

Runnymede School Council  
Minutes for Monday, February 26, 2018  
7:00 pm

**Call to Order & Introductions (Harpreet Gulri)**

**Review and acceptance of last mtg (November) minutes (Harpreet Gulri)**

Khaleel motioned, Richard seconded approval

**Student Update (RUSTCO Rep Omar Fakhri)**

See attached update

Setting up a dance for March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lots of activities have ramped up after exams in January. Spring Athletics start up after March Break.

Thrive - Pink shirt day this Wednesday, Cupcake fundraiser next Wednesday. The Wellness room ("Raven's Retreat") is opening soon!

Robotics is working hard after school and on Saturdays to get ready for competition

**Course Option Overview (Carla Cernic, Guidance)**

- Overview of changes to course selection process this year:
  - Every student has gotten a course selection package like the one shown here. 75% of students have turned their forms in and we are tracking down the rest, mostly Grade 11s.
  - Two new course additions: Grade 12 mixed Social Justice class and Grade 12 University level Forensic Science class.
  - Law is being offered and will run if there are enough students signing up. Economics is not being offered because RCI doesn't have an economics teacher.
  - Many prerequisites are ministry-required, but there is some leeway (e.g. music, art). Many of the art classes are mixed grades, but get more stringent in the higher level grades 11 & 12.
- Post secondary applications for our Grade 12 students: the majority of our students applied to biology, engineering and other sciences
  - U of T, Ryerson, Waterloo and York
  - Humber College, George Brown, Seneca
  - Many of our students have gotten early acceptance

- Ms. Kemp will be meeting with each student interested in SHSM. One new item is a summer co-op for SHSM students if they don't want to do it during the school year. Universities are looking at additional activities outside the academics, especially for engineering. Having transferable skills like co-op and SHSM sets a student apart and gives them a competitive edge.

### **Administration Update (Paul Edwards)**

It's been a long while since our last meeting in November.

- At the end of November, Ms. Ardell was promoted to principal and she left in early December. Mr. Pollice also lost both his parents during this time. We then had 1-2 retired administrators come in to fill the VP roles during the Dec-Jan period.
  - Ms. Robinson has replaced Ms. Ardell as our new VP on February. Despite all this, the school has accomplished much with exams, extra-curriculars, sports, etc.
  - This May Mr. Edwards will ask RCI School Council to complete a SSON (School Statement of Needs) - it is a document listing what the parents are looking for in school administrators. We need to have this updated each year in case there is a transition with school administration.
- Richard V. requested to offer tax services for RCI parents and others in the community. This request went to the superintendent and they sent it to legal. So this has not been approved as yet. The administration applauds Richard's passion and hopes to have an answer soon. In the meantime, RCI's twitter account posted information about tax preparation services offered to the community from Arif. This will be put on RCI's website as well.
- The RCI Alumni Association has asked to move the alumni bank account from private ownership (which has in place for 90 years) to a business ownership. They will have to make a presentation to RCI School Council and the Administration. The administration believes it okay as many schools alumni groups have a business account, but has sent it to the superintendent and it is now in legal.
- Staffing for September 2019 will start soon based on enrolment and course requests.
  - Projected enrolment – we are waiting for this to determine the number of teachers. This will happen after the March Break so we will update you at the March meeting.
  - The Master's enrolment is looking good. 125 kids wrote the test (plus a few more after that) compared to 85 last year. We have 45-50 kids showing

interest in the Masters program (versus 33 last year) so we're preparing for 2 classes in 2019.

- We will also choose 25 students for STELLAR program next year.
- During the week of February 20 to 23, 2018, there were two separate incidents that required us to respond using TDSB's safety procedures. One occurred during our school's lunch time in the school yard and the other occurred after our Night School Program at approximately 9:30pm in the school yard. These incidents only involved specific students and at no time was there any threat to anyone else. Both incidents were contained and processed accordingly. Our in-school Safe Schools Committee will convene to review our procedures moving forwards.
- There was a thorough debriefing with RCI staff around the Open House, but it would good to hear the parents' view as well. Kimberly to add this to next month's agenda

### **Teacher Update & Presentation (Karen McCrimmon)**

- The new exam schedule was a lot of work for teachers (had to make different exams for different days), but it worked fairly well.
  - The teachers will suggest starting at 9 instead of 10 am (so the exams don't flow over lunch). Although it's more work, the upside is that teachers have the whole afternoon to mark.
  - It was also very beneficial for the students – less anxiety, better grades.
- Discussion around how the final exam is weighted and how it impacts a student's final mark. The final exam is usually 30% of the final grade, so the final mark will drop if the student doesn't do as well in their final exam. It's hard to raise your final mark with your exam grade, but it is easy to lower it.

### **Ward 7 Update (Lucy Coyle)**

See attached minutes

- Reviewed the Enhanced Equity Report yet again.
- Discussed the results of the Ward Boundary Review. Ward 7 will be the same but a bit larger; adding 5 or so schools, going south of Bloor and over to Davenport. Robin Pilkey is still our trustee., but she gains a few more schools.
- The Board is looking at the US Travel ban policy which might impact the Robotics team and other competition teams (right now it's a ban). Robotics will need to qualify at Barrie and York before the need to find out if we can go to Detroit for the final competition. Not sure if the Catholic School Board or Peel have a travel ban as well.

- All the student forms will be online in September 2019
- The Board is looking at transportation and busing and for parent input.
- Board has a legal and planning team fighting the new condos near High Park because there is no school capacity.

### **PRO Grant Use Discussion**

- There is a \$1,000 PRO (Parent's Reaching Out) Grant plus \$400 in the School Council account. Ten percent of the PRO Grant (\$100) can be used for items not directly connected with parent outreach. Ideas for using the fund:
  - Harpreet moved to use \$500 for buying classroom fans, Donna seconded.
  - Karen McCrimmon to determine how many fans are required to outfit all classrooms to ensure equitable distribution
  - Farhia to look into fan donations from local companies and/or special pricing to maximize how many fans we can get.
- Discussion about ideas for the remaining \$900 of PRO Grant.
  - Decision to offer a monthly 'Coffee Morning' for parents to connect with each other at the school.
  - We could include Grade 8 parents to welcome them and get them involved early.
  - Could incorporate into the "Moving On Up" day
  - Calling parents rather than email might give a better turn out.
  - Farhia Lucy, Lisa and Kimberly (plus Paul Edwards and Karen McCrimmon) to work on this and report at next meeting.

### **Other Business**

- Other happenings coming up for students:
  - Bay Street Deconstructed – End of March Grade 10s
  - Dental & Eye screening – April
  - Job Application Fair
  - PAN Day Fest – March 23
- The RCI Agenda App is up and running. Highlight in the newsletter with a link
- OSSLT (Literacy Test for Grade 10s) on April 10 – being told to deliver it differently this year by TDSB. During the March 5 week, Grade 10s will miss one class each day to attend preparation workshops.

### **Adjournment (9:15 pm)**

# *Student Update – Parent Council*

## **RUSTCO**

RUSTCO had a Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at lunch, where paper hearts were distributed in hidden areas around the school, and each card had a quote on it, so students who brought matching hearts to Room 214 received chocolate. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, student council will be hosting a dance in the large gym, in an attempt to support school spirit.

## **Athletics Update:**

-large number of students participating in the Winter Sports Season - approximately 80 athletes over 5 teams  
- all teams displayed exemplary sportsmanship and hardwork throughout their seasons

**Jr Girls Volleyball** - advanced to semi final

**Sr Girls Volleyball** - advanced to quarter final

**Boys Varsity Basketball** – had a challenging season, but overcame hurdles including a coaching change and a young roster

## **Swim Team** - Large team

**Regionals:** Rochelle Clayton - 3 gold medals

Rachel Dietrich - Silver and Bronze

Micheal Wieszczyk - Bronze

Jr. Girls relay team - Silver

**Cities:** 3 students qualified for the City Championships

Rochelle Clayton won a Bronze and Gold and has qualified for the OFSAA Championship in Windsor

**OFSAA** - Rochelle Clayton

**Cheer** - performed at Boys Basketball games, currently practicing and preparing for competition

**Badminton Club** - currently running, 50 students are participating

**Right to Play** - attended a day at the Brickworks, started to prepare for Semester 2 program

**RAC** - as always busy ensuring all games are running smoothly  
- celebrating the Olympics by decorating the cafeteria, streaming Olympic events at lunch in the café, hosting RAC Olympics Feb. 23 at lunch

**Spring Season** - coaches meeting will be held before March Break

## **Arts & Music**

**Grease:** The music department is putting on the musical production of Grease. Auditions are over and cast is set.

**Improv Club:** Improv club takes place after school where students get to display their dramatical and comedic talent.

## **Clubs**

**BSA** (Black Student Association) - The group shared ideas that have been combined into a permanent mural to represent their culture, identity, and pride (near room 222). They are now planning some announcements and activities that will run during February, and planning several fundraisers, to pay for this mural. In addition, they are starting to write poetry and skits, to (hopefully) be included in the Black History assembly. The BSA posts daily quotes on the morning announcements related to Black History, and they have also had an opportunity to host Terry Downey, a Nova Scotian mother whose daughter is a film director and she allowed the Runnymede student body to understand Black Heritage in Canada.

**Me to We** February was part of our We Are Love month. On February 14th, Me to We distributed cards of appreciation to our staff and support workers on behalf of the student body to recognize the role they play as part of our Runnymede family.

## **Other Clubs @ Runnymede**

### **Thrive**

Thrive is hosting Pink Shirt Day this Wednesday. Pink Shirt Day is a day to bring awareness to Bullying and students are encouraged (and allowed) to wear pink shirts with their uniforms on Wednesday. Students will be asked to contribute words of support and hope to a display that will be up on Wednesday.

Thrive has named the Wellness Room "Raven's Retreat" and it is almost ready. The formal opening of the room will be on Wednesday March 7 at lunch where Thrive will be selling cupcakes as a fundraiser. Thrive is also putting together a school quilt based on our student clubs which is well-underway. The finished product will hang in the Wellness Room.

### **Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club continues to bring hot breakfasts to students 4 days a week. We are currently accepting new volunteers for Semester 2. This is a great way to earn several community service hours. Please see Ms. McCrimmon for more information. On Tuesday Feb.

13th, the Breakfast Club was joined by our principal and 2 VPs who flipped pancakes for Pancake Tuesday. The special breakfast featured pancakes with choice toppings of chocolate chips and whipped cream. Many thanks to the admin for supporting us.

**ROBOTICS** 1310 - our Robotics team has been working 6 days a week (6 hrs a day) since December to get ready for this season. They are competing in Barrie this weekend and will be up at York for another competition at the end of March.

**Ward 7 Council Meeting  
January 30, 2018, 7PM-9PM  
Garden Avenue PS, Gym  
Minutes**

**Attendance**

**Robin Pilkey, Trustee**  
**Sandra Tondat, Tracy Hayhurst, Superintendents**  
**Rosanna Sardella, Principal, Howard**  
**Alana Hardy, Principal, Garden (Host)**  
**Mary Gyne-Schultze, Principal, Warren Park**  
**Paula Boutis, SEAC rep**  
**Margaret Iskov, SEAC**  
**Christy Heath (SSL)**

**Representatives from:**

<b>Annette PS</b>	<b>Fern Avenue PS (2)</b>	<b>Garden Avenue (4)</b>
<b>Humbercrest PS</b>	<b>Keele Street PS</b>	<b>King George PS</b>
<b>Parkdale CI</b>	<b>Queen Victoria PS</b>	<b>Runnymede CI</b>
<b>Swansea PS</b>	<b>Warren Park PS</b>	

- Meeting was called to order by Trustee Robin Pilkey at 7:07PM. The format of this will be a little different than previous meetings as the Director's response to the Enhancing Equity Task Force Report has just come out, attendees will form small groups and each group will take a section of the report [http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Response%20to%20Report\\_Jan2018\\_V3.pdf](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Response%20to%20Report_Jan2018_V3.pdf), and brainstorm thoughts and questions. Trustee Pilkey will be attending a Priorities and Planning meeting on Wednesday January 31st and the Response to the Equity Report is the only item on the agenda, she will take notes, questions and discussion from tonight's meeting to that tomorrow. Introductions then took place of all attendees.
- Madeline Cruikshank SAC Chair at Garden Ave. PS introduced the host school with a slide show.
- Trustee Pilkey introduced the Enhancing Equity Report and Task Force. <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity/Related-Reports/Directors-Response-to-the-Enhancing-Equity-Task-Force> as well as the Director's response. The response has been broken down into 7 main themes:
  - Professional Learning,

- Challenging Streaming and Exclusion to Improve Achievement and Well-being,
- Examination of the Policies, Procedures, and Practices that affect Access, Opportunities, and Outcomes,
- Enhancing Engagement and Voice Towards System Change,
- Equitable Resource Allocation Review,
- Development of a Strategy for Black Student Achievement and Excellence,
- Equitable Recruitment, Hiring, Promotion, and Placement.

The TDSB has areas that need to improve and these are the areas we need to move forward on. There has been a clear admission that there is work to do, which was not previously voiced. This report has pulled a lot of strands in and emphasizes areas we need to work on. The Board of Trustees is obligated to approve a multi year strategic plan. Hopefully the strategic plan will be in place by June and it will come from the Equity Report.

Participants were broken into small groups and assigned a section of the Director's response to discuss. Small group discussion for approximately 45 min. Sharing of group discussion:

**Group 1** - Challenging Streaming and Exclusion in Early Years & IPRC. IPRC process should be highlighted, those involved in process should always meet the child. (This report is the What, the discussion process will identify the How). Inquired why French Immersion is not considered in the discussions of Streaming? Also inquired about early reading challenges and intervention in early reading for French Immersion.

**Group 2** - Challenging Streaming and Exclusion-Suspensions and Expulsions. Thought that Student Concern Protocol was great but group had some questions. Is segregation the cause of our negative results? Time, support and resources, where is this going to come from? - Grade 9 and 10 Academic and Applied Programing. Feel it is important that there is recognition that the system that is in place right now isn't working. Concerns around what data is used during this process and how is it going to be monitored and tested? What will be in place to protect the students as the programs and process are changed? Transition teams and identifying systemic loss. Where is the funding for Guidance Counselors and additional support going to come from? Also wondering, regarding Mental Health and Wellbeing, what about the adults who are working with these children? How do they become a role model and support if they are also struggling? Where is their support? (Trustee Pilkey commented that student, staff and community wellbeing is being addressed).

**Group 3** - Development of a Strategy for Black Student Achievement and Excellence. Can we look at the best practices of other boards and schools? What have other big cities done to address this issue? How do we shift the stigma around schools that are predominantly black? (Trustee Pilkey commented that TDSB is the only Board who will name the problem of this stigma. The student voice is important in understanding the cultural differences, talk to the black students to find the How in this situation. We need to remember that there are three types of bias, stigma against the school, the individuals and the systemic bias against schools and neighbourhood.

**Group 4** - Professional Learning. How do you prioritize that topics and who gets to learn about them? How will the TDSB be held accountable and how will implementation be measured? What is the Road Map? How do we know we are getting results? What influence can the TDSB have with ministries and teachers colleges? (Trustee Pilkey drew attention to pg 24 of the report, TDSB will collaborate with training institutions!). Trustee Pilkey will collect questions and take to the meeting of the Priorities and Planning Committee on January 31st where the Enhancing Equity Report is the only item on the agenda and a vote will be taken to bring the report to the Board next week.



- Trustee Report for Ward 7 –
  - Ward Boundary Review Update: Trustees are recommending new boundaries that approximate the existing Learning Centres , The new ward 7 would be the existing boundaries plus an additional section south of Bloor to Dovercourt.
  - Annual Planning Session is Friday.
  - Work continues on the Keele local feasibility team to solve accommodation problems that are coming down the pipe because of proposed apartment development on High Park Ave. and general growth in the area. The Board is going to object to the development, asking for Party Status from OMB. The TDSB Planning Department and Legal Department do attend.
  - In September the Start of Year Forms will go online! (Hopefully – that is the plan!)
  - Transportation Review - Ministry of Education a review of bussing is being done. Direct email will go to families who use bussing as well as TDSB Connects. Want to make sure there are lots of parent voices in this review. The link to the discussion paper and how to respond is here. Please share and ask parents to complete:  
<https://files.ontario.ca/student-transportation-en.pdf>
  - US Travel Ban is being reviewed to allow for students to travel for competitions and for Professional Development.
  - Education Development Charges <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Education-Development-Charges>  
Make sure to speak with election candidates about Education Development Charges when they canvas for the upcoming elections. Trustee Pilkey will be meeting with the Chairs of the other 3 boards in Toronto to discuss what can be done to change how funding is distributed and who gets access.
  - A motion is going to the Board for the TDSB to run childcare for before and after school programs on a seamless day model where there is no pre-existing childcare provider in a school and at least 20 families need care.
  - Active capital and repair projects. A list of all active projects by school was shared with parents, just to get an idea of the magnitude of work that is currently in progress across the TDSB.
- The theme for March meeting will be Experiential Learning & Guidance. Still confirming a location.
- Monday February 5th at Bloor CI <http://gordperks.ca/ask-me-anything-with-tdsb-director-of-education-dr-john-malloy/>
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:08PM