



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

- Chair ~ Varvara Chernogorskaya
- Previous Co-Chair ~ Sarah Jane Estabrook
- 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
- Volunteer Coordinator – Marion Siekierski
- Principal, RPPS ~ Heather Mace
- Vice Principal, RPPS ~ Sandra Miller
- Teacher representative ~ Christina Hawley
- RPPS Parent Participants
 - Diana Impan
- Regrets
 - Todd Lamont

1) Land Acknowledgement (Kate Raspopow)

2) Review of Agenda

- Acknowledgement of member resignation added to the “Other” item

3) Review of January 2022 Minutes (5 minutes)

- Administrative edits acknowledged, and explanation of fundraising ‘buckets’ to be added.
- Moved: Varvara Chernogorskaya; seconded by Hart Shouldice. Approved.

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

- Will be covered in group updates

5) Chair Report (5 minutes)

- Recognized the importance of the 100th Anniversary and its events.

- Acknowledged the need for action for fundraising; she will meet with the Principal to confirm school-related areas where Council fundraising might support activities.

6) Principal Report (10 minutes)

- Shared about the communication on street proofing, and acknowledged the recent communications via social media and list serves on a presumed incident at the school. Council members had reached out at night. Not all information being circulated was correct. A police report was still filed. Appreciation for sharing and redirecting the message, including to please not to post information without corroboration.
- An interactive Kindergarten information night happened the other week, and the video is now posted on the website.
- The school is entering staffing and enrollment period, and that the info will be used to estimate staffing.
- The school is looking into a land acknowledgement for Kindergarteners.
- Report cards are coming home on Feb 16.
- The Library is waiting on electrical work and installation of a dragon silhouette at the end of the library. Furniture is ordered, and the student learning space/lab is coming in. The Maker Space area still has a gap (e.g., tables); Council support will be sought.
- Traffic safety (arrival and dismissal) has been an issue; have talked to parents about unsafe behaviour (e.g., using the turning circle at certain times), and the library and the city for options. Families can use Library parking for drop off in the morning. The City is looking at extending the sidewalk (down Buena Vista in front of Elmwood) to expand walking space.
- Council members discussed whether they have a role to play in the questions on sidewalks, contributing to the survey or feedback, writing city councillors. Suggested having the community perspective would be good, and that a form email could be drafted and provided to those interested.
- There was a discussion of the Transportation master plan consultations looking for safe walking areas (Ottawa.ca/TMPUpdate).
- Bad areas (e.g., Buchan; lower down on Springfield) were brought up; people pull onto the grass near the fieldhouse, even before 4:00 when it's not open to the community. The school zone coordinator could explore improvements (e.g., a gate).
- It was asked whether the school board coordinator be an ally for this. The possibility to leverage stakeholders in the area (e.g., Embassies); Varvara could help find contacts to reach out to.
- It was noted that the project is still year out to decisions and construction, and was suggested to use the school and community contact route.
- It was shared that the OCDSB will have a COVID dashboard, although the data will be more anecdotal. Absences at RPPS seem to be declining compared to the first week of January, with a seemingly low number of 'risk' absences. Thanks was expressed for Council and parent support with Masks and RATs. There will also be testing kits made available to those who need it as they've used theirs if needed.

7) Educator Representative Report (5 minutes)

- Recent highlights were provided: tulip colouring and naming; Forest School; Indigenous history learning; - students really enjoyed this.
- During Black History Month, Fatima Imvary spoke about her experiences related to Bill 21; students were very engaged and interactive.
- Two Canadian fighter pilots and explain jobs to Grade 6's; aligned with the flight curriculum.
- Some junior classes have been out skating. There was a discussion on helmets, options for donating, and City and OCDSB policies for skating and helmet/equipment donations; waiting on clarification from OCDSB.

- There are funds in the Board for these things, and the Education Foundation has funds and could be explored. The school will look into supporting families who may need school or Council support once policies are clarified. Sports or other contacts could be provided to the school once we get clarity.

8) Council - Committee Updates (25 minutes)

a) Treasurer

- Not much money has been spent in the last cycle.
- Council will be getting some money from the Board, and we're looking for clarification on how it will come.

b) OCASC

- Waiting on OCASC meeting minutes; minutes Hart will synthesize minutes and circulate to Council members.

c) Book Fair Committee

- Looking for special BookFair emails - they would be sent as a standalone email on Wednesday to help with recruitment.
- There are no volunteers for next year's Book Fair Chair. If no one volunteers the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Committee has the School Council as the defacto Book Fair Chair. The ToR is being redone; it's being suggested that a Council representative could serve as Book Fair Chair (potentially on a rotating basis).
- The Committee is reaching out to other organizations to see if they could put on Book Fair, as it's not yet looking like an in person event at RPPS would be possible. Storing in a separate location wouldn't work, and we can't rely on the Friends of Book Fair again. Virtual isn't a viable option.
- Heather wants to start highlighting the issues to administrators to promote Book Fair, and will look to get answers by the end of March.
- There was a discussion on the possibility for using unused OCDSB properties (e.g., Rideau High School). Heather will ask if they have different guidelines. It was noted that using anywhere offsite will see a drop in revenue.
- Book Fair provided a video for Kindergarten night
- The Committee is in the last push for Book Fair swag; social media and listservs will be leveraged. The minimum order has yet to be reached, but will likely be met.
- Book Fair has replenished its minimum reserved funds to put on Book Fair next year. Council will still support for storage.
- The last Committee meetings for the year are being organized.

d) 100th Anniversary Committee

- Tulip naming contest went well; will have selection of top choices for the students to vote on.
- There was 100th article in NewEdinburgh news for promotion.
- Co-chairs are working to get the date secured for the field (via the school); Crystal submitted to the City for Jubilee park and Fieldhouse (Community). There are issues with booking more than a year in advance for the Park, which we're trying to resolve.
- Info is rolling in for the database; about to send a blitz via social media.

- e) Grade 6 Committee
 - For the Grade 6 Hoodies, Ms. Currie collected signatures and has been in touch with the supplier. Hoodies are being posted on the website.
 - Cookbook/yearbook - meetings have been held to organize the process, and the template has been made.
 - For the Mural, Ms. Currie and Ms. Nix are putting together a slideshow of student submissions. Students will get to vote.
- f) Volunteers
 - Will meet with volunteers next week. No outreach has gone out to the community yet, as we need a clearer message on what we're asking from them first.
 - Helmets for skating, and tables, were suggested as options for targeted fundraising.

9) Fundraising (5 minutes)

- A few will be meeting to discuss fundraising. Needs identification.
- Next meeting will be this or next week.

10) Indigenous Learning (5 minutes)

- Questions to indicate desired type of learning will be added to the survey for parents, and Heather will put a 'blast' out tomorrow to parents to help get more responses
- It was thought that other ways to engage (e.g., music, activities) could reach a broader group of parents, as self-directed resources often tend to hit the same people. Michelle asked if members could add resources they know of in the document on the Drive.

11) Other Business (10 minutes)

- a) RPPS Staff Appreciation
 - Council member, Joni Hamlin, reached out to families for enough baked goods.
 - It was raised that baking could be a way to draw in parent volunteers to Council.
- b) February Newsletter
 - Kate will circulate the list of February Newsletter ideas, and create documents in the shared drive for Council members to add content directly
- c) Council Milestones
 - Document presented to help identify Council and sub-Committee milestones, for awareness and help with coordination of activities.
 - Council members will review, suggest revisions, add content, as appropriate
- d) Acknowledgement
 - Led by Sarah Jane Estabrooks, Council members recognized the resignation of Kristin Healey from RPPS School Council, and acknowledged her significant contributions to Council and RPPS while co-Chair, and otherwise on Council.

12) Adjournment - 8:36

Next Council meeting: March 8, 2022