

# Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

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## Minutes for Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: **33 Virtual participants including** Delia J, Katelynn B, Shawn G, Ivana Lukic-M, Alissa P, Alia H, Elever B, Beverly f, Colleen R, Dorcina N, Hayden J, (Yorkview Treasurer), Jorge t, Korah-Lee D, Victora N, Marcela C, Anuki K, Lillyana B, Nigel M, Sarikaya, Sylvia Kim C, Tuyen K, Necita D-E, Lavanya B, Iris, Chris M, Reena, Monica iPhone, Admin, Rockets, Joanna, Amanda, Elena, Rama

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Delia welcomed everybody and asked the School Council Executive to introduce themselves and the new Principal and Vice-Principal introduced themselves.

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

The main goal of the review was to speak about respect for all members of council and to let everyone know there will be no tolerance for disrespect. The first warning will be the member gets muted, and the next action is that they will be banned if the inappropriate behaviour is continued. This is both for during virtual meetings and while members are collaborating on tasks outside of meetings.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2021 meeting

Motion – Kate Borg, Seconded – Ivana Lukic-Miloloza – Approved – All in favour. Minutes were approved and will be posted on Rockford website.

### 4. Elections for School Council 2021-2022

Mr. Gauthier shared that since only 7 people had self-nominated, they would automatically be selected to fill the School Council seats for the upcoming year without any need for an election. The seven people are as follows: Alissa Park, Ivana Lukic-Miloloza, Beverly Fortune, Sylvia Kim Cota, Delia Jarczyn, Alexandra Birioukova, Katelynn Borg. The new council will meet to decide on their roles, and will be active as of the end of this meeting.

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

#### a. Introductions

Mr. Gauthier came from Faywood School for the Arts, which is about 15 mins down the road. Ms. Baker worked in the Jane and Finch area for the last 20 years and was a virtual admin last year.

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## **b. New staff**

New head caretaker: Mr. McCalin, New Superintendent (acting): Marwa Hamid

## **c. COVID safety measures**

Announcements daily to make sure students remember to keep their masks on the right way. They make sure staff take the kids out for breaks as long as it is not too cold or wet. PPE- ALWAYS AVAILABLE. No adults outside of staff to make sure everyone is safe. If the students have any symptoms, they will call for you to go to get the test. The test is available on demand now - rapid tests are in the office.

Q: Has anyone had a case, do you tell the parents a class had a case?

A: General letter- only if positive, Toronto Public health lets them know. They must make the call (1 positive – they dismissed the class but were told it was okay and class was back the next day). They do not want to alarm anyone.

Q: When will parents be able to use the 'now' screening app for all classes? Some classes still require paper right now.

A: Some families and some teachers need the paper copies as they do not have phones, so they are working on getting it to work for everyone.

## **d. Physical school improvements**

There has been a WIFI request put in for better WIFI in the school and in terms of adding more hubs as we are needing more speed. We have no basement for storage, so we were using a portable for storage and will be slowly cleaning it out to make more space for everyone. They are working on getting more heat into the school as boilers do not spread the heat around particularly well. We are working on making a ticket to address the mud on the kindergarten side.

## **e. School direction**

We want to take the normal curriculum and add in parts to change the mindset, to work on being an inclusive environment and to show the children more of the world they live in. Ms. Baker - wants the students to be able to learn life along with helping shape them on who they are. Equity work, Student Engagement, it is about the skills not the report card. Make sure they are happy to come to school.

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## **f. Community concerns**

Chains are put up in the parking lot to stop drifters at night, but someone comes and cuts them and comes in anyway. 32 Division knows about the noise concerns and we have contacted Pasternak's office to help solve these issues. They are not allowed to put up fences because of the public park and have had dogs wondering on, it is an ongoing issue. There is also an ongoing issue with parents parking in the bus loop or on the street not allowing the buses through.

## **6. Rockford Community Safety Issues**

### **a. Traffic on Rockford**

Continued discussion about road safety and suitable areas for parents to drive and park. No parents can use the front bus loop, its only for the buses. Kiss and ride in the back is for parents to stop, let kids out safely, and keep going. These are no parking zones in front of the school; parents need to stop parking there. They will reach out to the police to see what can be done. Cars are not stopping for pedestrians – someone almost saw a family get hit by a car not obeying traffic signs.

### **b. Drifters in parking lot**

Already discussed

### **c. East passageway**

Already discussed – Delia will send photos to Shawn of area in question during rainfall.

## **7. Outside Dance 2021**

\$500 - only for the DJ. The plan is to find a suitable date for the DJ to come, provided it isn't too cold for the equipment to function.

## **8. Questions & Answers**

Q - What are the regulations for recess? Are kids given any toys to play with? Are the kids not allowed to play in the playground?

A - Balls, hoopla hoops, do not share toys - playground is off limits due to safety concerns - not safe for anyone to play in it right now, it is being repaired.

Q -When will extracurricular sports start up again?

A - TDSB has not said anything yet.

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Q - TDSB website says all schools will have taken home covid test kits, but Rockford did not have them. Will Rockford be getting these test kits?

A - They are here now for when the school needs to use them.

Q - When will the specialty subject teachers go back to teaching only their own subject instead of all prep periods? The art teacher is no good at teaching gym.

A - They are trying to restrict to cohorts, but it will be nice when prep teachers can go back to teaching their regular classes.

Q - Will Rockford participate in a Student Nutrition Program? If yes, when?

A - We would love to - yet we have no one that can do it. Everything must be done individually - we need someone to do it. It is a paid position with the TDSB.

Q - Are we going to have pizza lunch again?

A - TDSB needs to decide on this.

Q - My son told me there is a security camera in the boys second floor washroom. Why is there a camera in the washroom?

A - There no camera - it was in the girl's washroom that there was a concern, and it's just a light that looked like a camera.

Q - When will parents be able to use the 'now' screening app for all classes?

A - Some classes still require paper right now because not everybody has access to the technology.

Q - Why do the teachers not take the kids in promptly at 9:10 am?

A - Sometimes it's because of screening app, but it's getting better now. Also, a reminder to parents that a mask must always be worn if you are on school property - do not just run away.

Q - After reading an article about how squid games are being played in schools at lunch by 8-9 year olds! Is there anything the school can do to ban it?

A-Nothing can be done- if they start to hurt each other then they might do something.

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Q - Can the internet at the school be improved. The virtual classes seem to have really bad connections.

A- Ms. Baker is working on it

Q- Our son recently experienced an older student threaten him in the boys washroom. How can these situations be minimized? Are washrooms shared by all grades?

A -1<sup>st</sup> floor bathroom for primary, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for juniors. We are trying to police this more. There were questions asked about who to contact if such an event occurs – the first point of contact should be the teacher. Someone brought up an event about a child telling scary stories to the other children. The teacher should be made aware so that they can speak with the child's parent.

Q-Will there be a Halloween parade in the again this year? What are the plans for Halloween this year?

A- There won't be a parade this year, because of COVID and not keeping safe distances, but children will be encouraged to dress up (safely – no masks, other than their usual ones) or wear orange and black on Friday.

## **9. Other Business**

No other business.

## **10. Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting set for Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm over soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.