

RCI School Council - Remote Meeting
Minutes for October 25, 2021(7:00 – 8:30pm)

Agenda Item	Lead	Details	Minutes
1. Call to Order & Welcome	Jackie		Melanie Boyd-Brown, , Jackie Marrie, Nicole Coker (TPL), Robynne Ostry, Rojean Prince, Michelle Haurilak, Taryn Tang, Philip, Maaz, Karin Hill, Joseph Muller, Jonathan Leroux (TPL), Jenn Perchard Howe, Rebecca Pringlemeir Admin: Paul Edwards, Rosalie Fine,
2. Approval of Past Minutes	Jackie		Motion to accept Rojean Prince, and Michelle Haurilak;
3. RUSTCO	Maaz Hussian		RUSTCO has been working hard – following COVID restrictions while trying to engage students and has seen a spike in spirit. Team is being very creative and dedicated. Did activities in support of Hallowe’en which were very successful and well received. Also seeks feedback from student body via social media (Instagram stories) and feedback has been positive and useful. Obviously COVID restrictions have created challenges. Hoping that as the TDSB moves back to a regular schedule in Semester 2 this will give RUSTCO the opportunity to engage in longer planning sessions during lunch hours and the opportunity to plan events that can accommodate more students. RUSTCO will think about how the Parent Council can provide even more support.
4. Principal & VPs’s Report & Update	Admin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Update • VP Updates 	<p><u>Ms. Fine</u> Primary update is on “Reading for Explicit Change”, a staff driven initiative to support staff engagement + learning re: ant-racism + anti-oppression. Has taken place for the past 2 years. A smaller working committee identifies resources for staff to access for development and learning. Committee is sharing resources with the Black Student Alliance who play an important role in sharing student voices and perspectives for the benefit of staff. The student group THRIVE will be coming out with a Wellness survey and one of the proposed questions is on Reading for Explicit Change. The goal is to measure students’ awareness around teacher engagement. Having both THRIVE and BSA involvement is important in providing student leadership and voices, and is greatly valued by staff and admin.</p> <p><u>Mr. Edwards:</u> COVID – both MV + RCI are doing well with no active cases. Dec 2nd event: TDSB has sent communication on an info session facilitated by TPH (Toronto Public Health) re:</p>

vaccinations for ages 5-11. TPH Mobile Vaccination Clinic came earlier in the Fall for 1st vaccination for RCI students with intention for it to return for 2nd vaccinations - timing is TBD by TPH.

Supply Teachers – continues to be a challenge to have sufficient specialists at the secondary level across the board.

Re: teaching + learning evaluations – held a successful virtual parent teacher interviews held in early Nov; Mid-term report cards issued. In January + July have scheduled review of grades with guidance, teaching leads, and teachers to support student success.

Continue to keep awareness on grade review looking at courses code by code, keeping in mind context of the last 18 mos . Focus is on continuing to identify how to support the students as they go through the curriculum across the grades; A potential idea from the Head of the Math department (Sam Garrison) – having senior students excelling in math help the grades 9/10.

Some student/staff fun – last week lunch-time dodge ball game. Good for Morale.

Semester 2 – continuing to move ahead assuming this will go forward as 4 courses daily; Expect a clear message from the Board by early January if not earlier.

Of 476 students – 67 are virtual – don't expect this to change significantly as TDSB moves into a regular 4 courses/day semester schedule in Semester 2.

Questions:

Q. Several related to Grade 12 math and concerns of potential impact to student learning due to instructor absence over several weeks and subsequent difficulty with obtaining qualified secondary school level specialists.

A. Solution will be forthcoming within the week – an experienced senior grade (11/12) teacher will be stepping in. Accommodations to be looked at in acknowledging the impact to student learning and considering possible paths forward to ensure student success in this class and in subsequent classes in Semester 2 and into post-secondary. Mr. Edwards will explore how to ensure effective messaging is communicated to affected students + families.

Q. Will there be exams this year? How will grade 12 students be prepared for university exams if there are none ? (No exams since first semester grade 10 for current Gr 12 cohort).

A. Government has decreed no exams in Semester 1. No confirmation yet for Semester 2, although would create an inconsistency to have exams in S2 and not S1. Mr. Edwards to

			<p>take this back to explore creative ideas with teachers how possibly to allow those students wanting exam practice to have some. Universities last year were given government funding specifically to address learning gaps of incoming high school students and expect this to continue into Fall 2022 university year.</p> <p>Q. What is happening with Grad Committee?</p> <p>A. A grad committee will be convened in early January and parents invited to participate. Want to make this as successful an in-person graduation as possible.</p>
6. Overview of School Council Positions	Jackie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Positions open 	<p>Jenn Perchard Howe volunteered to join executive as co-chair.</p> <p>Anyone else interested in joining executive, encouraged to apply for communications co-chair.</p>
7. Financial Update	Robynne Ostry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update 	<p>In touch with Marlee re: confirming what \$ is available in current bank accounts. Best to assume not much and anything there should be used soon as not supposed to have carry over from year to year.</p> <p>Mr. Edwards confirmed the funding from the TDSB (based on # of students) is \$575.</p> <p>Fundraising Discussion:</p> <p>At Secondary School level fundraising is student driven and program specific vs junior/middle school.</p> <p>TDSB doesn't allow fundraising that doesn't use CashOnline – a challenge for student fund-raising activities by RUSTCO etc.</p> <p>Teacher Wish List distributed by Mr. Edwards to key executive positions. Robynne to review with Jen + teacher lead (Karen McCrimmon) – possible synergy is yearbook which is important to students/RUSTCO + Teachers. Cost ~\$12K to produce. Historically funded with Student Activity Fee which was not collected this year (COVID) yet Staff desire is for all students (476) to receive a yearbook given the challenges of the last 2 years. Robynne to coordinate letter with unique direct donation link to target parents/guardians. Timing TBD.</p> <p>Consider the timing of any fundraising asks with Robotics to ensure not confusing RCI Community.</p> <p>Kieran Mills (RCI Tech Lead) submitted application for Best Buy Grant. Expect to hear results in mid-January. Thank you to Jackie for forwarding the grant to the school.</p> <p>PRO – short deadline – Carla to ask MV if they would be willing to co-write the proposal with RCI for a joint event. Jackie available to help draft. Mel to send last year's submission to Jackie + Carla. Request made to Mr. Edwards to request of board/ward for more notice</p>

			for submissions in future years.
8. Ward 7 Update	Mel Boyd-Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update 	<p>Rojean , Michelle and Mr Edwards also attended; Ward 7 meeting minutes will be posted on the RCI website when made available. 1st Topic: An excellent overview and discussion on what to expect when a racist or hate event happens at a school. All RCI parents + guardians encouraged to review Procedure PR 728 for Reporting + Responding to Racism + Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools (https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Detail/docId/2227) 2nd Topic: Secondary School Review. https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review All schools with less than 600 students are reviewed to ensure optimal operating capacity. Parents are encouraged to educate themselves on this work and participate via surveys and workshops to have their voices heard. RCI is scheduled for review in year 2 of the 3-year process. RCI is uniquely situated because while it has less than 600 students, not all its available classrooms/spaces are available given Mountview and The Nursery School capacity requirements. 3rd Topic: Mandatory Vaccinations for Staff – see PR734 (https://www.tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1713/Update-on-TDSB's-COVID-19-Vaccination-Procedure-for-Employees-Trustees-and-Other-Individuals-) for more info. 4th Topic – Lockers hopefully available as part of a return to Regular Semester schedule in Semester 2. Reminder of TDSB emails sent on Switching between Virtual + In-Person Schools and Early French Immersion enrollment. Next Ward 7 Meeting is December 7th focused on Parent Engagement. Is a collaboration with Ward 9. Michelle will be in attendance.</p>
9. Mountview Update	Carla Granger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update 	<p>MV parent Council Meeting on Tuesday November 30th. Communication between Lucy Coyle + Carla re: MV participating as a Friend-Family Level Sponsor for the Robotics Team. Robotics team committed to showcasing the robotic with demos etc regardless of whether MV contributed financially – the Robotics team feels that this is important to do because of the partnership commitment within the larger RCI community and sees this as a longer-term investment. MV is interested in cross collaborations with RCI to deepen the connections between the two communities. Carla will advise of outcome of meeting.</p>

<p>10. Community Updates</p>	<p>Nicole Coker (Toronto Public Library) + Lisa Truant-Tan (Robotic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto Public Library Updates • Robotics 	<p>Nicole Coker – Toronto Public Library, Jane & Dundas branch (620 Jane Street) https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/janedundas/ (email: ncoker@tpl.ca) Library Hours: 9-8:30 M-F + Saturdays 9-5; Now also open Sundays from 1:30-5 (until June 26th – closed holiday weekends).</p> <p>Not a lot of new updates from last month.</p> <p>Sundays have become quite busy as the community takes advantage of the Sunday hours.</p> <p>The MAP (Art + Musuem Pass) program has started again. See this link for a list of all the passes available in all libraries plus this location: https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/museum-arts-passes/) Passes can be picked up on Saturdays at 9 am.</p> <p>Teen Hub New this month: not just a homework/study space now. Laptops + MacBook’s, videogames and iPads - all socially distanced + are available as a place to unwind; access to free color printing plus homework help and dedicated library staff; In December there are 3 free drop-in programs running (see flyers) from 3:30-6 pm Dec 8: Sphero bowling. Dec 14: Green screen yourself into a Fantasy World. Dec 20: Design and make your own buttons.</p> <p>Robotics: Email Update from Lisa Truant-Tan Sixty students in total have all signed up for the team. They have been organized into sub-teams. We've started safety training with the Build students (that's going on right now as we speak!). Our competition events have been signed up for already. The dates for our competitions are on March 5th at Humber College and March 26th at York University. They are all one-day events this year. We are looking for any parents or alumni to help with the team in any number of different capacities. For more information you can e-mail my husband Irwin Tan at irwinctan@gmail.com Go Team 1310!</p>
<p>11. Other Items</p>			<p><u>Questions:</u> Lockers for students with extra-curricular activities (+loads of gear)</p>

Answer: Mr. Edwards will explore expediting solutions for these students

Executive Planning Meeting Timing?

Answer: Regular General Meeting January 28th and Executive Planning Meeting February 28th

What can we do to thank teachers as they head into Winter Break?

Answer: Breakfast/cookie drive on Thursday December 16th. Interested in helping? contact Karin Hill (kwu330@hotmail.com)

Next Meeting January 28 @ 7 pm. More details to follow.