

Runnymede School Council
Minutes for Monday, October 29, 2018
School Library
7:00 pm

Call to Order & Introductions

Donna & Khaleel

Parents in attendance: Laura Pillsworth, Lucy Coyle, Farhia Warsame, Jackie Marrie, Khaleel Mohammed, Donna Maiato, Kimberly de Witte, Mageswaran Palany, Salwa Mohamed, Deke Nur, Sahra Isse, Lisa Truant-Tan

Staff in Attendance: Paul Edwards, Joseph Pollice, Karen McCrimmon

Review and acceptance of last mtg minutes – motion to accept (Jackie Marrie) and seconded (Laura Pillsworth)

Student Update Student Rep not available for an update today

Presentation: Parent Council Responsibilities

Michelle Munroe, TDSB

School Council 101 (Full presentation available at

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils>)

- Main role is to be the communication link between school and parent body
- Minutes must be accessible, how to reach Council members is easily accessible
- Reg 612 is the "law of school councils". Reg 613 is what staff can do, and how they can support Council
- Every Council must have Bylaws around election procedures, conflict of interest and conflict resolution issues. Some also outline roles and responsibilities of officers and how communications will be handled (Eg, how to engage in social media and who has authority to shut it down if needed)
- All parents must be invited to participate. From the parent rep group, you elect Executives.
- Can make Quorum any % we want.
- Teaching, non teaching, community and student rep are also voting members
- always need more council members at a meeting than the 4 members listed above (so parents are sufficiently represented).
- Annual Report required on activities of the School Council; must be distributed to all parents.
- SIP- School Improvement plan: Key focus for TDSB is equity, achievement and well being. Council is being asked to have input on this.
- Business office of TDSB has grants opportunities, vetted. Website is <HTTPS://oursite.tdsb.on.ca/org/DOM/pages/Grants.aspx>. (Requires sign up).

- TDSB has an email accounts that school council chairs can utilize (stays with the current chair each year). Donna and Khaleel to set up.

Administration Update

Paul Edwards

We finished parent/teacher interviews and awards assemblies over the last two weeks. In conjunction with our work on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) the TDSB has asked us to bring teachers to the consultations. We brought our three teachers that had headed up our three prongs (Equity – Fernandes, Wellness – Mc Crimmon, Achievement – Henderson). They are now rolling out the results of these meetings back to the rest of the RCI teachers this Thursday. We will be looking at the student census that our kids answered in 2017 when our enrolment was around 650 to create an ‘inclusive design’ to move from programing down to lesson plans.

Program Review Committee – comprised of teacher heads, non-head teachers, a parent rep (Lucy Coyle) and a student rep. First was to determine what will be offered for Grade 9 in Sept 2019 (in prep for the Open House). Because of the tight deadline of Nov 14, there wasn’t an opportunity for Lucy to bring back the final decision around the Grade 9 offerings to the School Council. The remaining decisions will be brought to later meetings. Donna: at parent/teacher interviews we talked to Mr. Crooks about creating the Forensics course and how long it took to put this in place. About four years of preparation – kudos to our teachers; that should be highlighted at the Open House.

Staffing – October 31 is the deadline in TDSB for meeting our projection of teacher needs. Initial student population was predicted last December, and finalized by March/April. They gave us 34 teachers, we asked for more, and they gave us an additional .5 (which will be used for semester two). Originally it was to be a spec ed teacher who was on leave, but that teacher submitted their resignation, so RCI is finding another .5 for semester two. RCI lost approximately 50 students from 2017/18 to 2018/19, and we lost 2.5 teachers from last year. We are pushing hard to keep enrolment up over 552 so we can offer a good variety of courses to keep students here, especially with the Grade 11 & 12 options. Our Grade 9 enrolment has decreased over the last seven years, but we keep the students that start here.

Jackie: anyone see the Toronto Star article? Highlights Runnymede that includes a paragraph on RCI’s famous alumni.

Budget for School Council from TDSB (based on our 552 enrolment number) is lower than last year. Doesn’t include MOE \$500 or PRO Grant which has been put on hold for the time being. Working to have a separate bank account for Council, away from the school account

Overall budget was distributed to all present at the meeting and a complete package broken down by department was distributed to School Council executives. Based on 552 kids, budget is \$166,694 for the year. Will bring budget that passes by staff to our Nov meeting.

Teacher Update

Karen McCrimmon

There is a lot going in the school right now. Deconstructing the Student Census on Thursday and a Humbercrest visit

Tuesday – Spooktacular at 6:30-7:30

Wednesday – assembly, door decorating contest, encouraging students to dress in costume

Friday – Grade 10 Albion Hills Leadership camp

RUSTCO is now formed and are trying to arrange for a dance in November

THRIVE – arranged for a Therapy Dog visit on November 30, beautifying one of the student bathrooms.

GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) has rebranded as PRIDE headed by Ms. Kitchen. Meeting on Mondays.

Open House Support Discussion (15 min)

Donna & Khaleel

What do we want to focus on?

- Diversity, including gender, of the speakers.
- Importance of having a strong neighbourhood school
- Size and diversity (have the support and aren't just a number)
- Equity, Achievement and Well-being (SIP)

Lucy – ask a parent/ask a alumni/ask a teacher

Feedback form for parents to find out if the info night was helpful.

Excuse our mess “changing on the outside, and changing on the inside’

Laura and Lucy will coordinate the School Council table, baked goods from parents

Kimberly to see what Carla has created and then put together talking points for the School Council section.

Other Business (15 min)

Take your Kids to Work day – Nov 7 or 14? Admin to check with TDSB.

Grants – do we have charitable status? TDSB does, minimum \$20 with payment to TDSB.

Fundraising – what about a direct request to parents? Unanimous vote for Jackie to look into using canadahelps.org for electronic fundraising. Should have a link to what the money is going to. Karen hasn't gotten a full wish list from teachers. Make the focus generic (e.g. team uniforms rather than cheer uniforms). There are an approved list of TDSB vendors kids can get t shirts, cups, etc.

Fans – Farhia will look at clearance deals; unanimous vote to use \$500 of School Council Funds to purchase fans while sales are on.

Adjournment (9:00 pm)