

## **RCI School Council Minutes - September 19, 2022**

### **Attendees**

Albert Cho, Rosalie Fine, Michelle Haurilak, Carla Granger, Zannat Reza, Seif Eldawla Elsheikh, Hadley Staite, Abdi Mohamed, Kat Ying, Christine Linder, Lorraine Sixto, Jenn Perchard, Melanie Boyd-Brown, Jackie Marrie, Karen Hill

### **TPL Update**

Hadley & Sadaf, Youth Hub Librarians from Jane/Dundas location  
(previous reps have moved on)

#### **What is the youth hub?**

- 20 TPLs in the city have youth hubs - location based on a variety of factors
- Available at our location
- Teens only, no adults or younger children
- Available M-F from 3:30-7
- Freedom to hang
- Staff member always present
- Dedicated youth focused staff person onsite (either Hadley or Sadaf)
- Goal is to foster strong positive relationships with each other, as well as adults - at school, home, library
- Homework help, socializing, general conversation
- Healthy snacks, laptops available to borrow
- Free printing for teens only (no adults)
- Craft supplies, board games, playstation(!)

#### **What's New**

- New, staff-led, programs starting September 20, continuing every week until October 18
  - Tuesdays: Board Game Nights
  - Thursdays: Crafternoons
- Technically programs run from 4-6 p.m. but students can arrive early.

#### **Art Workshop**

- Tuesday November 8 - acrylic painting workshop with pros; 9x12 canvas - only 15 spots available. Must register in advance. Please call Jane/Dundas branch @ 416-394-1014 or register in person by dropping by.

#### **Presto Cards**

- Program is currently under review. Some cards are still available at our branch. (Nothing on them, but saves the annual fee).

## **Administration Update**

### **Truth & Reconciliation Day** (Rosalie Fine)

- Friday, September 30
- Working on education and awareness for students (why we wear orange).
- Thursday Sept 29 & Friday Sept 30 will be videos in classes and two teachers will run info sessions on Friday during lunch
- Long-term hope will be to have an official TRC club led by students

### **Nutrition** (Rosalie)

- Breakfast program is now up and running
- Grab and Go, packaged. Extras are available in the office.
- New! Hot breakfast will be available starting once per week (early October start TBD)
- Available before 9 a.m.
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own water bottles! Refill stations are available around the school.

*Parent question: how aware are we with student nutrition deficits and food insecurity?* Learning Opportunity Index (LOI) provides the most accurate information on this. Confirmed there is food insecurity at RCI and we get funding for this program.

- Nutrition coordinator who works with the school.
- No questions are asked for food needs.
- Per Rosalie, the school has tried a dry goods pantry but it has not worked well in the past. (Foods not culturally diverse, heavy canned goods, etc.)
- Grocery cards are not an option (these were only available during covid)
- Coupons are often available (very successful)

*Parent question: is the school looking for food donations?* No, thank you. The school receives enough food for this program.

- “Changemakers” team will be coordinating a food drive before Thanksgiving.

### **Athletic** (Rosalie)

- Programs due to start up shortly:
  - Boys volleyball
  - Girls ultimate
  - Cross country
  - Girls bball (not a great response) but one of the teachers is looking at starting a casual intramural league

### **Facilities** (Albert)

- Pool is still not operational
- Need to outsource repair due to the location with is a confined space and need proper training to access
- Process to make these arrangements is complex
- Maybe end of calendar year at best but doubtful

### **Scheduling / Staffing (Albert)**

- Timetable challenges continue and changes are expected. Thank you for your patience.
- Have hired someone to help resolve and finalize expected changes. Many schools are dealing with this, not just RCI.
- New scheduling platform (Power School) has been difficult to learn and to use. Training continues.
- Grade 9 enrolment was expected to be 100 but there were 140. We are now hovering around 500 enrolment (projection was 450). Planning dept is normally very accurate.
- Grade 9s and 10s will most likely be impacted by class reassignments.
- Some low enrolment classes (single digits) may need to be cancelled if no additional allocation is received.
- Some discussion around staffing allocation. Current allocation is 25 teachers.

*Parent question: Did we lose two teachers at the end of the last school year? Answer: no.*

*Parent question: Do we have the same number of resource teachers? Clarification - our special education allocation (number of sections offered) was reduced by half - we still run GLE (Learning Strategies course for students with IEPs), and we still have Resource, but not open every period.*

*Parent question: How are we preparing / supporting teachers for split and large classes such as gym? (this was the example) Answer: Hoping to repurpose an aquatic allocation to assist. Focus on Universal Design for Learning in all classes.*

### **STEM@Runn (Albert)**

- Equity of Access to Learning update: Students in STEM or Masters program will no longer be cohorted going forward, and also due to staffing requirements
- “Universal Design for Learning” framework will be used to allow students to engage in subject material at their level.
- Information will be available shortly.

*Many questions around this from Masters program parents. Further questions to come.*

*Need to help students and parents understand these changes.*

*Why are the STEM program students still focusing on “unfinished learning”?*

*Can be demotivating to these students who enrolled in the program for a higher learning opportunity.*

- Albert: might look different but will be more equitable for all, and students will still be enriched.

- STEM@RUNN information:  
<https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/runnymede-ci-masters-program/home>

### **Urban Priority High Schools (UPHS) (Albert)**

- RCI has been identified as a UPHS.
- Started in ~2007
- Ministry provides a lump sum to the Boards to distribute as indicated. Runnymede to receive \$100,000.
- Ministry held a 3rd party audit to reimagine criteria and provide more equity
- Rough estimate: 7 returning as UPHS and 7 new added
- Will be a steering committee to determine how to use the funds and one parent representative is required. No volunteers at this meeting.

*Parent question: can we refer to last year's Direct Donation Campaign to revisit list of needs? \$2,900 of a \$10,000 goal raised last year.*

List of needs (developed by teachers):

1. Yearbook Subsidy: Students have been asked to purchase a yearbook for \$20.00, but this does not cover the cost to produce it.
2. Specialized Furniture: To create more wellness spaces for students to sit comfortably in a relaxed setting to socialize and work.
3. Human Torso Model: New inclusive models will lead to valuable learning in countless classes to come.
4. Diversity & Inclusion Activities: Let's continue our leading work with new Pride flags and signage that demonstrates our inclusiveness.

*Parent question: how is the school able to use the funds? Things or programs? Answer: 2% may be used for "things" (i.e. furniture may not apply) We can use it for staff development programs, teacher enrichment (not salaries, of course)*

### **Treasury (Albert)**

- Approximately \$44.41 in our account. More discussion to come.

### **Voting of new Executive (all)**

Confirmed positions:

Jenn Perchard, Chair

Michelle Haurilak, Comms/Secretary

Karen Hill, Treasurer

Carla Granger, Mountview rep

Rojean Prince, Ward 7 rep

### **Other business (all)**

Jenn (to Administration): what does the administration need from school council exec? Discuss further at next month meeting.

Albert (to parents): please share thoughts on fence around the school. Is in disrepair? Should we remove? Repair? Thoughts? To be discussed at next meeting.

Lecce's additional student resources for tutoring and 1:1 support in schools. Albert will follow up and share. This funding ties into the UPHS.

Parent: TVO mathify is an option. We should let parents know. Albert: will include in next school newsletter and also have math teachers share with parents.

Next meeting: **October 17 @ 7 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned.