

**RCI School Council Meeting
Minutes for October 30, 2017**

1. Introductions

2. Approval of minutes (Sunil, Donna)

3. Student Update (Omar)

Handout on Report on Student Activities at Runnymede (attached at end of minutes):

- Dance this Friday, Nov 3. Tickets are low, but are selling in the cafeteria
- Algoma University trip (Sault St. Marie) coordinated through Guidance dept. – 5 or 6 RCI students took advantage of the free trip. Tours were run by former students and some people got to meet with professors. Parents may not have been given enough notice to arrange for their students to attend.
- Oct 31 is Dress down/costume day (\$2 for dressing, canned food for the
- Clubs:
 - THRIVE – Student wellness group is putting out a survey and wants to give us a presentation at a later date. Having therapy dogs during exams, hopefully on a more regular basis. Wellness room – looking for Leon’s to donate a couple couches. Paint some messages in the restrooms
 - Cheer is in dire need of sponsorship, if anyone knows of companies that would help. ASAP to help them get to the different competitions. They help lots of the different sports teams at the school – they are one of the hardest working clubs in the group!
 - Dec 15-17 Grade 10 Leadership Camp to Albion Hills. Open to all Grade 10 students. Will get information sent home soon.
 - Great results for Cross Country with XX athletes from RCI

4. Administration Update (Paul Edwards)

- Staffing focus right now is equity. TDSB Rep (Chelsea) assisting us with this initiative. They are interviewing students about how they feel around equity at RCI. There will be some conversations with parents later this year. We have a TDSB rep (Chelsea) who will be training some of our teachers who want to learn a lot more about equity. Neha Kapileshwarker is the RCI/TDSB Learning Coach to help us improve the various curricula through an equity lens by training our 12 department heads who will in turn train their staff.
- Late start Thursdays are used to train teachers and department meetings.
- Parent comment (Donna & Harpreet) - Moving the Grade 12 Chemistry teacher (Dr. Morrison) was an unfortunate loss to the students.

5. Ward 7 Update @ Fern Public School (Lucy) – Full Minutes attached

- Presentation from two student trustees (super council that sit on the TDSB that represent the students)
 - Careers and Civics program to be revamped and modernized
 - Share information around mental health at different schools
 - Looking at the extreme weather policy to be more appropriate for secondary school (want something written when grades are affected)
- Looking for a parent for PIAC and Alternate School Advisory Committee
- Robin Pilkey spoke to the enhanced equity program – looking for parent input
- Boundaries are changing but they won’t affect RCI
- SRO – Student Resource Officer through Police Services, not TDSB has been cancelled until they do a complete review to make sure it’s in line with enhanced equity report.
- EQAO Results for Math

6. Open House Discussion

- How can we do a better job to convince Grade 8 parents
- We ask all families from our feeder schools to attend our information night.
- We need to get those Grade 8 students to participate in the Open House
- Challenge is to maintain our student enrolment in Grade 9
- Format –
 - Advertising on outdoor sign
 - 6:45 – 7:30 – rotating school tours (common areas and various classrooms)
 - 7:30 – 8:30 presentation in auditorium
 - Presenting the various programs (STELLAR, Masters, SHSM, etc.)
 - Students in each grade will be speaking
 - Parent speaking
 - Other presentations
- Then we start visiting schools (and some elementary schools will be visiting RCI)
- Video of parents and teachers of why they should send their kids to RCI
- What things made you (parents) decide on RCI?
 - Friends who attended previously, around robotics and masters
 - Tour night of the specialty program
 - What are RCI's feeder schools? Beverly was not considered an RCI feeder school.
 - Neighbourhood school, but I'm not looking at Masters, what am I getting out of this school:
 - Arts
 - Sports
 - Community
 - When you go do the tour, take parents
- RCI relies heavily on optional attendance. We want to ask all schools to check out RCI.
- Have someone present about how easy doing optional attendance is.
- UFA conflict – if you can't come to our Open House, go to UFA Open House and come see us at another date.
- Talk at the Humbercrest and Runnymede Parent Council meetings
- Statistics about how the master's program helps get into university
- Uniforms promote equity (TDSB focus), and are economical in the long run
- Because we are under populated, there's more personal attention to the kids, they are not just a number
- Richard - Parents with low income can have access to help with their taxes through the service.
- Omar – doing the masters program in Grade 9 or 10, it will help in the jump to Grade 11 and 12.
- Julie – The masters program doesn't help you get into university any more than TOPS or other specialized programs
- Regardless of what school your kid goes to (the name of the school), they will be considered based on their grades, not the ranking of the high school.
- Donna - The new handout is lovely, but it lacks heart.
- We also pick a school for the teachers, how would you listen to us as parents if there are issues with a teacher?
 - We will try to creatively solve issues between the teacher and student
- The 38 teachers are available 8:30 - 3:30 to help kids, plus the teachers are coaching as well.
- There has been tutoring for science in the past and now there is tutoring for math as well.
- Having teachers speak at the Open House would be great – seeing the passion from these great teachers.
- Send flyers to the RCI parents via email blast. Encourage them to spread the word.
- Parent Council has a great relationship with the administration. All three supervisors are present at the Council meetings.

7. Other Business

- Are there any programs where parents can help during the day? It would differentiate us from other schools
- Early concern reports differentiates us as well.
- Semesters also differentiates us
- Fundraising:
 - Can we give pizza party to the class that got the most canned food for the Me to We group.
 - Farhia - Can we do a small fundraising event every Friday to build routine
 - Use the Cheer group to help with fundraising (especially if they get a portion of the funds!)
- Parents talking at Elementary Schools' School Councils to promote RCI?
- Would have to be in November as the admissions applications are in January.
- Humbercrest – there's a teacher who is an RCI graduate
- Lisa to see about speaking to John English

Report on Student Activities at Runnymede

RUSTCO (Student Council)

- holding the **School Dance** this Friday 6-10 pm (Security & teacher supervision)
- Tomorrow is a **dress down/costume day** – please pay \$2
- **Haunted House** tomorrow at lunch in room (please bring canned food for your entrance fee)

CLUBS

Me to We

- Is nearing the end of their **We Scare Hunger campaign**. Over 450 non-perishable items have been donated so far
- All donations will go to the Daily Bread Food Bank in Etobicoke
- Change was collected over a 2-week period for the cause.

Thrive (The Runnymede Student Wellness Group)

- Thrive has several initiatives started
- They will hand out a **survey** in home form classes later this week
- They are planning to spruce up the student **washrooms** with painted inspirational messages and art
- They are working at setting up a **Wellness Room** (a safe room for students in crisis where they can talk to a Caring Adult/Counsellor/Social Worker)
- We have plans for a **Therapy Dog session** set for the week before exams
- They would like to present some of their findings (of the survey) and their initiatives to Parent Council later in the year

Mosaic (school newspaper)

- Working on the **2nd issue** (first of this school year) to be published for **early December**

International Club

- Will be hosting a matinee movie next month over 2 lunch periods, complete with popcorn (Movie Feature: **Hidden Figures**)

Black Student Association (BSA)

- The BSA is currently calling for art submissions in order to create a **mural** on the 2nd floor celebrating Black Pride and culture throughout history
- They are also planning on several initiatives through the year to celebrate the contributions of the Black Community to Society (rather than just one month)

Queer Straight Alliance (QSA)

- Meets Tuesdays at lunch
- They will be hosting Speakers from TEACH later this semester

Yearbook

- 2 pages are already designed!
- They currently meet Wednesdays at lunch in computer lab 24 but may change to Tuesdays
- They are looking for grade 9 and 10 students to join their group

The Breakfast Club

- Breakfast Club runs 4 mornings a week to cook **hot breakfast** for Runnymede students from 8:15 - 8:40 am
- Although donations of small change are suggested (and appreciated), there is no mandatory payment for any of the food
- In addition to cold cereal and milk, there is always fresh fruit or vegetables and a hot option (e.g. Grilled Cheese, mini pizzas, French toast, egg wraps, breakfast sandwiches, pancakes)

PROM Committee

- Is **selling chocolate bars** for \$2
- Is having a **Bake Sale** tomorrow at lunch

The Boys Club

- starting over the next few weeks
- open to all boys with the aim of learning to become better people
- focus on developing leadership skills and tackling issues such as violence and self-esteem
- They will be going to a conference in the Spring
- They will be hosting **The White Ribbon Campaign** in December (violence against women awareness)

Reach for the Top

- This is an **inter-school quiz program & competition** on general trivia
- Call for those interested last week

Robotics

- Still organizing registration (which includes shirts and materials)
- Currently training for the season (don't know what the obstacles for the new robot yet)
- Planning their fundraising

Eco Club

- Will be weeding the courtyard in the upcoming weeks

Tech Crew

- 10-15 members trained to run assemblies and presentations in the auditorium

Dance Crew

- Practices at lunch in the auditorium

Karaoke

- At lunch in the Auditorium most Wednesdays and Fridays

MUSIC & ART

Arts Council

- Decorating the Spooky Hallway tomorrow for Halloween
- Face painting for tomorrow

Glee Club (Musical Theatre group)

- Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch
- New members always welcome

Band Group

- Have been practicing & will perform next week at the **Remembrance Day Assembly**

Electric Guitar Group

- Meets Mondays at lunch
- Guest musician to help teach and mentor guitar students interested in Rock music
- Formerly ***Make Music not Mischief***

Lunch Hour Group

- plays Jazz, R&B and has jam sessions

ATHLETICS

Boys Football

- season just finished
- undefeated in the developmental league

Cross Country

- **8 runners advanced to City Finals**
- **Joel Duff won a silver medal** at the Regional and City Championships and is competing at OFSAA Nov. 4

Girls Basketball

- playing a semi-final game next week

Cheer Team

- practice 3-4 days a week 7:00-8:15 am & Thursdays 3:15-5:30 pm
- performed at the football home games and did a great job!
- Competition to **Fun Fest** in February
- **Cheer Evolution** on May 5, 2018
- Looking at opportunities for fundraising or sponsorship for fees and competitions

Next season will include Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Swimming and possibly Boys Indoor Soccer

Right to Play

- heading into its 5th week
- 20 student leaders and 60 George Syme students grade 1-5

Albion Hills

- weekend to train the leaders took place a couple of weekends ago
- the **Gr. 10 Leadership Camp** will run in **December 15-17**

Runnymede Athletic Council (RAC)

- Have been running lines and score keeping for the games
- In the process of updating their display boards
- Last month – wrote inspirational and positive messages in chalk on the sidewalk in front of the school

MASTERS

- Forms have been handed out for the **grade 11 Queens Trip** (May 2018)

**Ward 7 Council Meeting
October 17th, 2017 7pm-9pm
Fern Avenue Public School
Library**

School Trustee: Robin Pilkey
 Ward Council Chair: Marcela Saitua (Howard Junior PS)
 Superintendents: Jane Philips-Long, Sandra Tondat, Tracy Hayhurst
 Principals: Rosanna Sardella (Howard PS), Richard Stein (Parkdale PS), Mary Gyemi-Schulze (Warren Park PS), Eric Szonyi, Yasmin Buhariwalla, Lindita Guffin (Fern PS), Shauna Davidson (Humbercrest)
 Guests: Shams Medhi and Rakeeb Hossain, TDSB Student Trustees
 Committee reps: Loen Hansford (PIAC)

Annette Street Junior and Senior Public School 3	Fern Avenue Junior and Senior Public School 4	Garden Avenue Junior Public School 1	High Park Alternative Junior School 1
Howard Junior Public School 1	Humbercrest Public School 2	Humberside Collegiate Institute 0	Indian Road Crescent Junior Public School 1
Keele Street Public School 3	King George Junior Public School 1	Lucy McCormick Senior School No Parent Council	Mountview Alternative Junior School 1
Parkdale Collegiate Institute 0	Parkdale Junior and Senior Public School 4	Queen Victoria Public School 5	Runnymede Collegiate Institute 2
Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School 0	Swansea Junior and Senior Public School 1	The Student School 0	Ursula Franklin Academy 0
Warren Park Junior Public School 2	Western Technical-Commercial School 2		

Host School Presentation

Parent council representative Heather Johnston spoke about the great relationship the parent council has working with the staff at Fern PS. Principal Eric Szonyi spoke proudly about the myriad of programs such as day care, nutrition and French programming. A feeder school for Howard PS and Garden PS, changes have happened recently including a new vice-principal and a growing student population.

Guest Presentation

Shams Medhi & Rakeeb Hossain, TDSB Student Trustees

Shams and Rakeeb spoke about the critical role student trustees play at the TDSB. Specifically, they represent and voice the concerns of the ¼ million students that go to school everyday at the TDSB. Through meetings with their executives at super council meetings, they discuss and advocate the issues that students care about.

Issues include

- Revamping the civics and careers instruction to better engage students.
- Advocating for changes to severe weather condition policies where weather can make it difficult for students to get to be on time to classes and exams.
- Organizing mental health and financial literacy conferences which students felt a need for.

While student trustees are a requirement in Ontario's education act, TDSB is one of the few school boards which has implemented a rotating 2 year term of student trustees. This helps ensure the experience is passed on, as well allowing

the student trustees to be active member of the board as it takes a while to get up to see with TDSB by-laws and procedures. While middle school students are represented at the student super council, elementary school students are not. It is something they are working with a challenge being ensuring safety for grade school students transportation.

Advisory Committees Reports

The TDSB has a number of advisory committees which provides and opportunity for parents and community members to advise board policy. We try and have representatives from Ward 7 join these committees to represent our needs here in Ward 7, as well as to bring back information to our council to inform our parents. If you are interested in joining, please email robin.pilkey@tdsb.on.ca to let us know,

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)

Amy Fullerton is elected as our FLSAC rep.

(Following the meeting, Mandy Moore, from Howard PS volunteered to be the alternate rep)

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

Loen Hansford re-elected as PIAC rep. Still looking for an alternate rep.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

- Paula Boutis and Nora Green are our sitting SEAC reps.

Alternative Schools Advisory Committees (ASAC)

- Looking for a representative

Trustee Report

School Planning and Reviews

1) Long Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy

- 27 Accommodation Reviews planned in 2017-2018. In Ward 7, Keele PS will be reviewed in the fall due to projected overcrowding. And in the spring, Western Technical is being reviewed due to the removal of commercial schools boundaries that are no longer used as we no longer have 'commercial' schools.

2) Secondary School Reviews

- Now entering the second year, this review is looking to address the issue of empty spaces in some of our secondary schools. (75k spaces across the board). The first year focused on student consultations with this second to bring the conversation to parents, staff and community. With a frame of how we want our high schools to look, the 3rd year will examine how we want to get it done.

3) Other reviews include: Alternative schools which start in November; Outdoor Education; Elementary Academies; and French programming (core, extended, immersion).

4) Enrollment Update

- The actual enrollment differed from projected by +.66% for elementary and +.39% for secondary.

Enhancing Equity Task Force Draft Report

The draft report is available for review and final consultations online. Once finalized, the board will look to see how they can be operationalized, what is do-able and how effective they will be.

Recommendations:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Enhancing-Equity-Task-Force/Enhancing-Equity-Task-Force-Recommendations>

(Update: There is the opportunity for parents, community members and other interested parties to provide feedback on the draft report. The feedback period has been extended to November 20 and the feedback form can be accessed using the link above. The Final report will come to the Board in December)

SK French Immersion Information nights

Previous information nights were done with the local schools SK programs. This was unwieldy and difficult to coordinate

with staff who might not be able to attend all of them. As well, the information provided to parents was inconsistent. Therefore, this year the information nights will be centralized which would allow more staff to be present so parents can get better information on questions such as childcare, bussing and programming. The two sessions close to our ward include: Etobicoke CI on November 6th and Central Tech on November 20th.

Ward Boundary Review

City councillor boundaries would be changing with an increase of city municipal wards from 44 to 47 wards. However, trustees will remain at 22 trustees due to the number being tied to enrollment. 22 trustees are the maximum number under the Education Act. . This will require that TDSB ward boundaries be changed as they must agree to municipal boundaries (Municipal Act)

Ward Boundary Review (Consultation dates, location, online input and Report).

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Trustees/Ward-Boundary-Review>

(Update: Five options are being presented, two of which are very similar to now, with our ward extending out to Dufferin, south of Bloor. Three are very different. All the options and the ability for online feedback are the link above)

School Resource Officer Review

SRO's are police officers that are present in a number of TDSB high schools. In Ward 7, Western Tech has been assigned one. The SRO's are not the community police officers that support school programs such as bike safety and things like that.

First started in the late 2000's, there has not been a review of the program. While some SRO's were great and had a good relationship with their school such as in Western Tech, not all of the schools have had the same experience. Issues include: No explicit criteria in SRO placement though they predominantly are in schools with racialized and marginalized students, particularly black students. Further, it is problematic that while the process to have vendors and other partners in our schools goes through a long and vigorous process, the placement for a armed police officer in our schools is much less rigorous.

Consequently, the TDSB trustees have voted to temporarily halt the program while we conduct a consultation with parents, students and staff of these schools. The report will return at the November board meeting.

(Update: The report will be available publically at the end of the week of November 10, will come to the Priorities and Planning (P&P) Committee on November 15 and then to Board on November 22. The public will have the opportunity to delegate at the P&P. The process if someone wants to delegate is here: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Delegations>)

EQAO Results

Superintendents Jane Philips-Long, Sandra Tondat, Tracy Hayhurst

EQAO results provide the board information to better inform school instruction. It is one piece of data but a significant one which allows us to see trends and answer questions of what causes them. In particular, the TDSB is concerned with the issue of a decline in math scores across the province and in the TDSB.

EQAO scores help inform school specific solutions to address them. In the past, the board improvement plans were made top down which would trickle down to schools. Now, superintendents and principals work together to implement bottom up plans for each school by asking questions such as, what are the trends, who is being underserved, what do adults need to learn to help the students, and how do we know if we are succeeding?

These school achievement plans will be shared with parents who will know the specific focuses and goals of each school. For example, different approaches might occur if the EQAO scores reveal multiple choice questions are not done as well compared to open ended ones.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 21st 7pm to 9pm

Location: King George PS (by Jane St and St John's)

Topic: TBD but likely a review of the SRO report and the Enhancing Equity Task Force draft report.