

RPPS School Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2017 – 7 PM, RPPS Library

Participants:

David Mackie, *Chair*
Laura Charlton, *Secretary*
Melissa Bulmer, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Janelle Sauvageau, *OCASC Rep*
Christina Leadlay, *Book-Fair Chair*
Imbaw Storer, *Past Chair*
Éric Grenon, *Member at Large*
Linda Lee, *Member at Large*

Sheila Sugavanam, *Member at Large*
Hazem Abu-Dalfa, *Member at Large*
Katia Sioufi Guarna, *Principal, RPPS*

Regrets:

Candace Amis, *Vice-Chair*
Hacene Oukacine, *Member at Large*
Nicole White, *Treasurer*
Heather Gordon, *Teacher, RPPS*

1. Approval of / Additions or Changes to Agenda;

Agenda was approved with the correction that Janelle Sauvageau was not present.
Moved by Linda Lee; seconded by Melissa Bulmer; carried.

2. Approval of November, 2017 Minutes;

Minutes were approved.
Moved by Hazem Abu-Dalfa; seconded by Laura Charlton; carried.

3. Business Arising from Minutes / Review of Action Items;

- Candace & Nicole will be in charge of the clothing drive (Nicole will focus on grade 6 clothing). We will begin to promote in December & take orders in January.
- May 9th has been confirmed as Family Science night with community use of schools.
- Kris Bulmer is track & field rep for rink/pavilion project
- CAFCO Presentation/ Workshop costs; 2 hour presentation for parents = cost of \$800, a parent presentation & student workshop at the same time = cost of \$1000-\$1500

ACTION item: Dave will contact CAFCO regarding further details (i.e., capacity, how student workshops are run etc...)

ACTION item: Melissa Bulmer will put David Mackie in contact with Emily Moyo

4. Chair's Report

Within his report David Mackie noted the following;

- Dave has started updating information on the council run website.

ACTION item: Council members, please have a look at our website and forward any recommended changes to Dave <https://www.rockcliffeparkps.com/>

- Doireann Matson is stepping down as Milk & Pizza coordinator effective June 2018. If we can find someone to replace her, she will be happy to train them over the winter

ACTION item: Put notice about availability of Pizza coordinator on Friday update. Try to find someone to shadow Doireann.

- Springfield landscaping project is underway! Thanks to Imbaw for seeing this through

5. Principal's Report

Katia Sioufi Guarna provided the following update;

- Cash online is up & running. School has been encouraging parents to sign-up.
- Librarian is away until the end of January
- Ski club is being run for grade 4, 5 & 6 students in new year & will be looking for parent volunteers
- Spanish classes will be running in January as well (28 registrants so far)
- Coding club beginning in January as an extracurricular
- Educational Assistants are taking student helpers to fill milk bins

6. Updates;

a) Treasurer - Nicole White (via email)

- Online subscriptions for RAZ reading program purchased, it has been put into the subject support category
- School wide drumming workshop and some decor and planters purchased for the school
- Nicole has talked to Jennifer about using the school's online payment system for school council's online payments as well, she's hopeful that it could happen but of course it will have to be set up properly through the board. It would have to be set up so as school council funds (pizza, milk, etc) would go straight to the council's bank account, Jennifer doesn't want the funds to go to the school bank account because then she would be back to writing out cheques for council again. Nicole & Jennifer both agreed that this would probably take some time and wouldn't be set up in time for the 2nd session of milk/pizza which starts in February, so they would be aiming to have it organized for September next year.

b) Book Fair Chair - Christina Leadley

- Thank you party was a small but lovely success. Thanks to Roxie Clark for organizing.
- The Book Fair final report will be presented to Council in January 2018.
- A one page summary of the report was presented which included how the funds work into Council's budget, and a plea for more volunteers on our Standing Committee.
- Book fair grants- in recent history five \$1000 grants have been given to OCDSB schools in need. A recommendation was made for six \$1000 grants to be given to schools this year.

MOTION: To approve six grants of \$1000 be given to OCDSB schools in need.

Moved by Christina Leadley, Seconded Hazem Abu-Dalfa; carried

- Book Fair is in hibernation mode for the next few months. However, there will be a large truck full of books being dropped off in February. Book fair will keep Council posted so as to get about a dozen people to help load and unload them
- Book fair's next meeting will not be until March 2018 when it will likely be combined with a Book Sort night and pizza to entice new volunteers.

d) OCASC Representative - Hazem Abu-Dalfa

- Hazem shared information from the November 16, 2017 OCASC meeting;
- Two documents were shared at the meeting;
 - 1) The Board Improvement Plan 2017-18,
 - 2) Annual Student Achievement Report 2017-17
 - Discussion that school principal should be sharing The School Learning Plan (SLP), overall performance, achievement gaps, and characteristics of students who met & did not meet the provincial standard in mathematics
- Update from SEAC & Gifted Advisory committee who provided information about the pilot gifted program
- Presentation by Mike Carson (School board CFO); basic bookkeeping
 - Discussion about options for moving council funds under the school account
- Need to fill vacant positions in OCASC
- Report about screening tools for students who may be gifted (Grade 4 - CCAT; Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test)

7. Other Business;

Report on Inequity in Council Fundraising Meeting - Christina Leadley:

- Hosted by school trustees Chris Ellis, Shawn Menard and Erica Braunovan
- Attended by Christina Leadley on behalf of RPPS
- Over 2 dozen parents attended from different schools
- Discussion about the disparity in funding between schools
- The meeting boiled down larger school equity issues, and the fact that the board is not adequately funding its schools, forcing councils to fundraise. They shouldn't be fundraising, but they are.
- The trustees were very excited by the great turnout and the ideas parents had and said now is the time to have an impact, as the board is preparing its budget for next year and these ideas/sentiments should be brought to the table.
- Also 2018 is an election year so these issues should be brought to the Ministry of Education. Urban vs rural issue, as well. Systemic problem. Funding formulas still date from the Mike Harris days.
- Further discussion of why education is a low priority in Canada. Quality teachers have a greater impact on educational outcomes vs. fundraising. One trustee said fundraising did have an impact on EQAO results; though the CD Howe Institute disagrees.
- Some parents liked the idea of pairing or matching schools (a needy school with one that had funds to spare) but felt this should be done in an organic way, not forced by

the board. Perhaps principals could create an informal network? Participants liked the idea of building connections between school councils, using paired schools as resources for volunteers.

Rink project - Imbaw Storer.

- Ongoing discussions, progress is being made
- Hosers are considering moving pavillion to southern end of field
- Grading field with backfill would be a possibility
- We will need to decide as a council if/ how much we will contribute to re-grading/ maintenance of rink/ fieldhouse

8. Adjournment;

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2017 – 7 PM, RPPS Library