Runnymede School Council

Minutes for Monday, November 27, 2017

7:00 pm

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

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

Harpreet motioned, Richard seconded approval

**Student Update (RUSTCO Reps Omar Fakih, Falhad Salah)**

(see attached summary)

The previous dance wasn’t as well attended as hoped, so they are sending out a survey of students on what they want to have – a dance, a semi-formal, both or neither with the cost. Want to make sure of a good turnout.

Four RCI students went to TDSB’s Equity Conference on November13. Omar spoke directly with the TDSB Director about equity issues.

**TVO Presentation & Questions (Christine Luchies, TVO)**

Homework Help is an online program sponsored by TVO. TVO has programming, but they also have a huge branch dedicated to education. The Homework Help is targeted to high school students. Completely free and available to every student enrolled in a publicly-funded school.

It is a chat room, but it is a safe environment. Everyone working for Homework Help have been a teacher themselves (Ontario College of Teachers). All sessions are recorded and monitored. Only interact with tutors, not with other students. Some are audio rooms, but only one way (teacher to student).

You can also make a parent account (guest account)

*Ask a Tutor* is open every night Sunday – Thursday for four hours (5:30-9:30) during the school calendar (not open holidays or breaks, but open on PA Days)

Only offered for Math, Grades 7-10

Cater it to each student, one question at a time. Every session is saved so they can go back and look at it on their account.

Available all the time: Best Sessions, Listen & Learns (step-by-step instructions) and Interactive Tutorials (games, animated)

Need their 9-digit OEN (Ontario Education Number), not their student number. Best way to find this is to look on their report card.

Christine went onto *Ask a Tutor* live to show us how it works.

**Fundraising Presentation (Farhia Warsame)**

Terra Cotta Cookie Co. Fundraiser – weekly fundraiser held throughout the year to raise money for all the clubs. 48 cookies in a box for $30, sold for $1 each to make $18 profit per box. Need a 4 box minimum for free shipping. Cookies are delicious!

We have one box for the school to start introducing to the school. Kimberly to ask Ms. B wants to sell them at Arts Nite. If not, Karen McCrimmon will use it for Breakfast club.

**RCI Math Curriculum Overview (Alex Zizovic)**

Math is about problem solving, not about numbers – it’s logical.

Do all the Grade 10 teachers have the same exam?

We strive to stay together, but not all the kids learn at the same speed, so the exams won’t be the same.

Ways to Help your Child?

* Have high expectations for your child
* Talk about mathematics in a positive way
* Encourage your child to use a daily planner
* Encourage personal responsibility for learning
* Emphasize that effort is as important as ability

Conversations to have with your child:

* Talk about the importance of homework
* Encourage a regular time and place for completing homework
* Even with homework has not been assigned, encourage daily review
* Encourage your child to ask for help when they are having difficulty

Our four core math teachers only teach math (no extra curriculars). This means they are available to the students at lunch and after school. We want parents to know about this so their student can take advantage of this.

A discussion ensued around how to get students to ask for help, help reduce distractions in the classroom and address the EQOA Results from last year. In the TDSB, it’s up to every teacher to make their own policy around cell phone use in class. This may change from day to day. Lots of time in classroom to practice problems, allowing problems to be reworked, and review of homework when there are questions.

**Administration Update (Paul Edwards)**

Math teachers are meeting with Grade 8 teachers from other schools. For the EQAO, all students are lumped together which makes our ranking skewed.

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

Karen will send a write-up to attach to the minutes in the essence of time.

**Ward 7 Update (Lucy Coyle & Mageswaran Palany)**

The Student Resource Officers (SROs) have been taken out of the TDSB. The community officers are still available.

The Equity Task Force results are finalized and the main issue that came out was about access. They are considering de-streaming applied and academic programs. Also discussed French Immersion and English students. They are also considering changing the wards from 44 to 47, but keep the trustee numbers the same.

**Treasury Report (Richard Villavicencio)**

School Council has the $1,000 transfer from PRO Grant + $780 from TDSB + $400 carryover from 2016

**Adjournment (9:20 pm)**

**RUSTCO Update**

**Athletics Update:**

Boys Football - Undefeated in Developmental League

Girls Basketball - Tier 2 West Region Silver Medal

Cross Country - Joel Duff finished 51st in Ontario Senior Boys, 8 Runners advanced to Toronto City Finals

Cheer - performed at football games, getting ready for basketball games and competition in the spring

Winter

Sr Basketball, Jr and Sr Girls Volleyball starts next week

Swim team and Indoor Boys Soccer is underway

RAC

- updated the display boards in the areas around the large gym - feel free to visit and take a peek!

Right to Play

- another successful term

- celebration on the last day involving the Ted Rogers Scholarship Fund, Right to Play execs, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Eleanor McMahon, Blue Jay mascot Ace, Former NHL star Shayne Corson

- 16 students also attended the Right to Play Tribute Dinner and helped to demonstrate an interactive game with a Right to Play Facilitator for over 1000 guests including many executives and Olympic athletes - Andre DeGrasse was a favourite and Rosie McClennan came to visit the leaders and thanked them for their community service

- an incredible night!!!!!

Albion Hills

- the weekend has already booked up - a lot of student interest and quick to act!

- 60 students are attending the weekend of Dec. 15 to 17

**Arts & Music**

**Glee Club:** Students have been meeting regularly on Tuesdays and we are preparing for our pieces intended to be performed at the Holiday Bash! The piece we are currently working on is "All that Jazz" from the Musical "Chicago". Rehearsals are going smashingly and new members are always welcome!

*Overview of the club* - Students in Glee will have the opportunity to shine through performing Musical Theatre Pieces. That's right we Sing, Dance and Act. Triple Threat!

No previous experience is necessary - everyone is learning and the idea is to have fun. Ultimately the goal is to grow enough numbers to eventually turn into a show choir and perhaps think about joining the various city/regional/national Show choir competitions.

**Dance Crew:** Meets every day at lunch. This group of students is currently working on prepping pieces for our upcoming events such as Winter Arts Night, Holiday Bash, Spring Arts Night, Black History month and all other school wide opportunities! New members are always welcome and previous experience is not necessary.

Both clubs are lead by Teacher Supervisor: Mrs. Bylykbashi

**Dance Company** - open hip hop classes Wednesday after school

**Arts Council** is currently working on decorations for Arts Night, and organizing a lunch time event on NOv. 30th in the caf (button making and live music), as well as finishing the anniversary mural we started last year.

**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, in order to pay for this mural. In addition, they are starting to write poetry and skits, to  (hopefully) be included in the Black History assembly.

**QSA** (Queer/Straight Alliance) – Many went to the EnVision Conference last week which was organized by the TDSB and The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity. This group has talked about creating a wall space, near room #104, that will highlight the success/achievements of LGBTQ2I people.  This group is also discussing ideas to improve the visibility and inclusion of LGBTQ2I, and challenging. homophobia; TEACH has been invited to run workshops during the 1st week of December.

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**The International Club** has been doing the following:

-heritage month announcements over the PA

-decorate and maintain celebration display outside the library

-organized Orange Shirt day with RUSTCO

-host lunchtime movies with themes of inclusion--especially of marginalized groups

-will host next week with ART department, a viewing of a documentary of rock music and indigenous artists' contributions

UPCOMING EVENTS:

-Ikebana--Japanese flower arranging

-Easter egg decorations--Ukrainian heritage

-Field Trip--Movie Theatre

-Continue with heritage month events--esp. announcements

**Me to We** had a successful We Scare Hunger Campaign which generated over 600 food items for the Daily Food Bank in Etobicoke

On Tuesday Dec. 19, Me to We is hosting its 2nd annual Cookie Challenge for Change. Clubs and Committees in the school will have a fundraising cookie bake off outside the cafeteria at lunch. Students will vote for their favourite cookie. The group that wins the most votes will receive 1/3 of the money raised. The rest of the funds raised will go towards Me to We’s international cause for the year.

**Thrive** tallied the results from their student survey (great feedback) and are now working on designing the visuals they want to paint in the bathrooms (which include positive and motivational quotes)

They are also formulating a letter to Leon’s to request furniture donations for the Wellness Room

**Breakfast Club**

Now has a set menu (see attached)

Last Friday was a fundraising Friday – they had pancakes, muffins, cookies, apple juice, chocolate milk – all for $2

**EcoClub**

weeded the courtyard a few weeks ago – looks great

looking into a clothing or electronics drive

**CPET** - working on java for upcoming contests, hosting Hour of Code @ RCI events throughout CS Ed Week

**Other Items:**

**Math**

* Some of our students are writing and will be writing math contests.
* Most recently 13 wrote the Canadian Intermediate Waterloo Math Contest.
* Student participation (which is a success no matter their score) is a constant effort on the part of all our math teachers encouraging them to write these contests and solve problems no matter the difficulty.

**Equity Training for students**

Chelsea Takalo (equity specialist with the TDSB) is going to be spending time with the grade 12 leadership class this week to help train students on equity issues. They will be developing a workshop that they will then take to all grade 9 classes

**Masters**

The MastersEntrance Exam was held no Saturday Nov. 25th