

RPPS School Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021 – 7 PM, Virtual Meeting

Participants:

- Chair ~ Varvara Chernogorskaya
- Past Co-chairs ~ Sarah Jane Estabrooks, Kristen Healy
- Treasurer ~ Michelle Sinclair
- Treasurer (apprentice) ~ Ewa Pyman
- Secretary ~ Kate Raspopow
- Book Fair Chair ~ Joni Hamlin
- OCASC Representative ~ Hart Shouldice
- Grade 6 Committee Chair ~ Angie Wagner
- 100th Anniversary Co-chairs ~ Crystal Holly Amado, Todd Lamont
- Volunteer Coordinator ~ Marion Siekierski
- Principal, RPPS ~ Heather Mace
- Vice Principal, RPPS ~ Sandra Miller
- Teacher representative ~ Christina Hawley
- Non-teacher representative ~ Cilina Roebuck-Constantine
- RPPS Parent Participants
 - David Mackie
 - Belinda Riscalas
 - Mierille Sab

Regrets:

- None

1. Land Acknowledgment
● Read by Varvara Chernogorskaya
2. Review of Agenda; Grade 6 comment to share was raised; agreed it would be addressed in the Committee Updates.
3. Review of Sept, 2021 Minutes; Minutes were approved. <i>Moved by Crystal Holly Amado; seconded by Hart Shouldice; carried.</i>
4. Business Arising from Minutes / Review of Action Items a) Confirm 2021-22 Council member contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Council members asked to provide contact information via the request sent by Principal Mace.
5. Chair Report No updates provided, at this inaugural meeting in the position.

6. Principal Report

- Updates related to COVID-19, including: new public health nurse to RPPS; take home tests available for kids, if needed; HEPA filters in primary classrooms; classroom cleaning schedule being followed
- OCDSB is undergoing review of the Acceptable Use of Technology Form
- Status updates and statistics on staff allocations, enrollment, and classroom sizes; anticipate stable class sizes moving forward
- Share the discussion on benches, which recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation bench; request for other benches (e.g., Black Lives Matter; Buddy Bench), as well as a Beyond the Bench Board to bring learning and reflection into action.
- Halloween – low key celebration at the school, which would still allow for costumes
- Recognized National veterans week, including November 8th Indigenous Veterans Day, and Remembrance day on November 11.
- Shared that there have been assemblies on WITS to reinforce the ideas among students
- Shared information on the book “The Third Path: A Relationship-based Approach to Student Well-being and achievement”, whose concepts were discussed during the PD Day.

7. Teacher Representative Report

- Christina Hawley and Jane Baren will share the position of Teacher Representative
- Christina expressed thanks for the coffee and snacks provided on Teacher’s Day
- Indicated there is interest from school staff to hear about the budget and any potential money available
- Cilina Roebuck-Constantine is the new librarian, and was present as a non-teaching representative

8. Council – Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

- Updates provided as part of Budget discussion later in the meeting

b) OCASC

- First meeting was last week, where representatives met each other and shared thoughts and concerns on coming school year. COVID was the dominant topic, including parental concerns regarding class sizes.

c) Book Fair Chair

- Motion raised to allow RPPS Council Chair and RPPS Treasurer to step down as voting members from Book Fair Committee due to facilitate quorum at meetings. *Moved by Krista Healey; seconded by Sarah Jane Estabrooks; carried.*
- Provided updates on last meeting and new members.
- Book Fair Committee is focusing on 4 items: storytelling; class bookshops; sale of book fair swag and bags; virtual Book Fair
- Shared information on Ottawa Storytellers and upcoming events they’re running that RPPS will piggyback off; more information to be shared when available.

- Discussed logistical challenges facing Book Fair, and the Friends of Rockcliffe Park Book Fair who have offered to help with much of the Book Fair preparations (as the Book Fair Committee cannot currently work within the confines of school policy and liabilities); anyone is welcome to join this group.

d) 100th Anniversary Committee

- The Committee met a few weeks ago, and will need to decide upon and form sub-committees. Co-Chairs will reach out to the Council and others to fill roles required.
- Events will run through to the end of the 2022-23 school year.
- There will be a tulip sale in 2022-23, with a Rockcliffe Park school tulip. 500 free tulips are being planted now so they could be planted for next year's bloom, so they can be seen prior to the sale.
- Branding idea to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Joni recommended Book Fair be part of the 100th Committee.

e) Grade 6 Committee

- Would like to do a mural where each person would have a portion to paint; need to connect with the student Grade 6 committee
- Request from student shared regarding the desire to bring back pizza day.
- Principal Mace shared that decisions to hold school food programs and school photos is made by the OCDSB, and the current Board directive doesn't allow for these to take place at the current time.

f) Volunteer Coordinator

- A previous list of potentially interested parent volunteers, to use as a starting point, will be shared to the Coordinated by the Past Co-Chairs.

9. Other Business

a) Year-end Council report

- As the report is still being finalized, this item was carried over until the November meeting.

b) School Council Budget 2021-22

- Treasurer provided an overview of the proposed budget, and shared that values were based on last year's approved budget and highlighted that both revenues and expenditures are relatively low, as a result of COVID.
- Treasurer noted the additional fundraising last year, but noted that the draft Budget was done not assuming any additional revenues, to ensure minimum expenses were covered with already available funds.
- It was confirmed that Council had previously agreed to pay for half of Book Fair's shelf storage.
- It was explained that the workshops supported through Council budget benefit the entire school.

- The new Indigenous learning line item is to support parents learning about Indigenous history and culture alongside their children, as per RPPS' commitment, as stated in the Land Acknowledgement (i.e., not covered by existing programs or funding available for Indigenous learning). Need to determine where gaps in knowledge are, what we could do as parents and work with the community, etc. A lead or group of parents could help identify options.
- It was noted that RPPS staff are interested in know what the approved budget is, and what funds might be available for additional requests. Teacher representative will consult with staff to collect a series of ideas and potential options that would also go toward collaborative needs.
- Line item added for maker space (\$500), taking from the float money.
- It was agreed that school grants (\$1000) should remain in the budget, to support equity across other schools in our community.
- There was a brief discussion on fundraising, including raffles, spirit wear, etc. Will require a discussion at a future Council meeting.
- With questions on whether further discussion could be held to the next meeting prior to approval, it was emphasized that Budget approval is needed for any spending on items listed occurring in the immediate to near term. The budget was created to be nimble, and can be adjusted, as needed (e.g., changes to revenues/required expenditures, additional requests put to Council for approval, etc.).
- All recognized the budget will be adjusted as needed moving forward, based on any protocol and motions put forward at future meetings.
- Request from Treasurer to all Council members to copy her on all emails dealing with finances, including fundraising.
- *Moved by Joni Hamlin. Seconded by Varvara Chernogorskaya. All council members agree. Carried.*

c) Library renewal update

- On schedule for finishing the library (end of October)
- Librarian was tasked with developing maker space options, and requested funding (~\$600) for some of the maker space bin materials (will be created to be COVID-friendly). Materials should last the entire year.
- The library will also make a future request for maker space tables and a furniture piece, as they weren't part of original estimates. Library would still open without.
- Forest of reading may also require funding, although the amount is still to be determined. They would still like to consider moving forward. Book nominees are still coming out. The program would start running in January.
- Council members offered to explore options and coordinate donation of items that would be used for maker spaces to help offset costs (i.e., LEGO, arts and crafts supplies).
- Librarian will get estimates to be forward at a future meeting for consideration.

- d) Appropriate Use of Technology (P.100.IT) review and feedback
 - One of the issues being looked at is how we set up schools to be inclusive and open to all students.
 - Request for Council members to provide comments. OCASC representative will collect feedback from members.
 - Council will discuss in November.
- e) School Photos Update
 - OCDSB decision – schools cannot have photos done at this time.
- f) Grade 6 request
 - Addressed as part of an earlier discussion
- g) Book Fair Budget
 - *Moved by Sarah Jane Estabrooks. Approved by Michelle Sinclair. Carried.*

10. Adjournment

9:00

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 7 PM, Virtual Meeting