

Runnymede School Council
Minutes for Monday, April 16, 2018
School Library
7:00 pm

- Call to Order & Introductions (5 min) Harpreet Gulri
- Review and acceptance of last mtg minutes (0 min) Harpreet Gulri
Lucy motioned, Harpreet seconded to accept the minutes
- Student Update Omar Fakhri
See attached below
- Administration Update (30 min) Paul Edwards
Sometimes the TDSB has to look how they can best utilize their properties. Many schools are bursting at the seams (ie. Humbercrest French Immersion). Keele Public School is another school that is growing and needs to reclaim the rooms Mountview Alternative School (JK to GR6) are currently using. TDSB is looking at two locations for Mountview: General Mercer Public School (JK to 6) and RCI (Gr 9-12).

There are four critical meetings, the first of which happened last week. Harpreet Gulri, Mageswaran Palany from RCI School Council and Mr. Edwards attended. There is another small meeting on April 24 then a public meeting on May 7 at Western Tech.

If Mountview comes to RCI, they would need five classrooms and an office to house their 100 students. RCI has identified two areas in the building where this could work. The move would be for September 2019. The TDSB needs to give Mountview families a year to transition, so they will have to make a decision by September 2018.

For September 2018, RCI can give up 5 classrooms even with a population of 650 RCI students. The financial cost to retrofit at RCI is about \$1 million and at General Mercer is about \$420k.

Concerns brought up by Mr. Edwards, Harpreet and other parents:

- What proportion of Mountview students will move with the school (they are putting out a survey out to Mountview parents). Will the TDSB spend \$1 million for just the possibility of only a portion of the 100 students moving with

Mountview?

- Mountview is a JK to Grade 6 school and are not considering adding Grades 7 & 8 as most of the students do not live in the area and go back to their home school for 7/8 and high school. So there is little possibility that Mountview students will translate into RCI students (no upside to RCI). General Mercer is a JK to Grade 6 school.
- Some of the Mountview students will have to be bussed, impacting the TDSB bussing budget
- It would be quite an upheaval with a new playground and library being built, having to share facilities such as the pool, and the traffic situation is already quite precarious on Jane Street during drop off and pick up times.
- It would probably cause major disruption for the RCI students in the 2018/19 school year with all the construction.
- Another lens RCI could be focusing on – what should RCI look like over the next 3-5 years? We are already getting extra funding for student success programs. We have the space available now to offer to French Immersion and the TDSB is running a French Immersion review, including a discussion topic for the next Ward 7 meeting,. There are more SHSM programs being developed that RCI may want to offer. If Mountview comes to RCI, we will have a limit to our enrolment, course options and other programs available for RCI to grow.

The general consensus resulting from this discussion was that Mountview has a cheaper, closer and grade-appropriate option with General Mercer Public School. If there was not another option, RCI would be open to providing space for Mountview, but given these facts along with RCI's long-term goal of offering many options to its students and growing the attendance, the RCI School Council believes relocating Mountview Alternative School to RCI is not in our school's best interest.

At the Public Meeting on May 7, we need a contingent of RCI parents to make these views known. School Council will prepare an email to be sent to parents outlining the situation and asking for attendance at the May 7th meeting at Western Tech.

- **Presentation: Connecting with Your Teen** (60 min)

Wendy Negrazis, RCI's Public Health School Nurse with TDSB specializing in substance misuse prevention and her colleague specializing in chronic disease and

injury prevention came to speak at our meeting. Wendy works with Ms. McCrimmon and the THRIVE group on mental wellness. She has similar groups in the other high schools she works with and is very happy with RCI's focus on mental wellness for its student body.

The presentation included some insight into the teenage brain, the types of worries and pressures they have (similar to when we were growing up) and ways we can keep the lines of communication open. Handouts were provided on *Strategies to Prevent Underage Drinking, Signs of Marijuana Use* and *Practical Tips for Helping Your Teen Make Healthy Choices*.

- Teacher Update & Presentation (5 min) Karen McCrimmon
Teachers are getting ready for midterms next week and parent/teacher interviews on May 2
- Ward 7 Update (5 min) Lucy Coyle
Important dates to be provided by Lucy
- PRO Grant Proposal & Marketing Overview (10 min) Kimberly de Witte
Kimberly, Lucy and Farhia met earlier this month to plan the Parent coffee meetings using this year's PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant. "Parent Coffeehouses" will be offered on three dates in May, piggybacking off events happening at the school:
 - May 2 from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm (Parent/Teacher Interviews)
 - May 16 (Arts Night)
 - May 25 Grease: The Musical

The cost of coffee/tea/hot chocolate and cookies for the three events will be within our total budget is \$900. We will take \$100 of the \$1,000 Grant to go towards purchasing fans for the classrooms. Only 10% of the Grant can be spent on non-parent expenses (per Paul Edwards, Joseph Pollice).

Lucy has sourced the food and beverage for the events. Coffee Culture at Jane and Annette has given us a very good price and is even throwing in hot water for free. Cookies are being purchased from Messina Bakery and we will offer two-bite brownies/cinnamon rolls as a nut-free option. Treats will not be offered at Arts Night so as to not compete with the Bake Sale Fundraiser they will be holding that evening.

The marketing for the Coffeehouses will be a flyer emailed to parents and posted around the school on the night of the events, personal phone calls before the events (thanks to Farhia!) and a raffle give away at each event. For the raffle, we will purchase RCI mugs from the Alumni Association (4 mugs at \$10/mug) and perhaps some RCI water bottles (Ms. McCrimmon to investigate).

To help reduce the number of disposable coffee cups going into the garbage, we will encourage parents to bring a travel mug with them on the marketing flyer. Kimberly will create a financial report with expense receipts for bookkeeping records and reimbursement.

The Parent Coffeehouses will be held in the new Wellness Room 122, “Raven’s Retreat”. This will give parents a first-hand look at this great space available for their children. Ms. McCrimmon will ask the Thrive students to make a “Wish List” of items for the room that parents might want to donate.

Lucy, Farhia and Kimberly will be setting up and hosting these events but other parent volunteers are welcome – please contact Kimberly at kimberly.dewitte@live.com

- Other Business (5 min)

There are Taxation Clinics next week at Culture Link and Access Alliance (Richard V. will be assisting with these)

Culture Link

Jane and Dundas tel: [\(416\) 588-6288](tel:(416)588-6288)

Access Alliance

Jane and Woolner tel: (416) 760-8677

- Adjournment (9:00 pm)

åSchool Council Meeting,
Monday April 16, 2018

Report on Student Activities at Runnymede

RUSTCO (Student Council)

- Had a successful Easter Egg Hunt Activity in the school before Easter
- Have proposed a gender-neutral washroom to be created at Runnymede

- Have a **Fun Fair** planned for Runnymede in early June

CLUBS

Me to We

- In March, 9 students went to **Scott Mission** (Spadina and College) to tour the shelter and help out for the afternoon (they sorted laundry and helped with the food bank)
- They are planning another trip in May back to Scott Mission to help out in their kitchen
- They are planning the **We are Silent** Campaign for April 20th (sign up to be silent for a morning to support those who have no political voice in the world)

Thrive (The Runnymede Student Wellness Group)

- The Wellness Room is almost done; it has been named “Raven’s Retreat”
- Had a very successful Pink Shirt Day in February
- Raised \$123 through a cupcake sale to help raise money for our quilt
- The Quilt Squares are collected and our Runnymede Quilt is being made by a professional quilter
- We are planning an Assembly for the end of May for Mental Health month

Black Student Association (BSA)

- Had a very successful Black History Assembly at the end of February
- Planning for a poetry workshop before the

The Breakfast Club

- Still going strong with hot breakfasts 4 days a week
- Cooked breakfast for the staff last Thursday (late start)
- We are thinking about expanding our menu

PROM Committee

- tickets are now on sale for May 11th Prom

The Boys Club

- 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
- Planning on going to Spark Leadership Conference at Canada’s Wonderland at the

end of May

Robotics

- Performed well at Georgian College (Barrie) and regionals at York University
- Won 2 awards for ***Team Spirit*** and ***Gracious Professionalism***
- Spent last Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga for Provincials where we made the quarter finals
- We are headed to **Worlds** in 2 weeks (in Detroit)

Tech Crew

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

Dance Crew

- Practices at lunch in the auditorium

MUSIC & ART

Spring Arts Night – May 16th

Pan

- Hosted **Pan Day** at Runnymede on Friday March 23 with over 350 students (grades 4-7) here for most of the day
- Our Pan class performed at Massey Hall last Thursday as part of the **Sounds of Toronto** concert

Grease

- The musical performance of this classic will be on May 25th

TDSB Creates Finals

- 4 of our students (dance) have made it to the finals for May 3rd at the Toronto Performing Arts Centre
- Tickets are free

Dance & Sculpt

- Continues on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at lunch
- Welcomes anyone for some dancing, fitness and fun

Improv Club

- The Improv Club is meeting 1-2x a week and are working on a performance for Arts Night

ATHLETICS

The following teams are up and running:

- **Girls Soccer**
- **Track & Field**
- **Cheer Team**
- **Softball**
- **Co-Ed Volleyball**
- **Boys Baseball**
- **Badminton Club**

Right to Play

- Has started its Spring/Summer Session
- 20 student leaders and 80 George Syme students grade 1-5

Runnymede Athletic Council (RAC)

- Has created a display board upstairs about the importance of sleep
- Will be organizing events for Mental Health Awareness in May

MASTERS

- **Grade 11 Queens Trip** is coming up in a few weeks (beginning of May)

**Ward 7 Council Meeting
March 6th 2018 7pm-9pm
Parkdale Collegiate Institute
Library**

School Trustee: Robin Pilkey
 Ward Council Chair: Marcela Saitua (Regrets)
 Superintendents: Jane Philips-Long, Tracy Hayhurst , Sandra Tondat
 Principals: Julie Ardell, Debra Muchnik, Diane Rogowski (Parkdale CI) Mary Gyemi-Schulze (Warren Park); Patricia Vanetti (King George PS) Yasmin Buhariwalla (Fern PS)
 Committee reps: Regrets

Annette Street Junior and Senior Public School 0	Fern Avenue Junior and Senior Public School 1	Garden Avenue Junior Public School 1	High Park Alternative Junior School 1
Howard Junior Public School Regrets	Humbercrest Public School 1	Humberside Collegiate Institute 0	Indian Road Crescent Junior Public School Regrets

Keele Street Public School 1	King George Junior Public School 1	Lucy McCormick Senior School No Parent Council	Mountview Alternative Junior School 1
Parkdale Collegiate Institute 3	Parkdale Junior and Senior Public School 0	Queen Victoria Public School 2	Runnymede Collegiate Institute 1
Runnymede Junior and Senior Public School 1	Swansea Junior and Senior Public School 1	The Student School 0	Ursula Franklin Academy 1
Warren Park Junior Public School 0	Western Technical-Commercial School 1		

Host School Presentation

Principle Julie Ardell joined Curriculum Leader Marco Marcantonio and parents with a tour throughout the shop and greenhouses to explain Parkdale CI's Specialist High Skills Major in Horticulture and Landscaping. This SHSM provides for the 30 registered students to experience hands on learning experiences and earn certification and credits.

Principal Ardell mentioned lots of good work is going on in the very diverse school community. Most visibly, the construction of the front door should end by May 1st and work in the front area will proceed which will greatly improve the streetscape with better accessibility, greenspace and even electrical outlets.

TDSB Presentation 1: Regional Parent Reaching Out Grants

Jennifer Arp , Ward 8 Eglinton Lawrence

Trustee Arp spoke about the challenges and successes of her and her Ward's parent's efforts in applying for and receiving Regional Parent Reaching Out grants. She emphasized the importance of collaboration and building a team to share the responsibilities as it is something that cannot be done alone. In her Ward, she worked closely with superintendents, principals, staff and parent councils from the start of applying of the grants to the last planned event. Indeed, her ward's planning committee benefited a lot by partnering with Rotman School of Business to help support the planning PRO grant funded events. While it was a lot of work, Trustee Arp believes having the PRO grant provides the funds that enables school communities to go beyond the traditional school council parent night and would encourage parents in all TDSB wards to apply for them.

TDSB Presentation 2: Experiential Learning and Guidance

Ron Felsen, Centrally Assigned Principal, Teaching and Learning

Peter Gazzellone, Program Coordinator: Guidance, Career and Adolescent Development

James Corbett, Program Coordinator: OYAP/Secondary Pathways

Felsen, Gazzellone and Corbett presented on the different pathways that students in the TDSB has to achieve success. This begins with helping students reflect from early in their school journey in understanding who they are, what opportunities the have, what they want to be come and how they plan to achieve those goals. While they understand course, selection can cause anxiety with students, reflection and planning early on greatly helps alleviate it. Students should understand there is no one

“right” pathway to success that will fit every student needs and wants.

One program that is available is the Specialist High School Major (SHSM). It’s a Ministry approved specialized career focused program where students acquire knowledge, skills and real-world certifications. These programs cover a variety of sectors from arts and culture to aviation. These programs are experiential and hands on and are bundled with co-op credits to complete. It should be noted that SHSM programs are available for all 4 pathways for students (college, university, workplace and apprenticeships.)

Of all the pathways, James Corbett recommended parents to seriously consider exploring the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Compared to university and college programs, apprenticeships are shorter, provide much higher on the job training, and allow many students to finish with zero student debt and a high after graduation placement rate. With a dire need in Ontario for skilled trade workers, the government is investing heavily into this area making the skills trades a very viable career option. While it is physically demanding, Corbett mentioned how physical inactivity due to the prevalence of desk jobs also hurts our health.

Trustee Reports

French Programming

SK French Immersion: 3 schools (Humbercrest, Fern, Runnymede) had lotteries for their SKFI spots. Students were redirected to George Syme and Parkdale. George Syme picked up 22 students from Ward 7 from the schools where GS is the FI pathway

Grade 4 Extended French – no lotteries necessary. New site at Harwood PS likely to be the new Ward 7 Extended site for most schools in the ward.

Report from FSLAC rep Mandy Moore (from Howard PS)

The FSL staff’s report focused on a status update report they are planning. They will ask for feedback from parents, teachers and students, via written surveys and focus groups, about French language programs and report back to the FSLAC and the trustees in June if possible, and if not, then in September.

The program coordinator’s report was mainly an update on French program applications and accommodation. Applications were up for all programs and most were accommodated. There will be no schools getting new SK immersion programs next school year, and two schools will get late immersion programs, *Maple Leaf and CH Best*

The Chair’s Report (from Lauralyn Johnston) reviewed the FSLAC agenda for 2018. The April meeting will have Andrew Gowdy to talk about space allocation. Director Malloy has agreed to come on a date to be determined.

There was some general discussion about the French courses offered in high school, with a general view of some on the committee that many schools are limited enough in their offerings that it may lead to students leaving immersion programs.

Ward Updates from committee reps included news of some upcoming events, and Lauralyn Johnson also gave a brief overview of upcoming ward boundary changes based on the changes to city ward boundaries.

Multi-year strategic plan – Board is working on this and there will be an update and consultation at the April meeting

Student Transportation Consultation

The Ministry of Education is consulting on the future of student transportation to find out how transportation services can be improved to better serve students, families and communities. They have written a discussion paper which focuses on responsiveness, equity and accessibility, safety and well-being and accountability. Feedback deadline is on March 28th 2018. To read the paper and participate in

the consultation, please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-new-vision-student-transportation>

Ward 7 Construction update

- Cooling centres – 4 year program for providing cooling centres in all schools that do not have A/C. 115 schools will be done in 2018. Priority is elementary schools, criteria is to select an equal number of schools from each ward. Will also be providing temporary cooling centres in school libraries in schools that will not have an operational cooling centre by June 2018.
 - Approved – Humbercrest \$203,700
 - Currently being tendered – King George
 - Design stage – Swansea, Annette
 -
- Lucy McCormack – heating plant replacement \$279,000
- Keele field - currently being tendered
- Queen Vic field – to be completed when ground thaws (estimated completion week of June 11, per most recent updates)
- Parkdale CI – Jameson Street exterior ongoing

Join us a screening of the Screenagers movie

- Hosted by Trustees Robin Pilkey, Pamela Gough and Chris Glover

- When: Thursday May 17th 2018 at 7pm

- Where: John English JMS Auditorium (96 Mimico Avenue Etobicoke)

Please share widely. Flyer is attached. All are invited

Register for the Parents as Partners Conference

- All parents and guardians and caregivers of TDSB students are invited to attend this free conference to inform and empower participants to support their student's in all stages of their education.

- When: Saturday April 28th 2018 8am to 3:30pm

- Where: Beanfield Center, 105 Princes' Blvd

- More info: <http://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

Education Development Charges Update

The TDSB has formally asked for a judicial review on Education Development charges as the TDSB's inability to access them due to a regulation may be against the law. Unfortunately the outcome of the review would not be known until after the June provincial election. For more information on EDC's and the TDSB, visit: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Education-Development-Charges>

Committee Reports

See attached report from Paula Boutis, SEAC rep.

Next Meeting

April 17, 2018, 7-9PM

Humberside CI, 280 Quebec Avenue

- **Long Term Planning & Accommodation Strategy – Ward 7**

Presented by Andrew Gowdy, System Planning Officer and Daniel Castaldo, Senior Manager Planning

- **Multi-Year Strategic Plan - consultation**