

RCI School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 28th, 2019
School Library, 7pm

1. Call to Order

- Introductions around the table.

Parents: Mages Palany, Lucy Coyle, Lisa Truant-Tan, S. Ayub Uddin, Nicci Cohnstaedt, Greg Heptinstall, Lesa Boyle, Laura Pillsworth, Melanie Boyd-Brown, Jackie Marrie, Ahmed Mone. Paul Edwards (Principal), Carla Cernic (Guidance), Kara Miley (Toronto Public Library), Baxter Wallace (RUSTCO), Maya Bharadway (RUSTCO),

2. Review and accept last meeting's Minutes

- Change to Open House to Thurs, Nov. 28th, NOT Dec 5th as previously in our calendar
- Lucy motion to accept with change. Seconded by Greg.

3. Student Update and Uniform update (Baxter and Maya)

- Handed out 2 sheets, one on repealing Uniform policy and one on Student Update
- TDSB updated School Uniform policy, allowing students to have referendums on repealing uniform. The decision rests with the student body.
- RCI policy is not updated and aligned with TDSB policy – ours hasn't been updated in 7 years, supposed to be reviewed every 3 years.
- RUSTCO working with Equity group to have a vote.
- Surveyed teachers and their concerns, now bringing it to parents for input. They are willing to email a form to parents to gather feedback? Perhaps anonymously?
- Want to have an answer by time Gr 8 info night, Nov 28th
- Anecdotally, Gr 9/10 don't mind having the uniform. They have not done a student survey. But they think because there is a vote, student voices will be heard. Request from Lucy to engage more students for their input.
- Q: are there only 2 options, uniform or not? ...There are other options but there are no repercussions to not following TDSB policy.
- Council: Useful to know what TDSB policy is, what other schools with uniforms are doing. Feeling that we don't have enough information at this point to provide input, and it isn't something we should rush into.
- **ACTION:** Executive Council Nov 25th, to review RUSTCO recommendation, and TDSB policy. We will feedback concerns in written form. Invite Baxter and Maya. We would like to help them ensure clarity on the process: timelines, how decision gets made, what teacher/admin feedback is; what are voting rules (what % of students need to vote, for example): specifics on the referendum.
- **ACTION:** put notice in Newsletter to watch out for RUSTCO email on parent feedback on the referendum. Include the TDSB policy.
- They suggest having Parental Information night within next two weeks. We have asked them to hold back until after Nov. 25th to go out to wider parent body.

- Suggestion from Council that if general info goes out to parents, lay out what the issue is and that it is coming up and ask for their feedback. This will be done before Nov. 25th. RUSTCO will send Google form within next 2 weeks, to gather and analyze the feedback.
- Q: what happens to kids who chose to come here because of the dress code?they want those kids to make their choices known.
- **UPDATE:** Conference call with RUSTCO and Executive School Council held on November 6. See attached letter sent to parents via email.

4. My Blueprint and RCI pathways

- Carla Cernic presented a walkthrough of the tool.
- My Blueprint has a fully online Careers Curriculum, in line with the Careers course.
- Every student has an IPP (Individual Pathway Plan)
- Can manage volunteer hours
- Who Am I? surveys tell them about their learning styles and personalities, as well as study tips. Ideas on types of careers they might pursue.
- High School Planner: shows upcoming and history of courses taken.
 - o Pathway Plan eligibility: As they take more classes, the tool will update with potential post-secondary options open to them, including schools that offer those programs, what marks/courses needed, etc.
 - o Links to institutions directly as well
- Culminating activity in Careers will be to put together a portfolio. If they use My Blueprint, they can take what comes out there and put it into the Culminating Activity
- Parents can create a parent account and link up to your child. You will need child's OEN number (found on any report card) to see their activity.
- Create résumé section
- Financial planning tool: Post-secondary budgeting, bursaries and scholarships
- Beyond post-secondary, including Apprenticeships, International experience
- www.myblueprint.ca/start
- next year, all feeder schools should use this in Gr 8
- Gr 12 Exit survey done regularly now to see what school could have done better to prepare them for post-high school
- **ACTION:** Carla will share the presentation with us, by email and in the News section of the RCI app

5. School Statement of Needs (Lucy and Greg)

- Greg and Lucy wrote this from scratch.
- Received feedback and only finessed and tweaked some wording to make it clearer
- Due to be submitted to TDSB this Friday
- Motion to pass: Melanie, seconded by Laura

6. Mountview Update (Lucy)

- Tomorrow is Family Night at RCI, to coincide with Mountview's Spooktacular.
- They updated their Handbook, Lucy will leave it with our Chairs.
- **ACTION:** talk about our RCI Handbook at our Executive Council meeting, specifically Mission, Vision and Values. Recommend Greg to sit on that Committee

7. Administration Update (Paul)

- Important for the people making the decision (students) to be well informed about what the TDSB Dress Code is and the process for change. Advice to give back to them is to know their audience: parents don't have enough information. Not that parents are blocking them.
- Progressive integration week by week with Mountview. Generally doing well. Some movement on both schools seeing each other's students. Field and track work ongoing. Pool is close to being plugged/fixed. Auditorium assessment tomorrow, on seat needs. Basketball area: poles now positioned, nets will be up soon. Common spaces coming along nicely.
- CUPE strike: postponed a few events, like Awards Assembly for last year's Gr 12s.
- Parent-Teacher interviews went very well. No general outstanding issues on how kids are doing performance-wise.
- FIFI PROGRAM: Find It, Finish It. First time we've tried this. Thursday after P/T interviews, gave kids who needed extra help the time to connect with teachers. About 30% of the student body showed up. They will look at mid-term Report Cards and see if those who came, improved their marks.
- Budget this year is -20% from last year (\$197K to \$154k) (TBC the exact numbers)
 - o \$20K for Math Help nor \$20k for Student Success have not been defined yet.Waiting to hear

8. Treasurer and Fundraising (Jackie)

- **ACTION:** what is balance on the accounts (Jackie). \$91.16 in Council PACE account. \$650 allotted for enrolled students.
- **ACTION:** Jackie to send Paul list of teacher requests from last year so he can get updates ASAP
- Admin has confirmed the various communication methods for the Direct Donation campaign, including:
 - o RCI app: News and Notifications
 - o Bulletin

9. Ward 7 Report (Melanie and Laura)

- Described cuts to things like outdoor education programs, itinerant music teachers (is actually more equally distribute now)
- Staffing allocated by number of students
- Budget cuts being implemented over two years
- Looking at busing for gifted and other programs
- Why TDSB closed some schools
- Still holding strike votes for teachers. Is a standard part of process so don't get worked up about that. If we hear "No Board Report" – that means negotiation is done, that they don't believe they can come to an agreement. At that point, from 17 days later, can walk off the job or take job action.
- Long-term strategy is trying to understand how many secondary schools they can operate – modelling/forecasting on elementary schools. Is becoming harder to manage smaller

schools, particularly when they are close proximity. Looking at models like Mountview/RCI; Western Tech/UFA – synergies.

- Class sizes: 1:22 (teacher: student), moving to 1:23.8 next year. Mandating that it should move to 1:28. Concerned about how it impacts course offerings.
- Policy consultation on Optional Attendance and School Review, Nov 14th at Western Tech.
- PRO Grants: TDSB has some funds, but is no longer an application-based program. TDSB trying to figure out how to share the funds equitably; they will get back to us.
- Looking for reps for Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC: third Tues of every month).
- Have links for some community groups for parents
- Next Ward 7 meeting is Nov 26th, with speaker talking on public health policies.

10. Topic Ideas for June 1, 2020 meeting

- **ACTION:** Jackie to ask psychologist if June 1st works. The psychologist works at Sick Kids and has a private practice, where she helps kids with anxiety. Follow up: she is interested but can't commit at this time, as is working on a research protocol and unsure of schedule this far in advance. I told her we could wait until the new year for her confirmation.

11. Other Business

- Kara (Toronto Public Library) will send us email with links to websites

12. Adjournment

- Motioned by Laura, seconded by Lisa.



RUNNYMEDE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

569 Jane Street, York, ON, M6S 4A3 416-394-3200

Paul Edwards
Principal

Michelle Robinson
Vice Principal

Leigh Thornton
Vice Principal

Runnymede Collegiate Institute Parents and Guardians,

As many of you know, over the last school year the Toronto District School Board underwent the process to update the TDSB Dress Code (now the Student Dress Policy). The new policy (P042) was developed with the philosophy that "decisions about dress reflect individual expression of identity, socio-cultural norms, and economic factors and are personal and important factors to a person's health and well-being" (P042:1.0).

The TDSB Student Dress Policy has a major impact on Runnymede Collegiate Institute and other uniformed schools in the TDSB. P042 states that "Any uniform standard must conform to the student dress code (as outlined in 6.2)" (P042:6.8b). Our uniform policy does not conform to this standard as it is more stringent than the new TDSB Student Dress Policy.

A formal procedure for the implementation the Student Dress Policy (PR596) was also released in September. This procedure specifically outlines that schools with uniforms, must undergo a review of that policy every three years. As Runnymede Collegiate Institute has not undergone such a review in the last three years, and the student body has expressed interest in reviewing the policy, we will undergo a review now.

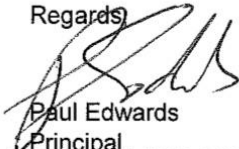
On Wednesday November 20, 2019, students will attend an information assembly, where they can hear arguments both for and against the uniform standards of Runnymede Collegiate Institute, as well as voice their opinions. PR596 states that a vote then be taken, on a yes or no ballot, by at least 70% of the school population. This vote will take place in Period 1 on Monday November 25, 2019.

As we are sure that some parents hold strong opinions either for or against the uniform policy of Runnymede Collegiate Institute, we would like to encourage parents to start a conversation with their students. PR596 specifically gives the voting authority to students at the grades 9 to 12 levels. If you would like your student to vote in favor or against, we would encourage you to make your opinions known at home, and to help students make this decision carefully.

Both P042 and PR596 are available to the public on the TDSB website (www.tdsb.on.ca), under "policies". Parents who still have questions or concerns, can email either Carlotta Lovell (carlotta.lovell@tdsb.on.ca), the staff advisor of RUSTCO, or Michelle Robinson (michelle.robinson@tdsb.on.ca), our Vice Principal.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our students and the school community as a whole.

Regards,



Paul Edwards
Principal

Runnymede Collegiate Institute

Trustee Robin Pilkey, Ward 7 Forum
Tuesday October 22nd, 2019 7-9pm
Humberside CI, Library
Minutes

Present - School Representatives from: Annette St. J&S PS, Garden Ave JPS, Humbercrest PS, Humberside CI, Indian Road res. JPS, Keele St. PS, King George JPS, Parkdale CI, Parkdale J&S PS, Queen Victoria PS, Runnymede CI, Runnymede J&S PS, Swansea J&S PS, Ursula Franklin Academy, Western Tech,

- The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm and a Land Acknowledgement was given by Trustee Pilkey
- Introductions were made around the room

- Principal Kim McLaren welcomed everyone and introduced Humberside CI: there are 1300 students and they have had a good start to the school year. Academics and athletics are going well. Humberside has both French Immersion and Extended French Programs. Students at Humberside CI are actively involved in learning.
<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/humbersideci/Home/portalid/1965>
- *If your school is interested in hosting a Ward 7 Forum, please contact Trustee Robin Pilkey robin.pilkey@tdsb.on.ca

Trustee's Report:

- Budget is a big issue. \$67 000 000 in budget cuts for 2019-2020 school year.
 - Central staff was cut so it will be more difficult to find TDSB speakers for Ward Forums.
 - Funds were taken wherever possible from non-classroom related things
 - There are now fewer Superintendents
 - Programs that did not meet TDSB equity standards were cut.
 - Some Outdoor Education Centres were closed.
 - Itinerant Music had its hours cut and equalized across the board to make distribution more equitable. 17 new schools were added to the program.
 - Staffing is now being allocated by numbers of students instead of by program.
 - Individual School Budgets have been cut. Schools with over 300 students have seen a 5% budget cut.
 - Parkdale CI will be charging a fee for the IB program in grade 11 & 12.
 - These budget cuts to the TDSB are being implemented over 2 years.
 - It is possible that in year 2 bussing to French and gifted programs may be cut. The Board is looking at different possibilities, one being changing bell times to allow busses to run more than one route.
 - ward 7 has not been greatly affected by the cuts.