

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: (virtual participants) Beverly F, Delia J, Katelynn B, Alina S, Tuyen, Tanya, Nikita P, Shawn G, Charlotte B, Kin I, Liz L, Matt P, Matt G, Cynthia G, Kimberly, Sylvia KC, Jessica S

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Delia created a poll to find out if parents have attended the meeting before.
- b. Delia welcomed the new parents and had the parent council members introduce themselves.

2. Review of the School Council Code of Ethics

Delia created a slide show for the Code of Ethics to present to the meeting. 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 behaviors are continued, during virtual meetings and while members are collaborating on tasks outside of meetings, they will be banned.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 29, 2022 meeting

Motion – Kate B, Seconded – Sylvia KC All in Favour – Approved. Minutes were approved and will be posted on Rockford website.

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

a. Students from Ukraine

Our community and school have been welcoming families and students from Ukraine. It has been a bit of a challenge with the class sizes, as we are not getting any additional support for those students this late in the year. We are doing our absolute best with the resources we have. We have community outreach programs that have been incredibly supportive, members of the community have been sponsors or have been

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part of helping those families get settled have been very appreciative as well.

b. Office Pantry

Thank you to the Parent Council for providing dry consumables in the office pantry, while awaiting the Breakfast Booster Program. Protein, juices, crackers, granola bars, etc., have been provided for students who have forgotten or did not come to school with lunch. This program, however, is not intended to replace a full meal but has been immensely helpful. Quite a few students have benefitted from the pantry.

c. Staffing at Rockford

We have surplussed 3.5 teachers in September: Mme. Olunloyo, Mr. Shnaper, Ms. Vernon, and .5, Ms Derevyanko. Any school that has job vacancies, the jobs get posted and any teacher who is declared surplussed can apply out. However, these teachers are surplussed and will not be with us (at this point) come September.

d. Graduation

Invitations have been sent home to families. Graduation will be held on Thursday June 23rd at 1:30pm. Guests will be limited to two per student. We do not have the capacity to have large families attend this year.

5. Rockford Community/Safety Issues Update

a. Parking Lot

The new acting Head caretaker has been very diligent in making sure the chain in the parking is up every evening. There have not been any complaints from the members of the community.

b. National Indigenous History Month

June is National Indigenous History Month! June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples' Day. You can join The Urban Indigenous Education Center of Excellence throughout the month of June for opportunities to engage with Indigenous artists, authors, speakers and various virtual workshops and panel discussions.

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c. Summer 2022 International Languages/ African Heritage Program

In July for SK to grade 8 students. Delia posted flyer to the chat, which can also be found on the TDSB website.

d. TDSB Policy for Consultation

The TDSB sends out emails about different policies that are coming out that they are doing consultations on. One example is about dealing with abuse and neglected students, and how they are revamping the policy, so it takes more into account how different families work. Delia posted the link to the chat, which can be found on the TDSB website, along with other policies.

e. Join the Conversation

Join the conversation is free access to a 3-hour recording session that will help parents and caregivers' answers questions and concerns on 5 stressors (screen addiction, children disrespect, lying, tantrum and anxiety. Once you register you will have access to the video for 6 months for you to watch it at your leisure.

6. School Council Update

a. Pizza Lunches

Delia reached out to Domino's Pizza. Instead of the personal pizza we used to get from Boston Pizza, it is going to be 2 slices. The 2 slices come in their own box, with two large slices, cheese, or pepperoni for \$3 (still waiting on the medium pricing). Gluten free is an option but only come in small. Unfortunately, there are no vegan options. More information to come.

b. Outdoor Dance Party

Delia spoke with DJ Danny regarding the dance party. The date is set for Monday June 20th. JK/SK will have a 20-minute window, followed by grades 1-3 and then grades 4-6. The school council will provide mini freezies for the students. Announcements for the dance party will be made a few days prior.

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c. Online Safety Presentation

Mr. Gauthier suggested we have the presentation in the fall and will contact the facilitator to schedule. **The online safety presentation is a one-day online presentation for 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 themselves and what they need to look for when online. There is an evening presentation for parents.

d. Graduation Hoodies

Kin sent the forms to the teachers for their students to fill out their names and the size of the hoodies they wanted. The back of the hoodies will have the names of the students in the graduating class.

7. Slido Questions & Answers

Q: Can the washrooms be cleaned properly? My son has been there since kindergarten and he says, "they are still gross mom!!"

A: The caretaker we have cleans the washrooms several times a day and is responsive anytime it is reported. The students fool around in the washrooms. It is an ongoing concern; however, announcements are made regularly to remind students about washroom etiquette and safety.

Q: When will students be allowed on the playscape? My child said the school announced they are making a schedule, it's almost June. Covid does not thrive on surfaces.

A: The playscape opened today

Q: Is there an update on the teacher/classroom wish list, for which parent council can use funds to provide any requested resources or materials?

A: There are certain items the committee cannot purchase. Technology and Outdoor accessories are OK. Mr. G will get staff and student suggestions. A list will be made of all needed items.

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Q: What will be the ratio of students to lunch supervisors next year at Rockford? I heard one school, 100 students from gr.1-5 will have 1 lunch supervisor. Not safe

A: It is based on allocation. 7 of the lunchroom supervisors we have go into kindergarten classes. The remaining supervise the students outside. Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Irving, and other staff are outside as well

Q: Recent research evaluated the survival of the COVID-19 virus on surfaces & reported that the virus can remain viable for up to 72 hrs. on plastic & steel. COVID-19 can spread by touching something that has the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes with unwashed hands. Can the playscape be sanitized?

A: The play scape cannot be sanitized.

Q: I am not getting the Rockford newsletter emails anymore. Are they still being sent?

A: We will be sending a May/June newsletter

Q: I heard a grade 6 class got to go on a field trip. Why only one class got to go? What about the rest?

A: The recent field trip was highly recommended for a grade 6 class by the superintendent. Hopefully, we will be able to start field trips in the upcoming school year.

Q: What are the protocols for the morning outdoor supervision after the bell rings?

A: When the bell rings the teachers are supposed to pick up the students. The staff scan the yard to make sure all students are in

Q: I am concerned about the state of the ground at the play area at the very back of the school- it is a sand pit! It does not seem safe. Plans to improve? TY

A: Located at the back right corner of the school. Historically it has been used as a long jump pit. It has not been maintained and over the years it turned into a sand pit

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Q: Bullying is a huge issue in this school! What is being done to address this?

A: We address bullying, we have discussions that promote anti bullying. We need to try and help students understand what bullying is, but we address specific issues as they arise. We encourage and recognize that we need to continue doing the work.

Q: How is the monthly agenda for the School Council meeting determined? Does the board send info to the exec? Are parents asked what they would like to discuss?

A: The agenda is set by the Chair, Delia. Items can be added to the agenda by execs and parents. However, everything is approved of by the Chair.

**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: 8:43pm

Next meeting will be held Tuesday June 28th @6:30pm over Zoom

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