

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Time: 6:30-8pm

Attendees: Beverly F, Thane J, Monica O, Delia J, Ivana LM, Kate B, Carmit G, Natasha A, Aida A, Alissa P, Katelynn B, Aprilita C, Lina K, Delia J, Michelle, Shann W, Jelvis C, Yoshiko, Claudia P, Ghadier, Grogoe

1. Welcome

2. Introduction of the School Council Executive

Delia (Chairperson), Kate (Fundraising) and Carmit (Treasurer), Ivana (Member Without Portfolio), Alissa (Member Without Portfolio), Natasha – (Member Without Portfolio), Anna (Member Without Portfolio – not in attendance)

3. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2020 meeting and January 20, 2021

Motion – Carmit Gonen, **Seconded** – Alissa Park. All in Favour – **Approved**. Minutes will be posted on Rockford website.

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

School Staffing Committee

- School Staffing Committee will start its deliberations
- Each year, the Committee's role is to make recommendations regarding the organizational model of the school, instructional periods, the instructional day, and the selection of specialties
- School Superintendent in turn reviews the report and provides final approval
- Primary Class Size caps will apply to all to Grades 1 to 3 classes

Best Practice

- Maintain flexibility in JK/SK registration
- JK/SK classes should be combined
- Grades 1-3 classes must be created according to the Teacher Allocation Sheet this will be provided
- Group classes to maintain as much flexibility as possible so that September realignment is minimal
- Combining classes maximizes flexibility and helps to balance out class size
- When combining grades, a minimum of four students from a grade must be present

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Toronto Public Health Review - COVID-19 Prevention Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

- February 26 Ms. Fatma Baykal
- Review supports measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools both pre-outbreak (prior to any reported school exposures) and during an outbreak investigation
- Assessment: part of an onsite visit/meeting with the Principal/key contact
- Review and observe applicable prevention measures and provide consultative guidance
- No follow-up required as due to guidance not being noted
- All school cases of COVID are reported to TPH, Board and community

COVID Screening Guidance

- Follow TPH COVID Screening Guidance
- Back to School Confirmation Form

Toronto Police Service Traffic

- Guided by Officer Kraft from TPS
- Completed a Parking Complaint (PARCO) to initiate consultation and guidance
- Toronto Police Traffic service visited the school
- TPS traffic will review the neighbourhood signage and monitor to collect data and then take next steps

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 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

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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.

Human Rights Report to Board and Rockford PS Context

It is important to note here that numbers of hate activity reports do not necessarily reflect the actual number of hate related incidents and low numbers may be equally or even more a cause for concern, to the extent they reflect reporting patterns rather than actual incident patterns, which is difficult to assess. The fact that many Learning Networks exponentially increased their hate activity reports year over year is but one indication of the potential impact of reporting patterns on the data.

Table 1: Bias Hate Activity Reports by Ground TDSB and Rockford PS 2019-2020

Grounds	TDSB	Rockford
Race and related grounds	201 / 69%	3 / 30%
Creed	40 / 14%	0 / 0%
Sexual Orientation	49 / 17%	6 / 60%
Sex	16 / 5%	2 / 20%
Disability	3 / 1%	0 / 0%
Other	10 / 3%	0 / 0%
Gender identity and gender expression	5 / 2%	0 / 0%
	291 reported / 324	11/ 18

Settlement Worker info and Interpreter/Translator Information

Settlement Education Partnership Toronto (SEPT) workers in the TDSB:

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), also known as SEPT, offers settlement services to newly arrived families and secondary school students in schools' satellite and reception centres. Settlement Workers deliver individual/family services or group programs that help participants to understand and to successfully transition into the education system and to accelerate the settlement process.

Greek Heritage Month at the TDSB - Recognizing Greek Heritage in March

March is Greek Heritage Month at the Toronto District School Board. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture. This year marks the 200th year of independence for Greece.

The theme for this year is:

1821-2021

Freedom and Unity

Learning from our Roots... Shaping our Future

Visit the GHM website for information and resources: https://bit.ly/GHM_TDSB

This year's calendar includes "Words of the Day" and "Daily Announcements" along with featured focused days with activities.

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5. Presentation from Mr. Calvelo – Toronto ChessKids Academy.

Jelvis is an international master and is certified 1-8. The program is 12 classes total, 1.5 hours each, and goes from beginner, to intermediate to advanced. They prepare a lesson plan, and kids get a certificate when they finish. The price is \$150 for beginner, \$200 for intermediate, and \$250 for competitive. 4-6 kids in one class and there is an internal tournament at the end. Chess has been very popular at Rockford in the past, the kids really love it.

Find them on Facebook- @toronto-chesskids2021

6. School Council Update

- a. Pizza at home fundraising
 - i. Panago pizza does a pizza night at some schools, order pizza for individual homes and part of the money goes back to the school
- b. Spring event planning
 - i. Ideas: Bingo night and bath bombs for mommy, Dance, spring event, food truck festival, Corn on the cob, May-June (Natashia will run the lead on the spring idea.)

7. Schoolwork Support for Siblings during Self-Isolation

Parents should get calls, e-mails from the teachers to check on the students. There are sources online from the board: Asynchronous (Independent) Learning Activities -

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Virtual-School/Virtual-School-Elementary/Asynchronous-Learning-Activities>

8. Questions & Answers

Q: Just wondering if anything is going to be done about the parking in front of the school (on the street)? This is a safety issue. It was brought up in September. And nothing has changed. My child was almost hit by a car last week right in front of the school. Do we have to wait for something tragic to happen before a change can happen?

A- The parking officer came- having someone stationed there. YES

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Q- Can we ensure that a system is developed so that kids who are home in quarantine because their sibling have been exposed to a covid classroom have Synchronous learning opportunities. Our kids have fallen far enough behind and have made enough sacrifices to this system

A- Dealt with in the meeting above.

Q-Can you do something about all of the ice in the back of the school when it gets icy? It's not safe for the kids and also for the parents when we have to stand.

A- There is a snow removal plan – no budget to salt

Q- My child is SK told me the washroom in the classroom is always has urine on the floor. The kids inform the teacher, but it is never cleaned up and says this happens every day and does not feel comfortable using the washroom. Can something be done about this?

A- There is more cleaning done and the caretaker is always on the run to take care of all the problems-unless it's not being reported.

Q- Why did we get a letter today about a covid case where the student was last in school on Dec.18th? Today is March 3rd

A- It was late.

Q- In the bulletin is said that the kids were going to go for walks around when the playground was too icy, but my son said they have not done this. Why not?

A- Parent aren't completing the forms, and some children don't have permission to go on the walks.

Q- Will there be Random covid- 19 testing of students? I've heard some schools are doing this.

A- We are on the list to be tested- we will need parent permission and it will be a spit test.

Q- When should we expect to hear from the school about kindergarten registration? I registered my child online but haven't heard anything about next steps.

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A- We can't have the meet for kindergarten- there will be a amazing slide show- It has all the details like the in person event.

Q- Can the council meeting minutes be put on the website sooner? You have to approve them which means a month delay, but the most recent minutes are for October.

A- Was forgotten by mistake, they will be posted sooner.

Q- Please ask teachers to send a lot more work and lessons for siblings that have to be sent home, two work sheets a week is not enough, to fill a 6-hour day.

A- They need to talk to the teacher and ask for more work to be sent.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 7, 2021.

Meeting adjourned: 8:42pm