

RCI School Council Minutes - October 17, 2022

Attendees

Albert Cho, Jenn Perchard, Michelle Haurilak, Karen Hill, Carla Granger, Lisa Truant-Tan

Administration Update

Facilities (Albert)

- Pool is still not operational
- Possible by end of calendar year

Staffing (Albert)

- RCI received an additional two teachers for Semester 1 only.
- Were able to adjust English and Science/Geography.
- School will need to go through the process again for Semester 2.

Tutoring (Albert)

- See email from TDSB emailed to parents Oct 21
- Is a new after school program - weekly or (new) drop-in options

STEM@RUNN (Albert)

- Remaining questions from parents
- Mr. Cho: historically called the Masters Program and students were cohorted for specific classes. Now called STEM@RUNN.
- Parent: concerned that enriched experience is missing (traditionally math/science)
- Parent: why is it a different class code then? Mr. Cho said this was just for identification purposes, not for kids to be in separate classes. Parent: different class code inferred the class was specialized.
- Special interest policy review is what impacted the program (“academic pathways”)
- Mr. Cho: theory is “what’s good for one is good for all” and that the streaming puts barriers for other students.
- Parent: Destreaming gone. What is the advantage to being in the program?
- Parent: What is the advantage to attending RCI now? We wanted enriched programming for our kids. Not necessarily cohorting.
- School doesn’t receive specialized staffing for this program.
- STEM@RUNN passport is specific for Grade 9s. Also shared with Grade 11s because they are mentors to the Grade 9s.
- Did not share passport with Grade 10s. This group of students have had the opportunity to participate in contests, enrichment activities, co-curriculars in Grade 9.
- Parent: is there a communication planned for Grade 10+?

- Parent: is someone tracking our kids' activities and what are these activities if the passport contests, etc. are specific to grade 10? Goes beyond the stamp on the passport - they are looking for the experience.
- Need a formal communication to all parents in Grade 10.

Urban Priority High Schools (UPHS) Action Plan (Albert)

- \$100,000 (only 2% allowed for technology items)
- Submitted to the TDSB for review; then will go to Ministry
- A report of submitted programs will be shared by the administration

Other business

Treasury (Karin)

- Discussion around where the dollars were used from the fundraising campaign last school year.
- From the May 2022 Minutes:
 - Final numbers for the fundraising campaign: \$2975 raised.
 - \$500 specifically designated for graduation.
 - \$150- for Pride flags
 - \$2325 for general wish list campaign
 - Administration will come back to the executive by end of June with a list of how to
 - Allocate the \$2325 according to the staff generated wish list. Some may be allocated to graduation and ensuring students get yearbooks.
 - Treasurer (Robynne) to coordinate with Office (Nabila) re: \$500 for graduation and yearbook.
 - MV Rep (Carla) sent shared contact info for Peace Flag house – possible source for less expensive or free flags for Pride. Contact has been shared with the teacher lead for this group.
- Mr. Cho to inquire with RCI office to verify spending.
- Do we have another campaign this year? No specific to a particular program
- Will the \$60 optional “activity fee” be issued again? Mr. Cho said no. (Some Grade 9 parents may be seeing this in their school cash online. Mr. Cho to look into this.)

Robotics (Lisa Truant-Tan)

- Lisa - former RCI parent (2020); husband is a robotics mentor.
- Mr. Mills has organized a kickoff meeting for 1310 students.
- Offseason event STEMly Cup - Hamilton, October 30. More info to come.
- Team participation at CNE 2022 - 1310 made it to the semi finals.
- Best “Pits” award for most informative booth was achieved by students’ engagement with public and those in attendance
- Showcased “first robotics” - shared our awards as well as Detroit finals in 2019

- Only one student had participated in this event in the past; most were new. They worked hard and did a great job.
- Lego League??? Mr. Mills is leading this. Date: December 17

Mountview Update (Carla)

- Curriculum Night
- Daniel Salarno 5/6 teacher and Joseph Roy 7/8 teacher would like a cross-collab with RCI
- Could STEM students visit Mountview to mentor?
- Also collab opportunities with drama/music/sports
- Mr. Mills would likely coordinate
- In-person again: great cross-country representation; field trips restarting
- Thanksgiving food drive went well

Communication (all)

- Guidance updates are being posted to Google Classroom. For example: “Adventures in Science” UofT opportunity - deadline has passed. Why was this information not emailed to parents? Only posted on Google Classroom and with little notice before the deadline.
- Could the school-wide updates be sent out via email instead? Mr Cho to look into this.
- Parent: Is Google Classroom really the most accessible for all?
- RCI website will be getting a makeover.
- Should updates be posted on the website calendar?
- Should all school updates be publicly accessible? Separate section for caregivers?
- Should the school provide printed copies for those who don't have access?
- Twitter updates - teacher who handled this has left the school. Looking for someone else to handle.
- Is there a cadence for communication from the school? Mr. Cho suggested a weekly messenger.
- All agreed we need consistency.

Parent & Community Engagement Office Town Hall (Michelle)

- Overview of administrative tools available to school councils in the TDSB.
- Chair (Jenn) can apply for a TDSB zoom account and email.
- School council by-laws to be distributed for review and approved by December 23.
- To be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Link to recording: [📺 School Council Town Hall - 20220929](#)

Misc.

- TPL reps not in attendance.
- No Ward 7 update (elections upcoming).

- Jenn (to Administration): what does the administration need from school council exec? Discuss further at next month meeting.
- Parent: How do we engage the students and get them excited again? To be explored at next meeting.

Next meeting: **November 21 @ 7 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned.