

Rockford School Council

rockfordschoolcouncil@gmail.com Twitter and Facebook: @rockfordcouncil

Minutes for October 25, 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Attendees: Beverly F, Delia J, Sarita S, Delia J, Nusrat J, Nadia K, Kin I, Gulnara Z, Sham H, Regina J, Shawn G, Erica B, Joanna P, Korah Lee D, Laura C, Kyle B, Cynthia G, Regina G, Charlotte B, Kyle B, Amenah, Benji, Natasha C, Laura C, Alla F, Victoria N, Shaneka Shaw T, Andie, Olha C, Gwyne R, Nooshin S, Fadumo R, Joane, Kellie H

1. Welcome and Introductions

Delia created a poll to find out if parents have attended the meeting before. Delia welcomed parents/caregivers and had the parent council members, Principal and VP 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 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 May 31, 2022 meeting

There were not enough members of the executive present to vote. Vote will be held at the next meeting.

4. Elections for School Council 2022-2003

An email was sent out to have an opportunity for interested parents and caregivers to join the school council. Six applications were submitted and one withdrawal. Currently there are 5 applications to sit on the executive of the council, so there was no need to hold an election, all of the nominees

Chairperson - Delia Jarczyn Treasurer – Ivana Lukic-Miloloza
Members Without Portfolio – Sylvia Kim Cota - Kate Borg-Lacey – Nigel Mohammed

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were acclaimed. The executive can vote on certain issues that come up. New members of council: Nigel M, Royah G, Delia J, Kate B, Ivana M, Silvia, KC.

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

a. Student Enrollment & Reorganization

We have had over 100 new students join our community and school. We have approximately 725 students at Rockford. Rockford is a dual track school, meaning it has both French and English track. At the end of the last school year students and teachers were assigned classes for this school year, however we needed to create new classrooms because of the new students continuing to enroll at Rockford. We had to have a reorg; meaning every class in the English track was impacted. There was a change in every classroom because the numbers were so high. We were allocated 9 new teachers. Mr. Gauthier apologized for the lack of communication with parents and caregivers. The French track was not to be affected, however last minute there need to be a reorg in a 1/2FI class.

b. Staffing

We have received allocation, so we have received 9 new staff at Rockford. They are LTO, long term occasional teachers, which means they will be here for the duration of the year.

c. School Repairs

Over the summer, repairs to the exterior of the school were completed. We were able to have some of the craters in the school yard filled, in the back of the school. Last year, we had an accessibility ramp put in, repairs on the playscape, toilets and ceilings in the school were also repaired. Omar, our caretaker has been incredible in maintaining a standard that is top notch.

d. Recess Bags

School council donated recess bags for all classrooms. The students are incredibly happy with the bags.

e. Device Program & Technology

TDSB had a 1:1 device program. If you have a child in grade 5 they should be using a device provided by the TDSB All of our students

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have access to technology. They might not have access to it all day, it does need to be shared amongst our students. We are fortunate that we have access to those.

f. Students from Ukraine

We have had a large number of students and families join our community from Ukraine. It has been a difficult transition. We reached out to the newcomer's department at the TDSB, we now have a newcomer's social worker that comes on Tuesday and Thursdays and sees almost all the Ukrainian students the help them with the cultural aspects of Canada, also help them with their language and to better understand the education system. Her name is Mila, and we are so grateful to have her. We would also like to thank the business department of the TDSB and Microsoft, who donated school supplies for all the new Ukrainian students.

g. Food Program

We are in discussion with Toronto Foundation for Student Success, that is the organization that runs the program to see if we can come up with a solution so that we can have some type of breakfast booster or snack program from an outside company that they work with. Hopefully we can get something going. Thank you to the School Council for providing dry consumables in the office pantry, while awaiting the food Program. Protein, juice 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.

h. Halloween

Halloween is something as a community we do celebrate. There are some families that do not, and we respect that. The messaging is clear that we are not appropriating culture of dressing up in cultural costumes/traditional garments. We do not want students coming with weapons, and they will not be allowed to cover their faces with masks. We want our students have fun, but we also want to make sure everyone feels safe. Rockford is a nut free school. Just a reminder to parents, that we discourage candy coming to school because of allergies.

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6. Rockford Community and Safety Issues

a. Street Parking

Street parking in front of the school is prohibited. Twice this school year parking enforcement has been on site ticketing parents and caregivers. This is a safety issue for the students and families in the community. If you would like to park on the street, parents/caregivers can park on the surrounding streets around Rockford. Parking is also prohibited in the bus drop off loop, this makes it difficult for the bus to pass when cars are blocking the way.

b. Appropriate/courteous parking

Please be courteous of the accessible parking. If you do not have an accessibility tag, please do not park in the accessible parking spots.

7. Communication to Parents/Caregivers

a. Student hand-to-hand release

Some parents aren't aware that their children are no longer required to be released to parents/caregivers after a certain age (usually grade 4, but often dependant on the teacher), and aren't comfortable with the idea of their children being on their own. Other parents are happy for their children to walk on their own at an earlier age. We suggested that the teachers send out a notification to parents at the beginning of the year if they will not be requiring parents/caregivers to pick up students, so that they have a chance to respond and request a different pickup scenario.

b. Re-org: Parent/Caregiver notification

If we can let parents/caregivers know about the processes (reorganization) in the beginning of the school year. It will give parents/caregivers a better understanding of what they can expect. A simple explanation of what re-org is and why it happens will go far to preventing lots of upset phone calls and emails.

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8. School Council Update

a. Pizza lunches

Delia is looking into options and pricing. Delia will be reaching out to Dominos. No recent updates. Hopefully, we will have more information by the next meeting.

b. Last spring's dance

Delia shared some videos of the teachers being good sports at the last outdoor dance party the was held at the end of the last school year.

c. Online safety presentation

Mr. Gauthier will reach out to 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 for parents.)

d. Recess bags

Some of the recess bags include skipping ropes, freebies, tennis balls, buckets, playground balls. The bags have been organized based on the age groups. The grand total order was approximately \$3600. Every class has their own bag for recess.

e. Teacher requests

i. Mrs. Hand and Mrs. Steinberg: composters

The request for their composters was approved.

ii. Field trip busses

Delia mentioned that teachers have been asking her about field trips – school council has, in the past, been happy to pay for busses so that each class is able to go on at least one field trip per year, and is willing to do the same this year.

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9. Slido Questions & Answers

(Answered live)

10. Other Business

- a. New Language Classes

This was dealt with in the Q&A from Slido.

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be held Tuesday December 13th @6:30pm over Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:05pm

