



School Council Meeting

March 21, 2023 – 6:30 PM, RPPS Library

Meeting Minutes

- Co-Chair ~ Kate Raspopow
- Co-Chair ~ Ewa Pyman
- Past Chair ~ Sarah Jane Estabrooks
- Treasurer ~ Mehdi Gorban
- Members at Large ~ Thomas Geraghty, Annemarie Fraser
- OCASC representative ~ Hart Shouldice
- Book Fair Chair ~ Laura McCurdy
- Principal, RPPS ~ Brian Chiasson
- Vice Principal, RPPS ~ Christopher Wereley
- Teacher representatives ~ Lindsay Craig, Jane Baron

Regrets:

- Khalil Sharif - grade 6 chair
- Carmen Bohn - secretary
- Arian Ahmadi - 100th committee chair
- Christina Hawley - teacher representative
- Rachel Seeney - member at large

- 1) **Land Acknowledgement** - read by Kate
- 2) **Review of Agenda** - unanimously approved
- 3) **Review of February 2023 Minutes**

Motion to approve: Hart Shouldice, Seconded: Ewa Pyman

4) Business Arising from Minutes / Review of Action Items

- a) Update on stereo system
 - The school has identified a new system, Brian will update on the status
- b) Update on jerseys
 - Covered in Principal's report
- c) Update on Cumberland museum field trip
 - Council will pay for the school buses and admission tickets for the students (this was approved by council via email before the meeting)
- d) Readers inventory and Empower readers
 - Covered in Principal's report
- e) Update on facilitating budget item use by educators
 - Council cannot purchase gift cards for use by educators
 - Educators can buy items from their preferred store and submit a form to council for reimbursement

5) Chair Report

- a) [Parents Reaching Out \(PRO\) grant](#)
 - RPPS had missed earlier deadline for this grant, but the deadline was extended by the board
 - Up to \$750 to address social inclusion and racism, specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism, and other prejudices toward racialized and marginalized groups, among other target areas.
 - Proposal put forth to support a virtual [KAIROS blanket exercise](#).
 - Would be for 15-40 parents, 1.5 hour session and 1 hour for discussion
 - If the grant is successful the event would take place at the end of April
- b) Board working group
 - Composed of approximately seven people from other councils (including high schools, alternate schools, etc.)
 - RPPS is represented by Kate and Sarah Jane
 - Aim to create a document to help school councils - e.g. tips and tricks, most useful/most used policy guidelines, etc.
 - Looking for recommendation of things that could be helpful for the working group to recommend to the Board (e.g. having a Board point person to help councils with guideline interpretation)
 - **ACTION:** Share with Kate and Sarah Jane if you have questions or suggestions for this document.

6) Principal Report

- Staffing update

John Reynard is now in an LTO term position, behind primary ETFI teacher Debbie Jolley (ETFI Grade 1 & 2) for the remainder of the school year.

- Winter Play Day, March 8th

Thank you to Mme Clément, Mme Whelan, our Grade 6 student leaders, and all parent volunteers!



- **French levelled readers & decodables inventory update**

- Thank you to Mme Fatma and Mme Lemieux for taking this project on!
- We have what we need at the primary level.
- Area of need; levelled readers at the JUNIOR level - order in process
- Each French teachers was just allotted a bin of readers for use in their classroom, with the option of sharing with same-grade teachers

- **School Climate Survey**

- March 24th deadline
- There are a variety of resources to support the implementation of the parent survey. These include information on the [OCDSB School Climate webpage](#), and a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) page for parents.

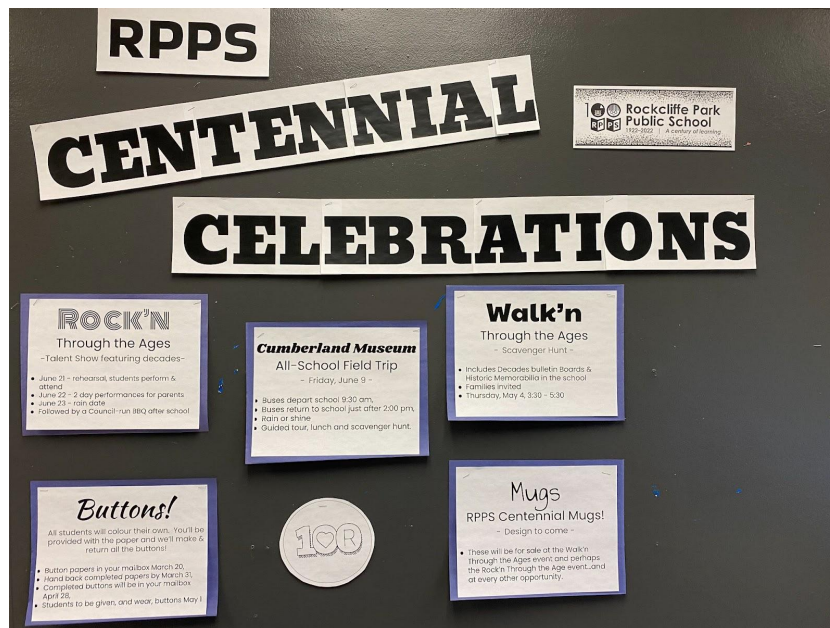
 RPPS Parent Information Letter for School Climate Survey

- **Autism Awareness Month opportunity**

AUTISM AWARENESS Virtual Event - An evening with Dr. Peter Vermeulen from Autism in Context, discussing [Neurodiversity to Neuroharmony](#).

Open to all OCDSB employees and parents/caregivers via google drive link. As the presentation will only be available to the OCDSB for the Month of April, participants are encouraged to join us at the **premiere showing on 3 April 2023 at 7:00 pm**. An opportunity to ask questions will be provided and Dr. Vermeulen will provide a recording of his answers which will be made available by 21 April 2023.

- **Centennial update**



- Codie (Chief Custodian) confirmed a custodian would be on-site Sat., May 13th for the anniversary tea
 - School chairs are not ideal for outdoor use + we cannot bring them off-site
 - we have 4 pizza tables that we WILL lend for the event
- *Walk'n through the ages*: May 4th parent event held during education week
 - 10 bulletin boards representing each decade
 - Scavenger hunt for families
 - School will sell mugs
 - Council may have mock-up of some SWAG that will be for sale on the website
 - Kids are making personalized I ❤️ R buttons to wear during that week
- *Rock'n through the ages*: to be held June 22nd, same day as council BBQ
 - Rain date for both: June 23rd
 - Talent show featuring decades, held during school day
 - After second performance BBQ will begin outside
 - Everest photo company is happy to do Family Photo Night during the BBQ if this is something we would like + is looking into doing a rooftop whole-school photo for us
 - May also look into letting groups of kids take photos together
 - Could provide decade-themed costumes for the kids
- **ACTION**: Send Brian any DJ options for the talent show you might know of.
- media coverage for any of the events?
- **Construction update**
 - dumpster
 - key fob at the entrance south of large gym doors
 - we are now told fencing will NOT be installed, so parking spots will remain available (minus three for construction crew) and EDP pick-up routine will go back to normal
- **Thank you, School Council**
 - divisional purchases (K/J/I)
 - speaker for school events
 - Makerspace items

- Cumberland Village Heritage Museum, transportation AND admission costs for students
- sports jerseys/tees + centennial mugs from Houle sports in progress **Centennial swag as well?*

ACTION: Kate to reach out to Arian this week to finalize logo for SWAG

***outdoor education order in process (Kinder biodiversity sheets + Forest learning)

7) Teacher Representative Report

1. Read at Home Books: All the English teachers, as well as the Primary French teachers, feel that they have enough books for Read at Home.

The Junior French teachers, however, require Read at Home books. They have investigated resources, and propose a purchase of books totalling \$3882.00; \$1242.00 for novels at beginning, medium and difficult levels, and \$2640.00 for levelled books (levels 20 to 30). Please see the [attached breakdown](#).

The Junior teachers have a \$600.00 surplus in School Council funds, which they can allocate towards funding the cost of the French reading resources.

The readers will be purchased with funds from the Spring pizza sale.

2. Vegetable Garden: Mme Fatma and Mme Clement would like to start a vegetable garden in the garden now being used for the tulips. They estimate that they will need \$1000.00 in funding. I will suggest that they wait until the tulips have bloomed before they move the bulks, and ask them to provide more details regarding needs and strategies to meet the needs (e.g., reaching out to Ritchies for donations).

8) Committee Updates

a) Treasurer

i) Share updated budget along with monthly update

- \$9000 remain unallocated in the budget (this includes spring pizza proceeds which will go towards items, such as readers)
- Mehdi has updated the software for the council budget
- **Action:** Sub meeting to decide the best way of doing receipts etc. for the school to claim council funds (Book Fair Chair to be included)
- Book fair donations to area schools will come from council, letter to be co-signed by co-chairs and Book Fair Chair. Brian will email the schools to let them know a letter/cheque is coming in the board mail.

b) OCASC

- PRO grant submitted (see Chairs' report)
- Hart gave an update on discussions held at recent OCASC meetings.
 - Other councils also struggle with parent engagement
 - Parents have differing views on what councils can and should do
 - The pandemic introduced a lack of continuity
 - Parent involvement committee is being formed to tackle some of these issues
 - How to build capacity on council?
 - How to communicate the value and importance of being involved in council?
 - Share strategies

c) Book Fair Committee

- First recruitment meeting will be held March 23rd in the school library - thanks to Brian for sending a targeted email to parents and for distributing flyers to all students
 - Because of the loss of two Book Fairs due to the pandemic, there are a lot of families in the school without Book Fair experience. Those who haven't been involved may not realise how much work is involved in delivering Book Fair.
 - Book Fair committee is trying to build teams, with Team Leaders and small 2-3 people teams
 - If low turnout to recruitment meeting, may need to consider scaling back on Book Fair
 - Will begin collecting books - including leftovers from a Kanata church book sale in May
 - Hoping to open the bins in front of the school - will need many volunteers for this as the bins need to be emptied every weekday and can't interfere with daycare between 3pm-6pm
 - May have to do scheduled drop-offs if not enough volunteers
 - Brian and Laura to meet with custodian to discuss storage options in school if girls' bathroom storage becomes unavailable during renovations
 - Spring activities:
 - Spring book drive - classes to compete for most donations with prizes for most books (prize = ice cream sandwiches!)
 - Book Fair themed contests with kids in Spring - will speak to teachers to gauge interest (will perhaps be after report cards are done)
 - Design a bookmark contest? Winners can be printed and given away at the registers during Book Fair
 - Book Fair presence at the 100th celebrations
 - **ACTION:** Book Fair book keeper and council treasurer to meet
- d) *Grade 6 Committee*
- Khalil will be meeting with Brian and/or Chris and Mme Nix this week.
- e) *100th Anniversary Committee*
- i) *Plan of Council 100th anniversary activities*
- Will need volunteers for SWAG orders (Ewa, Christopher, and Annemarie volunteered)

9) Forward Looking Priorities

- a) Forward agenda
- Kate prepared a [forward agenda](#) for the last few meetings of the year
 - **ACTION:** bring items to Kate/Ewa or edit the file itself
- b) Review of Council activities until the end of year (outside of 100th anniversary activities)
- i) RPPS Swag
- May have some samples available for the Walk'n Through the Ages event in May
- ii) Year end BBQ
- Put on by council, so all council members should be prepared to volunteer in June!
- c) Diversity & Inclusion, and Indigenous Learning
- d) Longer-term/multi-year projects
- **ACTION:** Educators to bring ideas to council

10) Other Business

- Kate is in contact with Jennifer Allanson, a social media professional to set up a council Instagram page and revive the Facebook page
- **ACTION:** Any ideas for this can be sent to Jennifer or Kate.

11) Adjournment at 8:15.