

## **Minutes for Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Attendees: 22 virtual participants:** Beverly F, Delia J, Kate B, Kin I, Kharel R, Matt G, Victora N, Shawn G, Chris M, Korah D, Wadood P, Charlotte B, Ariana Y, Sandhya, Mattie P, Jay, Sylvia KC, Cathy, Reena, Grace, Tayeba, Unknown

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Delia created a poll to find out if parents have attended the meeting before.

### **2. Review of the School Council Code of Ethics**

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 February 22, 2021, meeting**

Motion – Kate Borg, seconded – Sylvia KC. All in Favour – Approved. The minutes were approved and will be posted on the Rockford website.

### **4. Principal and Vice-Principal's Report**

#### **a. Introductions**

Mr. Gauthier started off by introducing himself as well as Ms. Irving for the parents/guardians that were attending for the first time. Mr. G also attended.

#### **b. Safety Protocols Around Covid**

The school board went from a 70 page document to a 20 page document for protocols that changed after March Break and it continues to change on a regular basis. The biggest change was masks and the choice of using and not using masks. Rockford is a mask friendly school, and we try to reinforce that on a regular basis. We emphasize choice and respect and whatever choice they make that is being honoured. In the announcements we ask students not engage in discussions regarding masks. 100 percent of staff are wearing mask,

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approx. 60 percent of students continue to wear masks. We also continue to make daily announcements around general hygiene and health and washing and sanitizing hands. The board announced that field trips are back, intramurals can happen again, and cohorts and zoning are no longer required. We will be having a gradual approach. We need to respect and honour that some people are still very much concerned for their health.

## **c. Grounds Update**

The sinkhole is still at the back of the school. The school has not received any response. The work order was placed on February 4. After the last meeting Mr. Gauthier met with the head Caretaker to discuss. Our Caretaker reached out to the Facilities Team Leader, who confirmed it is in line to get done, but we just have to wait. We talked about putting up pylons/ tape but every time we add something to it, it becomes a tripping hazard, or they go missing or it gets taken away. Once a month an inspector comes into the building to look at the facility to make sure the school is complying with all the regulations. We had a recent health and safety report sent to us. It was very good. There were three items on our report; ceiling tiles that had water on them and two classrooms with items on doors and windows. There is a regulation around the amount of space that can be used on a wall for student work. Nothing can cover the door number and items cannot be posted on doors or windows.

## **d. Upgrades in the Building**

The boy's primary washroom on the second floor is still closed. That is the biggest job being done. All the urinals are being switched out; electrical work needs to be done as well. A lot of pee traps/drains are being switched out. A lot of the sinks and faucets are also being switched out. It's coming along but it is taking time. The plumbing on Rockford Road does not affect the water in the school.

## **e. Grad Photos**

Recently we had our grad photos (March 22). The virtual students who will be graduating this year will have the opportunity to take their photos the same day as the kindergarten grad photos. The tentative date is Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **f. Scholastic Bookfair**

Ms. Braunstein is going to be hosting the Scholastic Bookfair from April 25<sup>th</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup>. Any student that she covers for prep will have the opportunity to browse/purchase the books. Classes that do not have her for prep will have to sign up for their classes to browse/purchase books. This is only open for

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students, family members will not be allowed to come in the school during the fair.

The hope is that this bookfair will generate enough revenue that can go back to the library. There is a learning space in the library that we are using for STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art Math) and we have a tech cart that has 20 devices, which is being used for coding, and opportunities for students to do research.

## **g. Board Survey**

The board sent a survey out about Sept 2023 to enroll in person or online. The deadline was last Monday. We are waiting to hear of we will be having virtual classes next year. We have 5 virtual classrooms at Rockford that have students from Rockford and from various other schools throughout the TDSB. We have a kindergarten class, grade 2/3 class, grade 4 class, FI 4/5 class, grade 5/6 class. There will not be any switch points.

## **h. EQAO**

EQAO is an assessment that is done provincially every year for grade 3s and 6s. It is reading, writing and mathematics. This year it will be done electronically. We have been challenged with our devices. We are ordering more Chromebooks and we are thankful for the 1:1 device program that the TDSB implemented. All our grade 5 students have their own Chromebook and that has helped accessing technology. We are starting up an EQAO committee this week to make sure we are all aware what needs to be done. We have three grade 3 classrooms, two in-person grade 6 classrooms and a grade 6 virtual. This will happen over the course of May into June.

## **5. Rockford Community Safety Issues Update**

### **a. Sinkhole in the back of school**

Was discussed by Mr. Gauthier in the principal's report.

### **b. Student Attendance, Safe Arrival and Safe Departure Policy**

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 25<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>. Must preregister the attend the webinars.

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## **c. Join the Conversation Series – Islamophobia**

Islamophobia and the impact it has on youth. Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm – 8pm. Website is [tdsb.on.ca/conversation](http://tdsb.on.ca/conversation)

## **6. School Council Update**

**\*\*Meeting location poll** – Majority of people prefer the Zoom option

### **a. Spirit Wear**

Spirit wear is done and completed. Ms. Irving complemented the vendor's organization.

### **b. Online Safety Presentation**

The vendor has been vetted. We still need to set a date if we want to do this this year and then start the process. \*\*The online safety presentation is a one-day online presentation for our 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.

### **c. Pizza Lunches**

Pizza lunches are doable again. Food is ok again and we can do food vendors. Delia contacted our contact from Boston pizza and is in communication with him. We are currently waiting for him to get back to us with the new pricing. Discussions around having pizza days in addition to paying for the term.

### **d. Graduation Plans**

Graduation planning has started. There isn't a lot to say on it now, however, it will be an in-person event. The date still needs to be determined. We will have to limit the number of individuals from family. It will most likely be 2 per student. There are also talks about a grad day trip. School council has more than enough funds to help with the costs.

### **e. Event Planning**

The outdoor dance in the field seemed to be a big hit with the students. A good opportunity for the kids to get out, move and have fun. Delia suggested a fun fair. The school also has end of the year plans for the students. Possible playday?

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Chairperson - Delia Jarczyn                      Treasurer – Ivana Lukic-Miloloza  
Secretary - Beverly Fortune                  Fundraising – Sylvia Kim Cota  
Members Without Portfolio – Alexandra Birioukova, Alissa Park and Kate Borg-Lacey

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## 7. Slido Questions & Answers

**Q:** My kids have indicated that the announcements state that masked kids don't have to interact with unmasked kids. Isn't this stigmatizing children whose families chose to make the decision to no longer mask after 2 long years (edited to combine 2 questions)

**A:** We want to create a respectful environment. We are asking everyone to respect the choice of others, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. We want to steer away from conversations why/why not individuals choose to wear a mask

**Q:** Will field trips and extra curriculums start now? They are at other TDSB schools.

**A:** Discussions have started to see what that would look like. There is still hesitation with some staff and the comfort level.

**Q:** When will the students get a music teacher since Ms. Vasic retired, they haven't had one it seems.

**A:** If there is not designated music teacher, then the classroom teacher teaches music.

**Q:** Will families still be notified if there is a positive case in a classroom?

**A:** A letter will be sent out if there is a positive case in the class and when the individual was last at school.

**Q:** Is it possible to have the meetings capped at 1 hour? Other schools do this, some of Rockford's meetings have gone way past 1 hour in previous meetings.

**A:** We cover a lot at our meetings and aim to have them last an hour and a half whenever possible - an hour just isn't enough time for us!

**Q:** What are the plans for graduation? Other schools have already announced graduation dates

**A:** Plans for graduation are in the works - there will be an outdoor ceremony, likely with a cap on the number of tickets given to each student so that there is space for everyone. The staff are also starting to look at options for a celebration event for the graduating students, as has been done in previous years.

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**Q:** Could parent Council funds also be used to support class libraries (e.g., French books, levelled readers)

**A:** School council can help with supplies and toys, but we need to have a clearer understanding of what can and cannot be purchased

**Q:** What is going on with the playscape? I hear that kids still aren't allowed to play on it.

**A:** The playscape will be open next week!

**Q:** Can change of clothes now be left in the cubbies at school instead of the kids carrying them to and from school daily?

**A:** Yes. Kindergarten, grades 1, 2, 3 can leave their extra clothes in their cubbies

**Q:** Will reading buddies for the younger kids start again?

**A:** We're working on it. Still some planning needed to start it up

\*\*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:** 8:38pm

Next meeting will be held Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm over Zoom