

RCI School Council - Remote Meeting
Minutes for February 22, 2021(7:00 – 8:30 pm)

Agenda Item	Lead	Details	Minutes
1. Call to Order & Welcome	Jackie		Call to order at 7. 15 Attendees online: Dawn Crandell, Lisa Truant-Tan, Jackie Marie, Krishna Gummaluru, Charity Mwebaze, Lucy Coyle, , Robynne Ostry, Joseph Muller, Suneeta G, T. Tapacoba, Melanie Boyd-Brown, Eileen Claxton, Ro Prince Admin: Paul Edwards, Rosalie Fine, Antonio Santos, Maria Puca-Sorella RCI Teachers: Ms. Bylykbashi Guest: Kara Miley (Toronto Public Library)
2. Approval of Minutes from Nov 30/20 mtg	Mel		Motion to accept raised by Robynn Ostry and seconded by Lucy Coyle
3. Principal & VP's Report & Update (20 min)	Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Update • VP Updates 	<p><u>Mr. Edwards:</u> Thanks for hanging in on Feb 16th and in person. A real special thanks to the families at home helping to create a physical environment where kids can learn when they are home. Students + teachers have equipment (technology) they need in place and teachers are adapting to the technology – teachers working very hard to learn to use technology in efficient and effective ways. There is the extra burden for all of the mental health concerns that we all need to continue to address. Able to complete June 2020 Virtual commencement – huge undertaking (Danielle Fernandez, Carla Cernic, Katie Ferguson and many others. Within. The LC4 TDSB area RCI is one of few to be able to do this; Next steps: Organizing packages for the 110 2020 grads to collect awards and diploma. Last Thursday (Feb 18th) held the Q1/2 awards ceremony and will organize packages to distribute awards in the coming weeks. Will shortly begin planning for 2021 virtual commencement for the end of June. Q3/4 awards will be distributed in the early Fall 2021.</p>

			<p>Back to school in person began Feb 16th. Students complete wellness check at home and are again checked at school following protocols. Many have moved to the online app which is creating efficiency. Staff are using the app too. While RCI is in same building as the nursery and Mountview, the 3 groups are separated 98% of the time.</p> <p>Most students entering RCI in grade 9 have the opportunity to partake in assemblies and student education around anti-racism and other topics. This year's cohort has not had the same opportunities. There was an incident recently within the grade 9 cohort involving small group of students who broke the TDSB online code of conduct relating to respectful communication between students. RCI and the TDSB takes this very seriously. The students in question and their families were engaged by the school. The students in violation of the Online Code of Conduct were suspended and support was and is being provided to the impacted students. All grade 9 families were sent an email reviewing the online code of conduct and emphasizing TDSB & RCI's commitment to creating safe learning environment for all students. The TDSB and RCI will continue to take steps to ensure that all students are supported fully.</p> <p>Staff changes: Katie Ferguson was promoted to VP Continuing Education and in her place please welcome Rosalie Fine as one of RCI's VPs. VP Leigh Thornton is on a short leave and is expected back in 4-6 weeks. Covering Ms. Thornton's duties will be Antonio Santos who is deeply experienced as an administrator. Ms. Ferguson & Ms. Thornton have been tremendously helpful in ensuring the transitions have been seamless, supported and smooth. There will also be some staffing changes with office administration staff as staff are moved as needed. Hoping to back-fill a staffing gap shortly.</p> <p>Grade 9 enrollment is looking good for September. Final numbers will be available later in the Spring.</p> <p>Question asked - Are there opportunities for parents to help out at grad time. Answer: Yes and staff will reach out when its time.</p> <p><u>Rosalie Fine:</u> Very impressed and feels very welcomed by the RCI Community. Thank you. Appreciates the support provided during the transition. If there are issues related to technology on loan to students, please contact Ms. Fine as she can</p>
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			<p>provide support and guidance; Early concern reports will be emailed to parents by the end of next week; Across the TDSB there are no formal mid-term report cards for Q3 and Q4 however around mid-term teachers are to share the mid-term marks with parents and students – via email or phone call.</p> <p><u>Antonio Santos:</u> Thank you very much to all students and staff for the welcome. Very Impressed with the flexibility that teachers have been demonstrating to provide the learning environment that students need and is excited to provide as much support as possible while he is here.</p>
<p>4. Financial Report (5 min)</p>	<p>Robynne Ostry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<p>Thank you to Maria Puca-Sorella for submitting the plan following TDSB guidelines. The plan has a \$81 surplus carry over from last year which must be spent this year + \$1000 in the bank account.</p> <p>Currently the school council has decided not to do fundraising this year. Mr. Edwards mentioned that in previous years, teaching staff had organized a scholarship for graduating students. Possibility that School Council may want to consider whether or not to do the same – would need to determine criteria etc. ACTION: table the idea of a scholarship for another meeting</p>
<p>5. Ward 7 Update (5 min)</p>	<p>Mages Palany</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<p>Mages was unable to attend this evening. Mel Boyd-Brown provided brief update. Meeting Minutes available on the RCI website. Another Ward 7 meeting will be held on Tuesday Feb 23rd. Invite available on the RCI website.</p>
<p>6. Mountview Update (10 min)</p>	<p>Lucy Coyle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 	<p>Mountview School Council meeting held earlier this month. MV has a Covid committee and are looking at possibly hosting an info night with a Toronto Public Health Nurse. If they do, Lucy will review the info night agenda to determine whether the topics are relevant to RCI families. If so, will ask MV to share the meeting info for distribution within the RCI community. Has shared the SSON for RCI with MV given that the position would be the same.</p>
<p>7. Community Update (10 min)</p>	<p>Kara Miley (Toronto Public Library)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robotics • Toronto Public Library Updates 	<p><u>Kara Miley</u>, Children and Youth librarian for the Jane/Dundas TPL branch. the branch should be listed as the Jane/Dundas branch (that's our official name) TPL has limited services because of lockdown curb side pick-up for items already on hold; TPL has launched “Grab and Go” bag. These are bags which contain books based on themes and age ranges. Local residents can check out</p>

	+ Lisa Truant-Tan (Robotics)		<p>a “bag”, using their library card based on available categories. Will not know what services are available at the library post lockdown until the lockdown is lifted and Toronto’s new “phase” is announced by the province. A reminder, if you don’t have a physical library card, virtual cards are available for those with a Toronto based telephone number, and provide access to the digital collection, including e-books.</p> <p>For teachers needing to organize physical library cards for students, please reach out to Kara who will try and provide as much support as possible. Kara will share an attachment for the website and email communication about the Young Voices Magazine. Submissions are due March 28th for students ages 12-19. Submission can be art-work, poetry, short stories etc. Students submit via the TPL website @ www.tpl.ca/teens/young-voices.jsp Submissions are evaluated by the Young Voices editorial board. The magazine will be published (hard copy) in the Fall.</p> <p><u>Lisa Truant-Tan - Robotics</u> Unfortunately, there will not be any in-person FIRST Robotics competitions this school year due to COVID. Other announcements about later in the fall of 2021 will be announced later this year. FIRSTCANADA LIVE continues to produce once weekly broadcasts on Tuesday nights at 7pm info. interviews and fun activities for people who are interested in seeing what other teams and others are doing. There is a virtual conference taking place on Sat., March 20 and 21 called Girls and Allies STEMathon that may be of interest for some people if you want to check it out." Sign up – it’s free.</p>
8. Reading for Explicit Change (10 min)	Janelle Bylykbashi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading for Explicit Change: A RCI Staff Initiative 	<p>This program has been running at Runnymede during Q2, every 2 weeks. The focus is on anti-black and anti-indigenous readings to help staff learn how they can better support the student populations of RCI. All staff are meeting to talk about this issue including how to improve the curriculum and better serve students. There have been very valuable, impactful and at times challenging and uncomfortable conversations that are helping all staff learn, unlearn and grow in order to better support all students. The focus is shifting in the next few sessions towards hearing teen advice in</p>

			<p>the context of the students voices so that teachers can be better aware of the challenges that students face. This initiative is building on the pillars to diversity that the TDSB has established and RCI has taking a leadership perspective on it;</p>
<p>9. Q & A (10 min)</p>	•	•	<p>Questions: Q: Will the Grade 9 cohort A&B be combined? Mr. Santos to confirm when they know more. Q: What are the implications of March Break moving to April 12-16 for the quad system? Ms. Fine to send updates/dates via school messenger to students & families. Q: What else is the TDSB doing to support mental health for staff and students? The TDSB has been providing a lot of supports plus professional development modules. RCI spent the last PD day focused on mental + physical well-being and will continue to reach out to staff to make sure that supports recognize where staff are, and also support staff co-learning which is a critical element of professional development.</p> <p>Next Meeting: March 29th</p>
<p>10. Adjournment (8:30 pm)</p>			