Will get back to us.

5. Q: Re the weather - are teachers keeping windows open on cold days and do they instruct/allow kids to sit with coats & hats. Do the classes get very cold?

A: Thane J. > Windows to be open due to air circulation.

8. Other Business

No other business to discuss.

9. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Meeting adjourned: at 8:10 pm.