

Runnymede School Council
Minutes for Monday, January 14, 2019
School Library
7:00 pm

1. **Call to Order & Introductions** Donna & Khaleel
2. **Review and acceptance of last mtg minutes** Donna & Khaleel

Motion to accept by Kimberly de Witte, seconded by Lisa Truant-Tan. Unanimous vote to accept minutes.

3. **Student Update** - Rep was unable to attend
4. **Helping Your Student Prep for Exams Presentation** Carla Cernic, Guidance

Guidance has been working with students last month and this month around organization, planning and improving study habits. These courses will be offered again at the beginning of Semester 2 for Grades 9, 10 & 11.

Many students don't know what kind of learner they are; encouraging students to use My Blueprint to determine their learning style. Also encouraging students to use Microsoft Word to create their own graphic organizers; it's a great tool.

The teachers signed their classes up for the courses so far. If your child wasn't at one of the classes, they can go to the Guidance Office for some of this content. Thursday morning Period 1 is available for any students that want to attend.

In February, Guidance will be working with students on course selection. Many of the courses have been re-vamped. Course selection deadline is February 22.

RCI is one of two TDSB secondary schools to partner with U of T as part of an outreach program for next year. It will allow Grade 12 students to experience the university. Part of the General Arts and Science department students will be in an afternoon Co-op program for a semester and results in a ½ U of T credit as well as a full high school co-op credit. 15 students will be selected, with U of T being the driving force behind the selection criteria. U of T is looking to diversify; looking for students that wouldn't have the access other students might have. The participating students will have access to TDSB advisor, U of T advisor, as well as the U of T financial aid department around bursaries, scholarships, etc. The program does not

guarantee acceptance into U of T's programs, but the students will be supported by U of T mentors through the exploration and application process. This is still in its planning stages and information re: timing and criteria will be forthcoming.

Exam schedule for Semester 1 are January 24 – 29.

Wednesday, January 30 is a half-day (mini schedule) and students are highly encouraged to get their grades in person and speak to their teachers for each class.

Thursday, January 31 – PD Day

5. **Administration Update**

Paul Edwards

Lots happening, activity both for students and teachers (see updates). EQOA testing starts tomorrow. Focus is on the two Grade 9 Math classes which are both Masters Classes this semester. We believe the results will be very positive.

Mountview (MV) Transition is underway with the second meeting happening last week. Beginning to pair MV and RCI teachers up by subjects/interests to see where we can partner. It's a bit of work, but going well so far. As with any move, there are bumps. They will be retrofitting classrooms to comply with physical requirements of the elementary students. One ongoing theme is there will be no disruption of RCI's school days for the rest of this school year. We're hoping that some stuff can happen before the middle of June that won't disrupt the classrooms (i.e. outdoor play space, parking) with the big interior work happening in July and August. The intention is to be ready for all students on September 1.

We will have 3 schools in the building next year:

- Humbercrest Co-op Nursery
- Mountview Alternative Community School
- Runnymede Collegiate Institute

Safe Schools Committee has started to address things such as an evacuation plan to be ready for September 2019.

There are lots of different things going on in the background (Program Review, Safety, Transition) so you might see some shifts between the administrative responsibilities. Staffing work starts next month– triggered by enrolment numbers.

Mountview will have their Open House on Thursday, February 7 at RCI as well as their Spring Concert.

Mountview is expected to stay around 100 students even with the expansion of Grade 7 & 8. Since RCI is still able to accommodate more students in their program, MV's expansion to Grade 8 may choose RCI for high school which could be a real positive for both schools.

6. **Teacher Update**

Karen McCrimmon

See attached

Guidance will be working with 55 students at lunch tomorrow to help with credit rescue. These students have been referred by the teacher for students around the 46-49% that can get the credit, but just didn't make it. Usually the student has the work, it just needs to be found in their backpack, locker, etc.

Culminating activities (special project that covers the curriculum that was covered in the semester) is worth between 15-20% and combined with an exam for a total of 30% of their final grade. This breakdown should be on the initial course outline.

7. **Program Review Committee Update**

Michelle Robinson

Review of course offerings to meet students' needs is going forward.

First part was to focus on Grade 8s and what we could offer the new students. Lots of discussion on new courses and shifting from open level courses to college level courses (Family studies vs. Infant and Child Care)

All Grade 8s will now be able to choose the Intro to Technology, not just Masters' students.

Next part is to focus on more big picture issues. Sub-committees were set up to work outside the meetings and come back together on things such as:

Partnerships with Secondary Institutions, Feeder Schools, Clinic offerings, Marketing to the Community.

New courses: Ideas Worth Sharing (like Ted Talks), Musical Production, Forensic Science (started this year).

Courses are now input in Trillium, so they can be looked at on My Blueprint. PRC will wrap up in May/June.

The report card will include a list of all courses, including the new courses. Instead of doing an assembly, we will be combining course selection with the study skills meetings at the beginning of Semester 2 as small groups seem to be better.

My Blueprint has so much content. Go to myblueprint.ca/tdsb and set up a parent account. You can pair it with your student's account using their OEN number. Kimberly to add to February's Newsletter that parents should look at My Blueprint with their child with the link. If you have questions, call Carla in Guidance.

Discussion around summer school and other ways to get additional credits:

Night school, summer school and summer e-learning are offered by TDSB. Night school - credit.ca is for TDSB students only. Summer school offerings will be on the website soon. There are both in classroom and online courses offered.

If they're looking to reach ahead, Grade 9's would be most likely be Civics and Careers.

How do post-secondary look at those courses? If it's a remedial course, you might see a slight inflation of that grade. Most of the universities view the regular year and summer school courses the same. But if it's something needed for their major, guidance encourages them to take it as a day course so the content is not compressed.

8. PRO Grant – Use of Funds

Kimberly de Witte

RCI has just learned that we were granted a \$1,000 for the Parents Reaching Out Grant this school year. Funds must be used before September 2019. In the past we have done a Mental Wellness Presentation as well as coffee houses to try and connect with more RCI parents. These were not exceptionally well attended. The first year RCI had applied for the PRO Grant, using the funds to create printed literature for parents was discussed, and offering translated documents in more common languages for the parents. Perhaps we should try something like that? Ursula Franklin Academy (UFA) created a calendar a few years back and it was very well received by parents. Copies of the UFA calendar were passed around, and discussion ensued around how this could be used as an outreach tool, what to include, etc. Some ideas around the calendar included:

- Having more images
- Using the Digital Art students to help
- Using Canva.com to help with calendar layout

Council passed a motion to use the PRO Grant funds for a school calendar. Juana volunteered to partner with Kimberly on costing out and layout of a calendar. Bringing info to the next meeting.

Salway: how does the co-op course tie into what the student wants to study? Carla: mechanical engineer co-ops are harder to find at the high school level, but if they are willing to explore other options, a co-op can give great experience. Ms. Pidhayny would have a better handle on what co-ops we have in place for the next semester.

9. Fundraising & Grants

Jackie Marrie & Farhia Warsame

Farhia spoke with Best Buy and they will be able to provide fans for \$65 each (plus tax) with free shipping. Calculating based on the \$500 previously approved by Council, we can purchase 6.8 fans. **Unanimous vote for Farhia to purchase 7 fans, and to co-ordinate payment with the office administration.**

Jackie is working on the direct donation campaign to help us meet the prioritized lists from teachers and students. Drafted an information paragraph to send out to parents asking for contributions. Thinking we can contact parents in three ways: Newsletter, Website and a mailed copy. Juana recommended including some language around how much the \$23,000 goal is per student in the parent information to show it's attainable.

More information needed to set up the Canada Helps.org site. They take 3.5-4% fee, but they do all the tax receipts, etc. But Cash Online also has a Donation button and may not take as much of a cut.

Robin volunteered to help Jackie figure some of this out and bring back the final decision to the next meeting.

Kimberly to include a thermometer visual in each Newsletter to show progress.

10. Ward 7 Report

Lucy Coyle

Last meeting topics:

- TDSB Student census
- Updating the Student dress code (looking for feedback)
- Updating the policy on drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
- New Treaty Acknowledgement (indigenous announcement) was approved.
(Kimberly to include in February newsletter)

Number of trustees stayed the same even though the number of councilors went down.

Next meeting January 15 - Email Lucy if there's anything you want her to bring up.

Lucy to ask:

- Update on the results of the Sex Ed curriculum survey – feedback? Participation?
- How would the new dress code affect uniform schools?

11. Status of Council Bylaws, Constitution, etc.

Donna & Khaleel

Draft of proposed Council Constitution (comments from Donna, Khaleel, Kimberly and Jackie) and Bylaws (pulled from TDSB website) were distributed to parents present at meeting. Bylaw package is simple enough that we just need to replace RCI's name into it. Pretty standard and straight forward.

Council members to read and bring comments back at the next meeting.

12. Other Business

Can people donate cash? The answer is yes, but we would really prefer cheques. Need the charity number for all the donations (from Marlea)
Next meeting February 25 – no presenter, but finalize housekeeping items for Council (Bylaws, Constitution, PRO Grant, Fundraising marketing).

13. Adjournment (9:00 pm)

Joseph motioned, Lucy seconded

School Council Meeting
January 14th, 2019

Teacher Report

By Karen McCrimmon, ACL Equity & Wellness

In December, under RUSTCO's *Make a Wish* initiative, departments created themed baskets that were then raffled off to staff before Christmas. Staff raised approximately \$500 for this cause.

Teachers are currently busy with the wrap up of their curriculum for semester 1, with culminating assignments due within the next week and exams starting next Thursday.

A note to parents: Deadlines for Culminating Activities are strictly adhered to. While other assignments may, depending on the teacher and department policy, be accepted late, culminating assignments need to be handed in to the teacher on the assigned date.

We have brought in an extra teacher to Runnymede for the next two weeks for a special credit rescue initiative. Teachers were asked to identify students who were missing work which was hindering their chances of success for their credit. Under the idea of "complete, don't repeat", students will be called to a pizza lunch tomorrow to get to know the teachers involved in the initiative and how the program will work. Identified students will be working with the Credit Rescue teacher over the course of a week to complete necessary assignments. In many cases, this is a simple matter of organization of notes and assignments that may already be done but left in binders, bags or lockers. This aim is to strengthen marks for some of our weaker students as they head into their exams.

Next Steps:

Over the last 3 months, educators have been tasked with identifying gaps in our education system and our own teaching practices. Using the key concepts of inclusive design and student voice, departments were challenged to create a set of goals in order to improve equity, wellness and achievement in their subject areas. Teachers will be working on implementing these goals in their classrooms over the next 2 months.