



Runnymede CI School Council Newsletter

June 2020

Dates to Remember

June 12 – Final Assignments Due

June 12-18 – Catch-up Week



June 25 1-3pm @ Main Entrance – Graduates Pick-up Yearbook and Parting Gift. See details below with times to arrive. Hope to see you there!!

Also watch the Virtual Graduation Message posted on June 25 to the RCI website!

June 26 – Report Cards Printed

June 28 – Final Reports Mailed

July 1-10 – Closing procedures in office

SAVE THE DATE:

December 17 – Tentative Date for 2020 Commencement

This school year is wrapping up in the most unexpected way. Thank you to all the parents/guardians support and patience during this uncertain time.

YOUR SCHOOL COUNCIL AT WORK

The School Council worked diligently this year on many endeavours, including:

- Developed the School Statement of Needs
- Coordinating a Direct Donation campaign to fund a Wish List for RCI teachers and students
- Coordinating parent involvement with events throughout the year, including Open House, Curriculum Night and Arts Night in the Fall.
- Advised RCI staff and students on the RCI Uniform Policy

Our final School Council meeting held via Zoom on Monday, June 1 was well-attended by RCI administration, School Council members and many parents/guardians. The slides from the meeting can be found in the Parent Section of the RCI website.

The final Ward 7 meeting was also held virtually on May 7th. The notes from that meeting are at the end of this newsletter.

WAYS TO STAY UPDATED

There are many resources for parents on the RCI, TDSB and PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) websites:

Sign up for the **Principal's Bulletin and Weekly Update** on the RCI home webpage at www.runnymedecollegiate.com

Get the RCI App

Follow RCI on Twitter

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward7/>

<http://torontopiacc.com/index.html>



**Attention all 2020 RCI Grads:
Special Graduation Memorabilia Pick Up June 25th!**

We are thinking of all of you and cannot wait to celebrate Commencement with you in person on December 17, 2020! But in the meantime...

On **Thursday, June 25, 2020 from 1-3 pm** we invite all 2020 Grads to Runnymede CI to pick up a special commencement memorabilia grab bag.

To follow social distancing protocol and keep everyone safe, either Mr. Edwards, Ms. Robinson, or Ms. Thornton will meet Grads at the front doors (Exit #1) to deliver your Grad Grab Bags. You may also see some of your teachers waving from a distance!

We ask all Grads to visit the school during the time slot provided below:

Last names starting with:

A – G	1:00 – 1:30 pm
H – M	1:30 – 2:00 pm
N – S	2:00 – 2:30 pm
T – Z	2:30 – 3:00 pm

Please contact VP Leigh Thornton @ leigh.thornton@tdsb.on.ca for any questions or concerns.

There is also a special virtual message for Grads being posted on Thursday, June 25th. Log onto the RCI website or any RCI Social Media platform to check it out!

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!!



From the ARTS DEPT.:

The [Runnymede CI Virtual Art Gallery](https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/arts-runnymede-c-i-2020/home) is **NOW OPEN!** Please visit this beautiful site to enjoy the outstanding work of our incredible student artists!

<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/arts-runnymede-c-i-2020/home>

We are accepting more submissions for Part 2 which is our **Virtual Arts Night** to be presented to our school/wider community on June 22, 2020!

Students may submit any of the following to the listed email on the poster and our team will review:

- * **Artwork** (Photographed or scanned - PDF, JPG files preferred)
- * **Recordings** (Audio/Video submissions of Musical performances, Dance pieces (tiktoks), poetry, etc.)

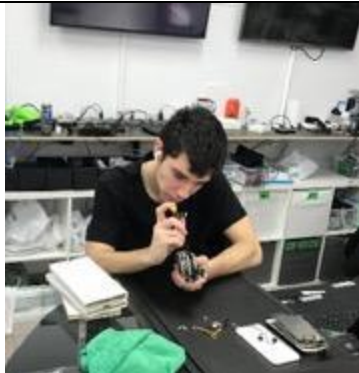
We are so pleased to showcase the incredible talents of our **shining stars**. We see you Runnymede CI and we are so very proud of you. Submit your work today!

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact ACL of the Arts, Janelle Bylykbashi - Janelle.bylykbashi@tdsb.on.ca

Co-operative Education

Second semester Co-op students are grateful to have had the opportunity to work and learn from our wonderful community mentors. Although their co-op placements ended early due to COVID-19, students have unique stories, experiences and gained valuable insights into the world of work.

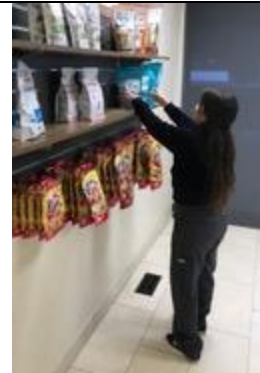
Here are some students at their placements:



Nathan Dias learning how to repair phones, ipads, screens and hardware at **Tech House Computers**.



Max Starke cutting hair at **The Black Collar Barber Shop**.



Stephanie Salazar observed several surgeries at **Jane Animal Hospital** including a neuter, teeth cleaning and a stitching, among other interesting procedures.



Nur Nur had the opportunity to plan and teach a Grade 5 lesson about the Canada Food Guide at **Warren Park Junior Public School**.



Jack Selfe stayed busy making sauce and prepping a variety of ingredients at **Queen Margherita Pizza**.

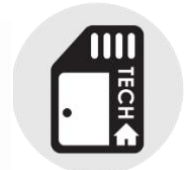


Rochelle Clayton enjoyed her time at **Body Co.** confirming appointments, connecting with a variety of professionals and observing treatments at off-site home visits.

Central Co-op Placements

Fantastic Central Co-operative Education opportunities are available for students interested in working for the Toronto Police Services, Bank of Montreal, The Canadian Armed Forces, film and television, healthcare facilities in the GTA, Construction as well as hotels such as The Four Seasons, The Hazelton and The Intercontinental Hotel.

Thank you to all of our AMAZING COMMUNITY PARTNERS who dedicate themselves to educating our students



Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

OYAP Programs are offered in Semester 2 for Grade 12 students who are ready to graduate at the end of the year. Students interested in Apprenticeship Training in Automotive Services, Culinary Arts, Hairstyling, Plumbing, Electrician, Residential Heating and Air Conditioning, Child Development, Construction, General Carpentry and Floor Covering Installation should speak to Mrs. Sabetti in September to learn more about open house dates and deadlines to apply. See flyers on the Co-op Google Classroom (code: 7nfcpu6)



Electrical OYAP Program



Congratulations to Jylz McBride who has recently been HIRED as a paid apprentice with Rumble Electric! Jylz was in the Electrical OYAP Program and was in his 5th week of his co-op placement before we, unfortunately, had to put placements on hold. Jylz wrote a heartfelt letter thanking his boss for the short co-op experience and was offered an opportunity to work for the company as a paid apprentice. Thank you Philip Rumble at Rumble Electric. Jylz's parents couldn't be more proud of their son. We wish you all the best in the future.

General Carpenter OYAP Program



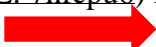
Joseph Thomas-Apollinaro completed the General Carpenter OYAP Program. He received his training at Carpenters Local 27. Here is a photo of his work perfecting his technique installing baseboard trim.



STEP to Construction Program

Amir Khan completed the Step to Construction Program. Through this program students spend a semester on a job site sampling several skilled trades – from electrical to carpentry, drywall to sheet metal work, plumbing, tile-setting, bricklaying, cement finishing and general construction craft work to see what sparks their interest. Students in this program also attend George Brown College once a week for a Dual Credit in Construction Health and Safety, where they earn several safety certificates, free of charge.

Program Information and Flyers

Email Mrs. Sabetti at Christine.Sabetti@tdsb.on.ca or join the RCI Co-op and OYAP Information Google Classroom (CODE: 7nfcpu6) for program information, videos, articles and flyers. 



Dual Credit Program

The Dual Credit Program is a program that allows grade 11 and 12 students to take a course at a college that counts towards both college and non-compulsory secondary credits at the same time. There are more than 30 courses offered at George Brown, Humber and Seneca. Students attend college once a week. There is no tuition cost and books and transportation are included. If you are interested in learning more about the Dual Credit Program, speak to the Guidance or Co-op Education Departments.

HPE AND ATHLETICS

It's time to celebrate another year of Athletics! Please join us on **Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00pm** for the Athletic Banquet Video Awards Presentation. Stay tuned on Runnymede social media platforms for more details.



HPE AND ATHLETICS

Cross Country (Mrs. Kotsopoulos)



Cheer (Ms. Kemp)



Junior Boys Volleyball (Mr. Kotsopoulos)



Girls Basketball (Mr. Kalantzakos)



Junior Boys Basketball
TDSSAA West Region Silver Medallists
(Mr. Kalantzakos, Mr. Kotsopoulos)



Senior Boys Basketball
(Mr. Kalantzakos, Mr. Kotsopoulos)



Junior Girls Volleyball (Mrs. Kotsopoulos)



Senior Girls Volleyball (Mrs. Kotsopoulos)



Girls Ultimate Frisbee

(Mr. Henderson, Ms. Avarino, Mr. Kennedy)



A special thank you to **Ms. Pidhayny and Mr. Henderson** who have been dedicated coaches and supporters of Athletics over the years. Ms. Pidhayny has been our swim coach and pillar of our swim team. Mr. Henderson has helped coach the Boys Basketball teams and brought Ultimate Frisbee to Runnymede CI. They have impacted countless student athletes over their time at Runnymede. We wish them all the best in their new schools next year.

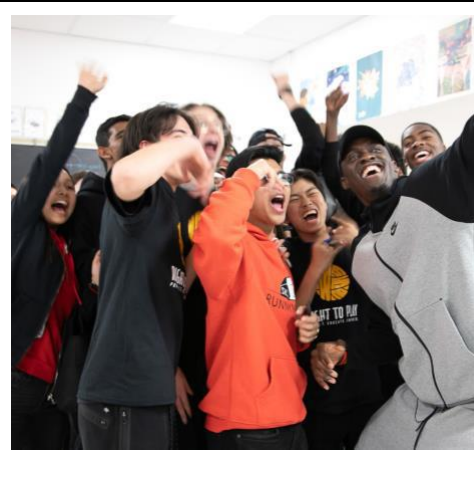
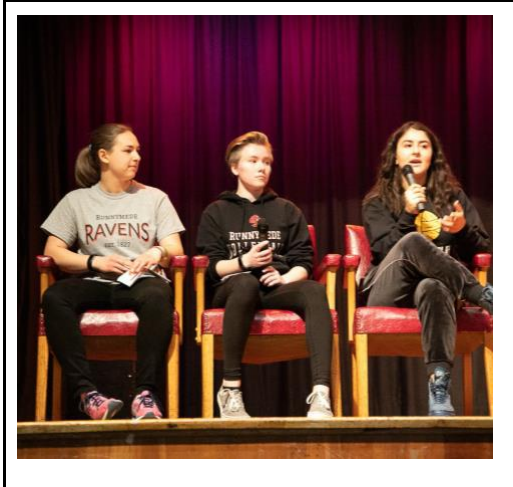
Albion Hills

Mr. Kotsopoulos and a group of student leaders spent many hours in training and preparation for a student led leadership weekend for Grade 10 students. A huge thank you to Mr. K and the leaders for delivering a high energy, hands on and engaging weekend filled with team building and collaborative activities. A weekend of personal growth, and for building new and strengthened relationships for our students and staff! Always a weekend to remember!



Right to Play

It has been a memorable and high school career highlight for our trained student leaders in this unique afterschool program! Our locally developed and delivered program serves over 60 elementary students at George Syme each week. The joy of play, movement, friendships and meaningful connections resonate among the children we serve, our student leaders and staff facilitators. This successful program also hosted and welcomed Bianca Andreescu in a school wide assembly, welcomed her as a Right to Play Ambassador in a fun and interactive play session and hosted her in our large gym where she was honoured with the Lou Marsh, Canadian Athlete of the Year trophy! And if that wasn't enough, Pascal Siakam himself stopped by to meet with the leaders and personally thank them for their community work.



Fall 5K Candy Crusher

Over 200 Phys. Ed. and Fitness students experienced the beauty of the fall season with a 5K run along the Humber River. Nature, fitness and friends were there to help along the way - a true celebration of wellness! Many community members also stopped to watch and admire your efforts! Thank you to the Lambton House for always graciously opening their doors to us.



The **Grade 9 Girls and Boys Physical Education classes** visited the Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre for a day of collaborative leadership activities and outdoor education. A wonderful opportunity for our Grade 9's to engage in activities and discussion around communication, teamwork, relationships and the power of positivity!





The **Grade 12 Kinesiology** class spent a day at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education touring and participating in various activities including a muscle biopsy lab, respiratory lab and mental health and physical activity lab. A great day of exploring the many possibilities and opportunities in the fields of Health Care and Kinesiology.

Members of **RAC** have been busy sharing their wellness message with our Healthy School Campaigns – this year the top floor was posted with information to improve teen health using ParticipACTION's **Build Your Best Day** recommendations. RAC's **Instagram** account (ravens.live) also shared useful tips on Mindfulness Mondays, spreading some fun on Tik Tok Tuesdays and keeping us active on Workout Wednesdays. Our weight room has also been given a makeover with new instructional boards and a Word Wall for some extra inspiration!



Thanks to the **OFSAA Try Day Grant**, new yoga mats have arrived and have made our mindfulness, meditation and yoga classes more enjoyable. Physical Education, Fitness and Leadership classes have been practicing meditation and mindfulness. Always well received by students and an important part of an overall health plan!

TDSB Ward 7 Virtual Forum
Monday May 7th, 2020 7-9pm
Hosted by Trustee Robin Pilkey via Webex
Minutes

Present: Trustee Ward 7 Robin Pilkey, Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous, Superintendent Sandra Tondat, Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst, Shared Service Liaison Christy Heath (recording)

Ward 7 Schools Represented: Queen Victoria P.S., Fern Ave P.S., HumberSide C.I., Indian Road Crescent, Ursula Franklin Academy, Parkdale P. S., Parkdale C.I., Runnymede P.S., Keele, Garden Ave, Western Tech, High Park Alternative

- Robin Pilkey called the meeting to order at 7:07pm
 - Meeting format is Q & A. Everyone is asked to mute mics until speaking and to check in through chat and indicate through chat if you have a question or comment.
- Announcement: Director John Malloy to retire as of November 1st, 2020 <https://tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1457/TDSB-Director-John-Malloy-to-Retire>

Update on Anti-Black racism at Queen Victoria Public School:

- Letter from Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IHl-1a4q4mPY7reOvuO3gEQ03nMkR18q/view?usp=sharing>
- Expected Practices for Understanding and Dealing with Discrimination: https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/TDSB%20DiscriminationBroch_ACCESSIBLE.pdf
 - *Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous addressed the issue:* It is being addressed with an ongoing investigation. A letter was issued to the Black Student Success Committee, the community and the staff.
 - The TDSB is committed to changes, they are aware of where the policies and communications fall short and are addressing the issues and moving forward with change
 - A Parent Representative of the Queen Victoria Black Student Success Committee asked if there is more specific info to share? There is concern from the community that Black teachers are not there, the principal is also on leave and there is concern this is connected. The community wants clarity and transparency.
 - *Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous:* TDSB knows it needs to do better. Procedure is being reviewed and revised. Working to inform the community and protect the investigation.
 - There is a document of “Expected Practices” that was created after an incident at another school. This was followed to a T however, by doing this, harm was caused by maintaining confidentiality and not informing parents and staff. The teachers at Queen Victoria have been met with.
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* the investigation began as soon the event happened and has been ongoing. My understanding is that the expected practices were followed, but everything around this is still being investigated.
 - The situation is ongoing
 - A parent from Indian Road Crescent expressed concern that an incident of racism at their school was hindered by the same document and asked what is the training and support for staff in dealing with racism.
 - *Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst:* The training for staff is ongoing. Specifically to IRC, it is in their School Improvement Plan to address racism and the Principal has worked with Human Rights to provide training for staff which will be implemented when the schools return to learning.
- *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* It is important to name these events and to move forward doing the work.

Question and Answer

- *Question from Ursula Franklin Academy Parent:* UFA parents are concerned about marks and report cards. If March report cards are to be there base mark (can not receive a lower mark), will they receive report cards at the end of the school year? There is concern that some students will accept their March grades and not put in the work to get higher grades in June. And, do you expect the students will return to school before the end of June?
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* It is not likely that students will return to school before the end of the school year. Grades on the June report cards can not be lower than the March grades however, students can work to improve those grades with the assignments they complete at home through distance learning. There will not be final exams this year, the days usually dedicated to final exams will be instructional days. We have to accept that some students will not continue to work at home through this pandemic and focus on your own personal situation. Yes, report cards will be issued in June. We need to have faith in our teachers to deal with what is being missed.
 - *Parkdale C.I. Principal, Julie Ardell:* There is flexibility in how teachers are working with students online - training is ongoing.
 - *Humberside C.I. Principal, Kim McLaren:* Teachers at the Secondary Level are working in an unprecedented system. Teachers are trying to balance student needs.
- Comment from parent at Keele: Although there is respect for teachers, the message that teachers are struggling is beginning to hit deaf ears. Families are also struggling and there is confusion and discrepancy in delivery. Messaging needs to be consistent.
- Comment from parent at Fern Ave: Agreement with the above. Parents are not getting training to assist their children. Expressed frustration with the situation. Feels alienated from the teachers and unhappy with the discrepancies in practices and platforms. Does TDSB have a team looking at consistency in platforms?
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* Google Classroom and Bright Space are the two platforms approved by the Ministry and the TDSB. Training for parents is being rolled out. Teacher Resources <https://tdsb.on.ca/Remote-Learning-Support-Resources-for-Educators> Resources for Parents: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-at-home#section-4>
- Parent: training for parents will just add to the workload which is already large.
 - *Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous:* We are hearing from parents and students “what is the Board doing?” Working closely with Union partners. Expectation is not that we replicate school, it is that we keep up literacy and numeracy. Trying to manage all expectations is unmanageable. Need to hear from everyone at every level. We are still working to understand what is needed. If you are struggling, we need to know.
- Parent: What happens if there is a second wave and we are distance learning again?
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* Planning for the return to school is ongoing. Also looking at all contingencies: Are we going back in September? If so, will it be at the same time or staggered? What happens if there is another surge?

Device Distribution Information:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1__ZleKlieqVFE35GB23DbOiwZ05osTc9UjuznWucDEI/edit?usp=sharing

Examples of questions being asked to Toronto Public Health regarding returning schools:

Screening/Testing

- Will staff testing/screening be recommended or required prior to entry at reopening?
- Will student testing/screening be recommended?

Dealing with illness of staff/students

- If there is a confirmed case in student/staff at a school, is the school automatically closed?
 - How to deal with staff who report to work with COVID symptoms?
 - How to deal with students who show up with COVID symptoms?
 - Provision for student illness while at school – e.g. isolate ill students in designated rooms until picked up by parent/guardian? What sanitizing standards will be required after?
 - Will monitoring and reporting of staff and student absenteeism be required?
 - What will communication protocols be if there are suspected or confirmed cases – TPH vs TDSB role?
-
- tricked or staggered with staff monitoring
 - Lunch – high risk activity; need to wash hands prior, consider staggered lunch periods, restrict to classroom only
 - Physical Distance during Phys Ed classes, what activities can take place?
 - Gym/sporting activities reviewed or cancelled
 - Playgrounds – closed?
 - Establish elevator protocol for physical distancing (likely one person only at a time)
 - Visitors – should they be restricted/limited to reduce opportunities for transmission?
 - Before and after school many parents do drop off and pick up and stand around to wait, especially if their kids are young. Will there be restrictions /requirements around that?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Will PPE be required? If so, what type and under what conditions?
- Currently, there is not enough PPE to provide to all staff/students
- Although we are making every effort to procure more PPE, there are supply chain issues (e.g. significant delay in PPE/sanitizer shipments to TDSB)

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing of 2m (6ft) is not achievable in standard classroom setting
- If restrictions remain in place, we would need to explore alternatives for learning (e.g. alternate day learning, half day learning, classrooms in gyms/cafeterias etc.)
- The current physical distancing recommendations will reduce student capacity to between 12 and 15 students, depending on the size of the room
- Recess – res

Maintenance/Cleanliness/Facilities

- At minimum, thorough cleaning of schools, including enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces must be completed prior to reopening to students/staff

- What TPH guidelines will be issued re: enhanced cleaning/sanitizing during school opening

Permits

- We will need to determine if permits will continue. If so, will there be an occupancy limit for permit gatherings

Food Preparation

- Should cafeterias be closed? It may be challenging to enforce social distancing if open.

Student Transportation

- Will there be specific transportation requirements from TPH (e.g. blocking off seats like TTC to limit passengers)? Physical distancing is not possible under the traditional service model.
- Will thorough cleaning/sanitizing of buses be required at the end of each run or each day?

Conclusion - There are many outstanding questions at this time that need to be considered before students return to school.

- *Question from High Park Alternative School Parent:* When will families be able to get into schools to retrieve belongings left behind at March Break?
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* It is up to Toronto Public Health to decide when and how to let people back into the schools. As soon as the Board has permission to go back in for belongings, protocols will be developed to ensure safety of staff and those retrieving their belongings.
- *Question from Parent:* Is online training for teachers recommended or required?
 - *Superintendent Sandra Tondat:* Training is a recommendation and it is encouraged. The requirement is that they engage with students for the required hours. Google Classroom and Bright Space are the programs that training is provided for.
 - *Superintendent Tracy Hayhurst:* Teachers are expected to provide feedback to students and parents. If you are not receiving the feedback or have issues or questions, follow the steps laid out by the Board: <https://tdsb.on.ca/Contact-Us/Steps-to-Address-Questions-Concerns> speak with your Teacher, then the Principal, then the Superintendent.
- *Parents:* How are Socio-emotional relationships being maintained and facilitated? Face to face interaction is very valuable to students. Would like to see more teaching via video even for short durations.
 - *Executive Superintendent Sandy Spyropolous:* TEACHERS are trying to find ways to engage students with each other and bring some fun beyond the walls of the classroom. Some are doing spirit days, others are having students engage by sharing recipes or pictures.

Letter to Parents from Director John Malloy, May 1st 2020: <https://tdsb.on.ca/News/Article-Details/ArtMID/474/ArticleID/1455/Remote-Learning-Update---Message-from-the-Director-of-Education>

Resources for Remote Learning & Expectations of Learning: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/remote-Learning>

PIAC Update: Ward 7 PIAC Rep Alice Romo

- There are lots of similar questions at the PIAC meetings
- There is a survey out to get feedback about Remote Learning :
<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#189578056>
 - Please take the survey and post it to all your groups
- School Councils can hold meetings in May and June if they meet quorum
- School Councils can refund fundraising to families who have already paid for pizza lunches, dance-a-thons etc....
- Information and resources in the PIAC Post:
https://mcusercontent.com/b0878df6277125cdd4bdaf317/files/7f3808c7-b9ae-4ac2-a1b5-f48a55d406ef/PIAC_POST_APRIL_2020.pdf?mc_cid=e144f90024&mc_eid=1525a9a654

- *Parent Comment:* The disparity between students upon return to schools will be massive. Is there a plan to deal with this?
 - *Trustee Robin Pilkey:* Yes, this is being addressed. Filling in the gap will be a high priority. This will be a budget issue. The Board is still awaiting information from the Ministry regarding budget.
<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/2020-21-Budget>

Wrap Up:

- Secondary School Review delayed until Fall
- Specialized School Review also delayed
- Graduation Ceremonies will be delayed until Fall and are TBD
- Robin is available to attend Virtual School Council Meetings
- Will try for another Virtual Ward Forum in June

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm