



School Council Meeting
March 8, 2022 – 7 PM, Google Meet
Meeting Minutes

- Previous Co-Chair ~ Sarah Jane Estabrook
- Treasurer ~ Michelle Sinclair
- Secretary ~ Kate Raspopow
- Book Fair Chair ~ Joni Hamlin
- OCASC Representative ~ Hart Shouldice
- Grade 6 Committee Chair ~ Angie Wagner
- Principal, RPPS ~ Heather Mace
- Educator representative ~ Jane Baron
- RPPS Parent Participants
 - None
- Regrets
 - Crystal Holly
 - Ewa Pyman
 - Marion Siekierski
 - Sandra Miller
 - Todd Lamont
 - Varvara Chernogorskaya

1) Land Acknowledgement (Angie)

2) Review of Agenda

3) Review of February 2022 Minutes (5 minutes)

- It was noted that Council did not meet quorum to approve the minutes (or vote on other items during the meeting). Approval was deferred until the next meeting.

4) Business Arising from Minutes / Review of Action Items (5 minutes)

5) Chair Report (5 minutes)

- The Chair was not present, and items shared with the Secretary to ask members to focus on during the meeting could not be addressed due to absences among Council leads.

6) Principal Report (10 minutes)

- Acknowledged international women's day, and the continuum of days and months of recognition. Emphasized the need to focus on equity, biases, and that learning in this area is a continuum across the whole year, not just a day or a month in the year. This is a school-wide commitment.
- Recognized recent local and world events and impact on school community (including families, staff and students), and school support to staff on how to reach out to students to discuss and deal with what's going on.
- Provided a COVID update: There's a move towards loosening restrictions, including allowing the school community access to the gyms. This is positive with respect to the potential for an in-person Book Fair, however, we don't yet have all of the details from OCDSB. There will be a loosening of mask guidelines - they are no longer required outside (kids should keep more than 2m apart), and there are toys outside. In the classroom there is more use of shared materials; there's some groupwork with guidelines around them.
- Provided an update on the Library: last finishes, electrical, etc. When final materials arrive, they will look at a plan to get this to a usable space (led by the Librarian).
- Shared information on staffing. There was a request to parents for next year to confirm school enrollment, which informs considerations for classes and placements. After March break RPPS will get staffing allocations for the number of educators in the building, after which they will assign teachers to homerooms, and post and hire for any vacant positions.
- There are 418 RPPS students at last count, but this will still fluctuate.
- Shared about her classroom visit to Mme Nix's Grade 6 class, and noted how engaged students were - with the return of shared materials they were using robotics materials (purchased by Council last year).
- Council member asked about the recent OSTA email, and whether students would need to opt-in for PRESTO. Yes, they need to opt-in. OSTA uses this information to inform bus routes (driver staffing perspective), and purchasing of the cards (how many are really needed/used).

7) Educator Representative Report (5 minutes)

- Shared that having students working in small groups and being able to use shared materials is making a huge difference for teachers; students and teachers are happy. They're looking forward to using the library again.
- Indicated that the Forest of Reading books purchased with Council funds are now available for teachers to use with classes.
- Shared that there were a lot of displays from students highlighting Black Canadians and their accomplishments.
- Noted the virtual visits to classes - scientists in the classroom; Omari Akil Newton (hip hop class).
- Shared other classroom activities: Nix - programmed a micropet (ossobot); Teacher presentation on atmosphere and work in the Arctic; use of found objects (making a word machine)

8) Council - Committee Updates (25 minutes)

a) Treasurer

- Indicated that three payments made - junior class presentation; sleds and shovels; grade 6 ceremony item carried over from last year.

- Noted that Council has \$500 from OCDSB for a parent involvement activity, and Council should think about how to spend this (last year was a speaker).
- PRO grant list will be out March 25, choices to be made quickly, speakers events will happen April/May. If we go outside of their list, we have \$650 to use. Hart will circulate the list to the group once speaker options come out.
- Question of where to focus any thoughts if we go outside the options provided - June is pride month. The money we have for Indigenous learning (\$700) was also mentioned, including the possibility to combine amounts for something special. Question was put out as to if/how we gather input from parents.

b) OCASC

- Shared that virtual schools will be running next year, for the final year.
- Mentioned that there's a movement in OCASC to have an arts representative in School Councils, as there's a wider arts committee. This is aimed more at intermediate and senior levels, but RPPS Council could consider if it's worthwhile to have one for RPPS.
- Next OCASC meeting is in April

c) Book Fair Committee

- Noted that there hasn't been a meeting recently, but they're ready to start with the last launch of SWAG campaign - targeting the sale to end mid-April.
- Indicated that they're hoping for a Book Fair pub night.

d) 100th Anniversary Committee

- Indicated that Shauna is looking for article to put in Lindenleader.

e) Grade 6 Committee

- Shared that Grade 6 hoodies on sale last month (Feb), and final orders are being submitted to the supplier.
- Mentioned that Students are working on cookbook pages, to finish in the next week.
- Highlighted that students decided on final mural design (shared the design). Mme Nix will tidy up the lines, and the next step is to order paint and plan for the painting
- Nix will today up the lines a bit, an next step is to order paint for the wall and plan for the painting
- Shared that planning is being done for virtual and in-person Graduation options. Thoughts are that if a full ceremony isn't possible, there will be an activity for parents and students to do together.

f) Volunteers

- There was a reminder to think of the volunteers that will be needed for activities as they're being planned.
 - Mme Mace indicated that one possibility could be volunteer shifts to help with the unpacking of the library for a more efficient set-up (will reach out).

9) Fundraising (5 minutes)

- Indicated that there was no money raised from the call-out last week.
- Shared that the Fundraising team has some plans in the works, for example packages of things you could raffle off (e.g., family 4 packs for the Children's festival starting mid-May)

- Council member asked if the breakfast program is active again, as they're now allowed to run. Mme Mace indicated that RPPS has a program, but it's not being accessed.
- Council member asked if kids can now receive food treats (e.g., freezies for rewards of fundraising). This hasn't been added to guidelines, but they can do school things (e.g., candygrams).

10) Indigenous Learning (5 minutes)

- Shared that Beechwood cemetery would start its tour again in May, and parents and kids would be welcome.
- Noted that Indigenous Experiences has seasonal festivals, but also has workshops ranging in price. Michelle reached out to see if there is an option for people from the organization to come to RPPS, and will continue to work on planning events for the Spring when we could be outdoors together.
- Council member asked what the rule is on meeting in person/hosting an in person event, and Mme Mace said we still can't bring people in, even on the weekend. Will still have to organize something online.
- Mme Mace gave a word of caution for promoting one group/event over another in general. Choosing a specific group might be more compelling for Indigenous learning, as we're intending it to be targeted.
- Michelle will look into options for buying a number of tickets to an event - e.g., art gallery, Indigenous experiences.
- Council member brought up the idea of developing a calendar - something to include days of recognition, Council/RPPS milestones, Council deadlines, etc. to better see what the year could entail in advance and help in planning.

11) Other Business (10 minutes)

b) March Newsletter

- Kate shared thoughts for the Newsletter and will reach out to relevant leads. She'll develop a rough forward plan for Newsletter topics.

c) PRO Grant

- Discussed earlier.

12) Adjournment

Next Council meeting: April 12, 2022