

RCI School Council Planning Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2019
School Library
7:00 pm

Call to Order, Welcome – In attendance: Khaleel Mohammed, Kimberly de Witte, Laura Pillsworth, Lisa Truant-Tan, Salwa Mohamed, Lucy Coyle, Leigh Thornton, Paul Edwards.

Administration Update (Paul Edwards)

- **RCI** has 512 students (from 552 last year), 33 teachers (including 2 filled vacancies). All 12 teachers released from last school year have found placements. With the reduction in staff, there may be some gaps in after-school activities; just starting to get teacher volunteers now. Accommodations were made to retain teachers and meet student needs - Some teachers assigned subjects they haven't taught in a while, removed the librarian position in order to keep two guidance counsellors, and limited the Stell@r program to Grade 10 (only two Grade 9 students enrolled).
- The Grade 9 Head Start program in August went very well.
- **Mountview (MV)** has 110 students with 6.5 teachers.
- The 3 administration heads (Paul Edwards, Principal, Michelle Robinson & Leigh Thornton, VPs) are responsible for everything in the building. Michelle Robinson has oversight for RCI and Leigh Thornton has oversight for MV.
- School Calendar is finalized and posted on website; some dates may change.
- Budget has not been released to schools, but it is expected to be lower given lower enrolment and Ford cuts. Two line items that will probably be reduced because the government has more direct control are Student Success and Math Support. But RCI had some long-term investments in these areas so we may not feel much impact. RCI is also has a high Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) score which should work in our favour. We are not financially linked to MV for budgetary purposes.
- Discussion around class size and waitlists – final numbers are set on October 31; if class size is greater than maximum, students will be cut based on seniority, attendance and need. Guidance is already working on any potential issues to find solutions (night school, on-line, etc.). It is okay if a student has less than 4 in-class courses; they can attend RCI for however many classes they need, even if it's just 1 or 2 periods.
- Lockers have only been assigned to Grades 9 and 10. There are enough lockers available in the RCI space, but waiting for some to be repaired. Parents raised the issue of the need to hurry this process along and communicate with the

Grade 11 & 12 students that it's being worked on. If a student has an urgent need for a locker for physical reasons, they can see their VP directly for assignment.

- The MV relocation went fairly smoothly, especially after lots of hard work on the weekend leading up to September 3rd. A few items still in transition:
 - Installation of three new water bottle refilling stations in RCI
 - Outdoor eating area (south side) – this is a shared space, will reinforce with MV teachers and communicate to RCI students that they are welcome there, particularly after the FDK play space is completed.
 - Improvements on other shared spaces promised during the transition meetings seems to have stalled:
 - Outdoor field (holes repaired, not just mowed)
 - Outdoor track surrounding field refurbishment
 - Auditorium lighting & seat repair (approx. 30%)
 - Indoor pool repair
 - Both indoor gymnasium floors resurfaced
 - **Kimberly** to create a letter by Sept 23 meeting (and coordinate with MV Council). NOTE: Auditorium seating repair has been granted a work order per TDSB email communication on September 17, 2019.

Planning for Curriculum Night (September 18, 6-8pm)

School Council will have an information table in the hallway next to our new corkboard. **Lisa, Laura, Lucy and Kimberly to attend.** Kimberly to arrange handouts (Annual Report, Newsletter, Information Sheet) and sign-up sheet. Laura will bring banner, tablecloth, etc. Lisa and Kimberly to make refreshments.

Planning for September 23 Meeting

- Agenda agreed upon as follows:
 1. Welcome, Introductions
 2. Annual Report
 3. Financial Report
 4. Elections
 5. Parent Volunteer Needs
 - a. School Statement of Needs Committee – RCI & MV
 - b. Fundraising Committee
 - c. Parent volunteers for school committees:
 - i. Safe Schools
 - ii. Program Review
 - iii. Breakfast Program
 6. Next Steps/Other Business

- **Khaleel moved to amend By-laws** to include 1) a Mountview Liaison (elected position) and 2) a Parent-at-Large category (voluntary position with voting rights). Salwa seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.
- We have a Community Representative for this year – Kara Miley from Jane/Dundas Branch of the Toronto Public Library. She hopes to attend the September 23 meeting. She is open to being the representative for both RCI and MV – **Kimberly** to pass her information on to MV co-chairs.
- **Kimberly** to make an Election Handout, including description of the elected positions and a place to sign up as a Parent-at-Large. **Leigh** to create election ballots for meeting.
- The School Statement of Needs (SSON) must be completed asap given the new structure of our combined schools. **Khaleel** to provide the SSON from ESA as an example; **Paul** to find the current one on file. The committee can draft, then bring it back to a future Council meeting for final approval.
- Paul asked us to consider coordinating future RCI Council meetings with MV Council meetings; perhaps an overlap so that RCI administration can attend both on one night. Also to liaise with the MV Council around ways to combine the two schools for mutual benefit (Remembrance Day, e.g.)

Other Items

- TDSB email for Council Chair should be set up as a generic title like MV co-chair email; elected Chair to coordinate with MV to determine how this is done.
- A meeting of the elected Executive Council is needed before the October 28 meeting to set up topics, future dates, etc. **Executive Meeting set for Tuesday, October 15 @ 7pm, Library**

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.