

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: 23 virtual participants including: Beverly F, Delia J, Aliyah N, Damilya B, Tuyen K, Lorenzana, Xander, Alexandra B, Cregork K, Huong N, Charlotte B, Shahlo, Joni N, Victoria N, Ivana L, Alexandra, Katelynn B, Dima M, Sylvia K, Chris M, Daisy J, (2 unknown participants)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Delia welcomed everyone and asked the School Advisory Committee introduce themselves.

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.

3. Approval of Minutes from October, 26, 2021 meeting

Motion - Ivana Lukic-Miloloza, Seconded – Delia Jarczyn. All in Favour – Approved. Minutes were approved and will be posted on Rockford website.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal's Report – Mr. Gauthier and Ms. Baker

a. Introduction

Mr. Gauthier expressed he is enjoying his time at Rockford and is pleased with what is happening at Rockford. One of the focuses is dealing with concerns around behaviour management and providing students with proper tools and guidance for problem solving.

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b. CCAT

CCAT (Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test) is a reasoning assessment used to determine a student's eligibility for admissions into gifted and talented programs. 5 classes at Rockford completed the test. Teachers monitor the progress of students during the testing. We are still waiting for the result of the tests.

c. Technology

The school had to release their technology when a lot of kids went online. They got returned but they were supposed to be sent back to the board to be clean so they can get used again. Any technology that was taken out of the building could be returned to any school. However, Rockford has only received a few of the technology devices back. At this time Mr. Gauthier is unsure of how much technology is in the building. Desktops were ordered that were going to be put into a computer lab, because of the Covid-19 situation, the idea was to forego the lab. Instead, the desktops were returned, and they were replaced with Chromebooks that will be given to students. We are still waiting on devices as; everything is on back order. TDSB has done an initiative where every grade 5 student has received a 1:1 device. Next year, the grade 4 students going into grade 5 will receive 1:1 device and it will continue every year.

d. Repairs at Rockford

There have been some repairs in the building. With daylight savings and it getting dark earlier, a parent informed the school, during daycare pick-up in the evening there is no light at the back of the school. The timer needed to be adjusted and the exterior lights are now on at the back of the building at the appropriate time.

At the front of the building there will be a bucket, they will be working on some drainage in the building.

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With the change in temperatures, we will be seeing a lot of pooling, ice, snow and water. When asked if grating done, there was no response. A follow up email has been sent.

In the interior of the building, there were some problems with the boiler. Some parents communicated there were some issues with the heat. The situation was fixed immediately. The interior of the building is in good shape. Some interior issues with students in the washrooms. Soap dispensers are being opened and rolls of toilet paper being put in the toilets.

All classrooms including the portables have Hepa filters now.

e. Covid safety measures

Announcements regarding Covid-19 are made on a daily basis. These announcements are safety protocols to ensure and remind students to properly wear their masks over their mouths and noses, making sure they are socially distancing, sanitizing/washing their hands when necessary, staying in their zones when they're outside. We want to make their experience positive and safe.

Reminding parents that on any TDSB property masks are mandatory. All staff (with the exemption of one) at Rockford have been vaccinated.

If your child shows symptoms, you can pick up a saliva test that can be done at home and returned to the school. Once returned it gets sent to Sick Kids. Sick Kids will contact you to let you know the result. Rockford received 100 and 25 have been handed out. There were two students that did test positive for Covid, however, the risk of exposure was zero.

f. Safe and caring committee

Rockford is required to have a safe and caring committee. At least one parent volunteer is needed. It's one virtual meeting every six weeks for about 20 minutes. The meeting is to share ideas on how to ensure that our students are safe and feeling represented and that the building is

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being taken care of. Mr. Gauthier, VP, Head Caretaker, Mr. Gugula, Ms. Paul, and a grade one teacher are on the committee. Kate Borg volunteered to be on the committee.

g. Staffing

Our Head Caretaker who came to us in September is leaving on December 17. He has been promoted back to his old school as the Head Caretaker. He will be greatly missed by staff and students.

5. Rockford Community Safety Issues Update

a. Traffic on Rockford

Parking enforcement came out to remove persons parked in front of the school on Rockford one morning during drop off. It was a nice sight to see the school buses and regular traffic was able to flow a lot smoother. Unfortunately, there were some parents that were upset for being ticketed, however, there were parents who were incredibly disrespectful to the parking enforcer. Mr. Gauthier will reach out to our Counsellor to see if he can reach out the parking enforcement to see if you can have parking enforcement come regularly to the school. This is to ensure all staff students and members of our community are safe.

b. Drifters in Parking Lot

Mr. Gauthier spoke with the Head Caretaker and he has been putting the chain up every day. The last caretaker leaves at 11pm. When the Head Caretaker arrives in the morning the chain is up. Mr. Gauthier ask about the possibility of an arm, what that would entail and where it would be located. This is unfortunately not an option at this point. A higher presence of security has been requested but having police officers patrol the area in the evenings.

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6. School Council Update

a. Outdoor Dance

The outdoor dance didn't get to take place. It was planned but didn't take place due to the cold weather and the rain the day before. After much discussion we have decided to postpone the outdoor dance until spring.

b. Online Safety Presentation

A one-day online presentation for our children during the day on online safety and what to look for online. 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. The date for this presentation TBD.

c. Initiatives for Next Term

- Online bingo (revisit from last year)
- Spirit wear

Staff appreciation - Honouring the work of the school staff. Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for teachers and support staff set up outside main office. Approximately 50-60 staff.

7. Teaching Philosophy Update

Mr. Gauthier and Ms. Baker's vision is to instill the sense of identity and belonging in the building, in their classroom and representation. We have an early year's coach and a junior coach. The main focus in the primary division is working in literacy and encouraging our kindergarten and grade one teachers to meet the expectation of having every child read by the end of grade one. It has been challenging during Covid because of the use of books and having access to resources. Because of Covid the curriculum hasn't been the way it intended to be followed. We've been able to focus on creating

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an inclusive, engaging environment. Our whole philosophy around being included and identity is all embedded in Rockford's approach through numeracy and literacy. We have been doing PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) in the school. Kindergarten and grade one teachers (both English and French Immersion) do rich learning and take that learning and put it into practice in their classrooms. We want our children to feel represented, have a voice and know it's a safe and caring environment, where they can approach caring adults in the building. In the junior division we have a coach coming in doing some coding. Instead of using computers, they are doing it with manipulatives and paper. These are activities that are hands-on, and students are engaged with.

8. Questions & Answers

Q: Will students have to be vaccinated to go to school now that there is a vaccine for 5 and up?

A: There currently isn't a definite answer.

Q: Why can't all kids play together at recess?

A: Cohorts are up to 50 (some schools have different protocols). Zones are in place for safety.

Q: Do I have to Covid test my kids myself before they return from the break?

A: We don't have the answer to that yet.

Q: Is it possible to get the agenda before the meetings so parents can gauge if they want to attend?

A: The agenda gets emailed out before the meeting. The agenda gets done a couple of days before the meeting (sometimes the day before or the day of).

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Q: Is there additional paved space around that can be used for play during outdoor times? Some parts of the field seem to get messy even in nicer weather.

A: We have a very large space; however, it is all we have. There is no opportunity to do additional tarmac.

Q: Does the school have shoes cabinets for their extra shoes?

A: Kids are encouraged to have extra shoes and indoor boots in the winter. Unfortunately, we don't have the space in the building for extra cabinets. There are, however, hooks where they can hang their bags and coats. They can place their shoes on top of their cubbies and place their boots on the floor. The space in the portables is limited, but everyone should have a coat hook and a cubby.

9. Other Business

No new business.

10. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 6:30pm over Zoom. SAC meetings have been scheduled for the last Tuesday every month for the 21/22 school year.

Meeting adjourned: 8:36pm

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