

Runnymede School Council  
Minutes for Monday, January 13, 2020

**Call to Order & Introductions** - In attendance: Paul Edwards, Ayub Uddin, Magas Palany, Kimberly de Witte, Jackie Marrie, Laura Pillsworth, Melanie Boyd-Brown, Lucy Coyle, Lisa Truant-Tan, Sahra Isse, Deke Nur, Leslie Ambedian, Alexandra Bulut, Ralph Montone.

**Review and acceptance of November 25, 2019 minutes** – Approval motioned by Melanie, seconded by Lucy.

**Student Update** - No student update was presented.

**Helping with Exam Prep, Scholarship Opportunities & 2020/21 Course Selections**

Given the current labour rules, Carla Cernic (Guidance) was unable to present on this topic, but she provided notes for Mr. Edwards to present:

2020/21 Course Selections

No courses are expected to be dropped next year (i.e., Forensics, Ideas Worth Sharing). Economics will be offered for the first time in few years. The Stell@r program will not be offered next year for Grade 9 or 10. There were only two students requesting Stell@r going into Grade 9 in 2019/20, so the program only ran for the existing Grade 10 students. It will be fully phased out for the 2020/21 year. Although students may not have self-identified as needing the Stell@r program, RCI met student learning needs in math by offering three levels (Academic, Applied, and Locally-developed). Grade 11 Workplace Math is currently offered as a mixed-math class and has students at three levels (Grade 10 academic, Grade 10 applied and Grade 11 locally-developed). Math teachers are working closely with the student and parents/guardians for them to be successful.

Parents/guardians are welcome to contact Carla Cernic ([carla.cernic@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:carla.cernic@tdsb.on.ca)) with any additional questions.

Exam Schedule

For the last two years, RCI's Exam Schedule was one exam per day (Period 1 exams on Day 1, Period 2 exams on Day 2). In January 2019 an Assessment, Evaluation and Review Committee of RCI teachers, a parent and a student was formed to evaluate the success of this schedule and make recommendations which was to continue with the current exam schedule.

During the October staff meeting it was decided to change the exam schedule so that all exams for a specific course will be given on the same day, but students will take the exam with their own class mates (not all course sections in one big room).

Morning exams will begin at 9 am, afternoon exams will begin at 12:30 pm.

This change has nothing to do with the current labour action.

Discussion around how this decision was made when the Committee had made their recommendations based on scientific evidence as well as input from teachers, students and parents. Mr. Edwards suggested that Lucy speak with Michelle Robinson for the background as to why this change has happened. Lucy expressed concern that the original exam schedule model was communicated to Grade 8 parents at the Open House as an illustration of how RCI meets the student needs.

**ACTION:** Kimberly to ask Michelle to report back at the February 24 Executive meeting on:

- How many students actually had two exams in one day?
- Why did this change happen?
- Did they perform better?
- Feedback that we can get from the Grade 10-12 students about the change?
- Is there an opportunity to change this back for the second semester?

### **Administration Update (Paul Edwards)**

Classes and activities are continuing as expected despite the labour issues.

Administration and secretaries are very overworked. There are no staff meetings, so email is used for communication with committees, no discussions. Outside of the strike days, it's business as usual in the classrooms.

Is there any pull back on trips and report cards like in the Elementary Schools? For Secondary, the worst case is that teachers will submit just a student name and a grade for report cards. Field trips will eventually be cancelled. Semi-formal for February may be cancelled if teachers can't supervise. Maybe we can get parents to supervise?

**ACTION:** Kimberly to follow-up with Ms. Lovell about Maya's Student Update and offering parent supervision if that will help make the dance happen.

Hard to say what will happen next if both sides of the labour dispute won't budge.

Although we have course offerings available, we don't have preliminary projection enrolment numbers, which decides numbers of teachers, custodial, etc.

They are starting a Secondary Program Review & Optional Attendance Policy.

Looking at all schools and determining utilizations. Eleven classrooms are not in use currently, but having MV in the building means our utilization rate has gone up for

future years. The hope is that there are enough Grade 11 and 12 to be able to offer enough variety in course selections.

Another indicator of future numbers is the number of POR (Position of Responsibility) given to a school. The past three years TDSB gave RCI 6 PORs, translating into 12 ACL (Associate Course Leaders), but this have been reduced to 5 for the next three years (10 ACLs). Indication that there will be a reduction of students for next year.

Subject was raised about a teacher suspension. Mr. Edwards confirmed that this true and could not comment any further. Unsure if the teacher will be returning; TDSB will decide whether this teacher will teach at another school or not.

### **Treasurer's Report (Jackie)**

PACE Account is up and working; balances are same (no expenditures)

### **Direct Donation Campaign dates/details (Jackie)**

Letter has to be updated to \$10k goal to reflect teacher wish list. Office is stuffing envelopes Feb 3 and distributing Feb 5. Letter will be sent in Semester 1 Report Cards with a deadline of February 15. F

**ACTION:** Jackie to ask Janelle B to suspend DD Campaign on Principal's Bulletin until after mailout deadline and results reviewed at February 24 meeting.

**ACTION:** Jackie to email final letter to Kimberly by Feb 1.

**ACTION:** Kimberly to make copies on coloured paper in RCI Office on Feb 3 and give them to Maria for including in the report card envelopes.

**June 1 meeting topic discussion** - Move discussion to February 24 meeting

**ACTION:** Kimberly to include in Feb 24 Agenda.

### **Mountview Update (Lucy)**

MV held their Holiday Concert on December 10. Ms. Lambert donated colouring books and cards created by RCI Art students for selling at the concert. Both schools were going to split the proceeds, but MV decided to gift the whole \$125 back to RCI Art department.

**ACTION:** Kimberly to send a thank you to MV Co-chairs for this generous act.

The Interflix film trilogy (Angst, LIKE, The Upstanders) was discussed. They are bringing it to MV parents for discussion

**ACTION:** Lucy to report back at February 24 meeting.

MV is super appreciative for RCI Students helping with robotics, music, etc.

### **Ward 7 Report (Laura & Melanie)**

Next meeting on January 21 at Humbercrest.

**ACTION:** Kimberly to put the TDSB Connects from January 10 in the next Principals' Bulletin (links to the TDSB input requests to parents)

### **Other Business (10 min)**

Pool will be open after the March Break. We had a great swim team last year and it was so unfortunate that they couldn't participate this year because of the pool closure.

**ACTION:** Lucy to connect with the swim coaches (Carla and Wilma) about inviting swim team to the athletic banquet and do a ribbon cutting for the opening.

**ACTION:** Laura to follow up with Marlea about getting a permanent storage area. We will look at the space at the February 24 executive meeting.

**ACTION:** Kimberly to invite Kara (TPL) to the February 24 Executive Meeting

### **Adjournment (9:00 pm)**

Motion - Jackie, Seconded - Melanie