

Runnymede School Council
Agenda for Monday, November 26, 2018
School Library
7:00 pm

Call to Order & Introductions

Parents in attendance: Laura Pillsworth, Jackie Marrie, Khaleel Mohammed, Donna Maiato, Kimberly de Witte, Melanie Boyd-Brown,

Staff in attendance: Paul Edwards, Michelle Robinson, Karen McCrimmon, Carla Cernic

Student rep in attendance: Harsimran Gulri

Review and acceptance of last mtg minutes - motion to accept (Melanie Boyd-Brown), seconded (Laura Pillsworth)

Student Update (Harsimran Gulri) – see attached notes.

**Presentation: Helping Your Student Manage the Move:
Into or Out of High School** (Carla Cernic, Guidance)

Role of Guidance:

- We help kids find solutions to problems (academic, social/emotional, etc.).
- Open door policy; not using the appointment slips as much as in the past
- What are stressors for students? Planning post-secondary is the most stress. Coach them to think backwards from what they are taking and how they study to help them decide the best path for them.
- January:
 - Study Skills Workshops for Grades 9/10 (primarily) using subject-specific content from teachers. Open to Grades 11/12 as well. Will teach students to use Smart Art to make graphic organizers, and planning. Students are getting really good at bad study habits; want to give them the better skills.
 - Reinstating 'complete, don't repeat' workshops on Thursdays (credit recovery). Setting up meeting with George Brown College transition specialists to see how they can help our students. Topics will include OSAP/grants workshops, application workshops, look at transitioning between college/university or university/college. Sign-up forms will be on the RCI App.

- Had post-secondary fair earlier this year and it was well-received, but the students seem afraid to start the application. Planning to do them during class time - lunch and after school won't get so many students.
- Donna attended an OSAP/scholarship workshop for parents at other school; will help Carla set something up here for parents in January.
- Recognizing when a student is struggling socially/emotionally – teachers are really good at noticing changes in behavior or performance and referring students to Guidance. We are in the process of changing the Guidance space to be more welcoming with an open door policy (versus appointments). Want all students to feel Guidance is a safe space.
- Can the study habits workshop include cell-phone distraction? Many students recognize it as an addiction, but don't know how to break it (student census). "Often tired and they don't know why". It is a teacher-by-teacher policy for cell phones; many have given up the fight and prevalence of theft from a teacher's desk.
- Carla to make the Study Skills material available to parents so we can reinforce it at home.

Program Review Committee Update (Michelle Robinson, VP)

Met on November 19. Brad Kennedy leading this. Recommendations from PRC with admin & guidance and met with each ACL. Lots of rich discussion. Looked at current course offerings, where do we want to go as a school, what to offer new/revamp. First worked with the Grade 9 offerings so they could be ready for the Grade 8 Info Night. Added a tech course for all Grade 9s.

Now focusing on the other grades. Looking at a wish list – partnerships with colleges/universities, leadership work with primary schools, other ideas for the long-term. Decided to offer less Open courses that are 'empty calories' and offer more "C" courses. Colleges want more college English and Math. Example: replace Parenting Course with Working with Children Course. PRC meet once a month, may have a few sub-committees. It is teacher-driven with student and parent representation.

Parent: How many changes in the courses are expected for September? Carla:
 Grade 9 – added Intro to Tech, Grade 10 – vocal music & technical production, Grade 11 – Ideas Worth Sharing (Ted Talks), Forensics, App Design (instead of computer science). Want to offer more, but need to be aware of keeping the classes full. Great to offer more art courses which may have been there before, but are now being brought to the forefront.

Promoting the courses is important. Michelle and Carla are going to a workshop to set up the My Blueprint and title the courses better and entice students to choose courses they want to take. They sat as a team to make sure the wording is exciting, but true to the course. The Grade 8 kids are really excited by the new course offerings. Khaleel & Donna: the Forensics and Law Courses dovetail into each other nicely and are a good partnership.

Melanie: When is the course selection happening? Michelle: A Course selection fair will be held after exams in late January, and course deadline will be end of February at the latest

Mountview Transition incl. Guided Tour (Paul Edwards and Melanie Sutherland, Mountview Council Co-Chair)

The Council was walked through the school where Mountview will be located started in September 2019. The physical changes to the space were discussed, as well as how the classrooms currently in the space will be accommodated elsewhere in the building. Discussions included entry to the new space, parking spaces, and access to auditorium/gym/pool/outdoor space. Melanie expressed the heartfelt gratitude the Mountview community has for RCI. We are providing a permanent space that Mountview can call 'home' and are looking forward to collaborating to make both schools prosperous.

Ward 7 Report (Laura Pillsworth)

Robin Pilkey created a binder for each School Council to have as a reference tool (given to Co-chairs). Discussed technology websites and how schools can set up their websites to be compliant with TDSB. Laura: Is RCI website registered within the TDSB? Paul: We purchased it 6-7 years ago through the TDSB (that means TDSB ensures the website domain is up-to-date)

School website toolbox is available through TDSB. Email address for school council chairs (in process for RCI), a secure site for the School Council where we can upload it and leave it (Laura to find out how to do this).

Survey fortheparents.ca closes December 15 (put on Newsletter) – health curriculum, STEM, lifeskills, banning cell phones, parent bill of rights, etc.

There are a lot of funding issues that would be done by now but haven't even been touched (PRO Grant, EQAO remediation). Robin has never seen this before.

Looking for locations for future meetings. Laura to bring dates and topics to next meeting so we can see if there's a topic that would be good for RCI to host.

Status of Council Bylaws, Constitution, etc (Donna & Khaleel)

Next meeting to have draft for Council to review and finalize

Fundraising & Grants (10 min)

Jackie Marrie

Reviewed the Teacher Wish List (attached) and if dollar values are added for each line item, we have a \$23,000 goal. Jackie will draft the campaign advertising to ask parents to donate what they want towards this goal. For CanadaHelps.org, Jackie needs charitable number, bank account, personal contact (chair or treasurer) with email. Much of this is in process.

Donna: Tina Gillis TDSB financial advisor highlighted some concerns over the Council having their own bank account: Mr. Edwards wouldn't have as much control over the non-board school council funds. School Council would now have to do the paperwork, and there might not be volunteers in future years willing to take on this responsibility. Melanie (Mountview): Mountview has own financial account for years which has been very simple to maintain. Melanie to send an outline for how they manage their account to Donna. Kimberly: I originally felt having a separate account would just be an extra layer of responsibility and exposure to the Council, but the Council is much more engaged in these past couple years.

Administration Update (Paul Edwards) – defer until next meeting due to time.

Teacher Update (Karen McCrimmon) –see attached.

Other Business

Michelle Robinson: Need a parent volunteer for RCI Safe School Committee. There will be four lunchtime (11:30-12:30) meetings a year with the first one on December 11. Kimberly: I will ask Salwa Mohamed. If she can't do it, I will then put in the newsletter

Open House feedback forms – enjoyed hearing the parents; best presentation in six years. Any feedback around having the self-guided tours? People said they liked being able to meander rather than guided tours. It was a conscious effort from the teachers to not 'herd' people. The teachers felt there were parents in every section. Plan on tweaking music and art displays next year. Need something for when people arrive early - perhaps a soft start, or start at 6:30,. Lots of exit cards handed in. Yepperdoodle!

Discussion ensued around how to entice students to choose RCI as Optional Attendance (TSDB Deadline for optional attendance as February 12).

Paul/Michelle: With our new director, there's a huge focus on following the rules, especially when there's a specialized program. Have to trust everyone is playing by the rules so the process has integrity. But we need to focus on the

main stream. Course offerings is where we can make RCI special. Hoping for 160 Grade 9s this year.

Next meeting isn't until February. Should we schedule one in January? **Next meeting will be Monday, January 14.** Kimberly to add to newsletter and ask Janelle Bylykbashi to add to website/app.

Adjournment (9:15 pm)

Runnymede Student Report for School Council

Monday November 26, 2018

Sports

Teams Currently Active

With almost 100 athletes participating in the following sports

- JR/SR Boys Basketball
- JR/SR Girls Volleyball
- Swim Team
- Cheer (a large group with both boys and girls)
- Ice Hockey Team is being organized

Right to Play:

- hosted a livestream interview panel discussing our program and impact last Tuesday (World Children's Day), posted on Right to Play Canada social media outlets
- over 900 views

Runnymede Athletic Council (RAC)

- "Healthy Body, Healthy Brains" campaign completed - display wall on top floor, posters around building and announcements

HPE Events:

- a. Nov. 27 – Gr.5 Volleyball King George in Lg. Gym – Per. 3/4 only
- b. Dec. 13 – Grade 5/6 Girls Basketball Championships in Lg. Gym
- c. Feb. 26 – Grade 5 Boys Basketball Championships in Lg. Gym

Classes

- Grade 9 Science Masters classes are going to the Science Centre for the Mars Mission Simulation in December
- We had a very successful year for the Beaver Computing Challenge
 - Many of our students made the Top 30 and have been invited to the University of Waterloo on Dec. 4th
 - A number of our grade 10 students made the Uof Waterloo Honour Roll for this

Committees/Clubs

RUSTCO

- Planning session this week
- Christmas activities

- Weekly events in the cafeteria
- Increasing school spirit, including creating a more inclusive culture and mindset amongst staff and students

Student Equity Committee

- This group of 15 students had a day of training a couple of weeks ago with Student Equity Facilitator Chelsea Takalo from the TDSB
- They have met once since then to start prioritizing initiatives and issues they feel need to be addressed

Arts Council

- Arts Council has been planning and creating decorations as well as the art exhibit for our upcoming **Winter Arts Night** event on Dec. 5th
- After the holidays we are planning to run some student workshops and school wide contests

Girls Club

- Going strong under the leadership of grade 11 Mikayla Fogarty
- Completed a positive words initiative where we have out mini chocolate bars with affirmative words to girls in the our school
- attended a private screening of the movie ***The Hate U Give*** and then had a discussion after about race, privilege and the Black Lives Matter movement
- Coming up we have December 6th - the day of remembrance for violence towards women and the white ribbon campaign
 - We will be fundraising for the Red Door Women's Shelter

Boys Group

- Has a group of about 20 grade 9 and 10 boys
- They have been doing team-building and sharing activities
- They also attended the private screening of ***The Hate U Give***

Robotics/Team 1310

- Are up and running
- They are preparing to host an FLL tournament on December 8th

Glee

- Is up and running, getting ready for Winter Arts Night and Holiday Bash

2018-2019 Musical

- Planning starts Dec. 7th for the May production

PRIDE

- attended the Envision Conference last week at Central Tech where we attended workshops and saw an amazing keynote speaker - MPP for Toronto - St Paul neighbourhood Jill Andrew, a queer black women who represents the NDP at Queens Park
- This year our goals are helping to build a more inclusive environment at Runnymede as well as helping to add some diverse texts to our school library to better represent our students and their families

Me To We

- We finished our We Scare Hunger Campaign with over 800 food items for the Daily Bread Food Bank in Etobicoke
 - A Cookie Bake Sale earned \$100 towards this cause
- We are currently organizing our annual **Cookie Challenge** – a cookie competition between clubs/groups – the winner (based on votes) gets 1/3rd of the earnings of this 2-day event (Dec. 11-12)
 - Money raised from the Cookie Challenge will go towards ***Hemoglobal's Make Care Fair*** campaign 2020
- We will also be organizing a Holiday Tree Decorating initiative – all homeforms are asked to create 2 decorations for a Christmas tree that will be put up into main lobby
 - Me to We will host a craft ornament workshop on Dec. 5th

Breakfast Club

- We have a volunteer team of over 20 students
- We still provide hot breakfast 4 days a week
- We have added fruit parfait as a regular menu item

Thrive

- Has been very busy of late
- We sold caramel apples a week ago to raise start up funds for our Pink Shirt Day campaign (for February)
- This Friday, we will be hosting our first dog therapy session with Therapeutic Paws of Canada
 - Students can sign up for 10 minute sessions with the dog after they have a guardian sign a permission form
 - This is the first of a series of sessions throughout the year that we hope will become a more permanent program at the school

- Thrive is organizing paper ravens to distribute to homeforms in the next week to help create a Holiday Wall of Hope along the fence in the dungeon
- Thrive has decided to bring spoken word artist and motivational speaker Dwayne Morgan to speak to the school on the subject of Social Media & mental health in the new year
- Thrive is also working on beautification initiatives for the student washrooms
- We recently teamed up with Relay for Life to organize a week of fundraising for Cancer planned for May

Prom

- Prom is holding several fundraisers to offset the cost of tickets to students
- They are selling chocolate bars and have already had a bake sale
- Early in the new year, they will be holding a raffle for prizes
- They are asking if parents could donate prizes (e.g. gift cards) that would be helpful

Runnymede Teacher Report for School Council

Monday November 26, 2018

Staff have been very busy on a number of fronts over the last month:

Grade 8 Visits/Grade 8 Information Night

Staff have prepared activities and displays to showcase our programs and extracurricular activities to a number of grade 8 visits as well as our Open House on Nov. 14th

Equity

Staff have been busy during the past few months learning more about Equity

They have analyzed the 2016-2017 student census for Runnymede to have a better understanding of some of the realities and viewpoints of our students

They have identified and analyzed barriers that many of our students may face in our classrooms and school

Staff have listened and participated in a workshop about Inclusive Design and how unconscious bias may be a factor in creating systematic barriers in our education system

The Staff Equity Committee is working on creating more workshops on the topic of Inclusive Design which will be integrated into our School Improvement Plan

The Staff Equity Committee is looking forward to working alongside the Student Equity Committee to address issues they feel are important at Runnymede

Wellness

The Staff have completed a Wellness Survey

This Thursday Jonathan La Greca of ***GentleMind*** is leading the staff PLC session on Mindfulness and Stress Resiliency

We are currently searching for an expert to come in to talk to staff about classroom strategies to help deal with student anxiety

On Friday November 16th, the Staff were treated to the first of 2 presentations by Beth Veale, presenter and workshop facilitator on inspirational leadership

**Runnymede School Council
Staff/Student Wish List
2018-2019**

Item Request	Requested By	\$\$ (if given)
Chrome Book "Hubs"/carts that hold 6 Chrome books each	Teacher IT Committee	\$200 each
Books for the 2 new English Classes that are integrating JETS reading program	English Department	?? none given
Computers in the library need updating	Librarian	\$500 each
New computers There are 23 computers in the school no longer being serviced (off warrantee)	Tech ACL	\$500 each
New books that focus on Equity and Inclusion for the Library	Librarian	??? none given
New Printmaking Press	Arts Council	\$420
Silkscreen Kit to make t-shirts	Arts Council	\$170
Small fridge with freezer for Raven's Retreat (to have ice packs/bean bags and water for those with headaches)	Thrive/Equity and Wellness	\$300
Help with musical production licensing for the School Musical this year	Music Department	\$300-500