

RPPS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2017

PARTICIPANTS:

Imbaw Storer, Chair
Candace Amis, Vice Chair
Caroline Matt, Past Chair
Kristi Squires, Secretary
Nicole White, Treasurer
Jane Hooker, Volunteer Coordinator
Hacene Oukacine, Member at Large
Linda Lee, Member at Large
Laura Charlton, Member at Large
Éric Grenon, Member at Large
Christina Leadlay, Book Fair Representative
Shari Brodie, Principal, RPPS

Megan Brady, RCCC Representative

REGRETS:

Roxan Clark, Member at Large
David Mackie, OCASC Representative
Heather Gordon, Teacher Representative

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved. Moved by Linda Lee; seconded by Éric Grenon; carried.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2017 MINUTES

Minutes were approved with one minor change (to correct spelling for Christina's surname from "Leadley" to "Leadlay." Moved by Hacene Oukacine; seconded by Caroline Matt; carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM JANUARY 10, 2017 MINUTES

Action items arising from January 10th minutes were completed, as follows:

- Jane Hooker met with Caroline Matt, Joni Hamlin, Christina Leadlay and Imbaw Storer on January 25, 2017 to discuss the volunteer coordinator role, and related action going forth.
- Imbaw Storer sent Christina Leadlay the Council email address list.

OUTSTANDING ACTION: Nicole White to draft wording for sign that indicates times during which the Kindergarten Yard is available for public use.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

In light of the motion approved during the December 13, 2016 meeting that recognizes Council's support for a continued dual track program at RPPS, Imbaw Storer advised that he and Caroline Matt attended the January 24, 2017 Committee of the Whole public meeting. Council's position, and the

delegation's statements made during the Committee meeting, were put on record. While the 1.5 classes per program target has been removed from the Elementary School Program Framework (ESPF), Imbaw noted that language remains that speaks to program sizes, and as such, it may be necessary for Council to advocate its position again in the future.

Imbaw emphasized the need to remain in close contact with our School Board Trustee, as well as the OCDSB Superintendent of Instruction. With respect to the later, Pino Buffone has been appointed as Director of Education in Renfrew County. Susan MacDonald (retired Superintendent of Instruction), will be filling in for Mr. Buffone until the end of June 2017.

Imbaw relayed that he and Shari Brodie recently met Head Hoser Brian Montgomery. While Mr. Montgomery is stepping away from managing the rink, a relationship has been established and Shari will be able to contact one of the other Hosers, should the need arise. It was noted that consideration is being given to building a chill pad, and should such happen, Council might consider putting forth a monetary contribution for annual maintenance, as RPPS has privilege rights. Should the chill pad indeed be built, in the off season, it will be used for basketball, pickle ball and/or other court sports.

5. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Shari Brodie made mention of a number of issues, including:

- An abandoned car parked in front of trail has made it impossible of late for snow plows to clear the rink. The City was contacted on February 13, 2017, and the car was subsequently towed.
- Student transfer requests must be made during the application period, which is February 6-21, 2017. It was noted that RPPS is at zero capacity, so it is unlikely that any applications for transfer to the school will be granted. All applications are reviewed and approved by an Executive Council within the Board.
- Report cards will be going home on February 22, 2017.
- Kindergarten registration, to date, is low. Early registration is encouraged for planning purposes.
- A meeting took place with an architect and renovation team during the week of February 6, 2017 to discuss Kindergarten class expansion. Participants toured the kitchen, but made no commitments concerning such. The renovation team will be renewing the exterior stucco, and replacing all sinks, toilets and urinals. A pitch has been made for new lockers (or at least locker doors), and renovation of east wing classrooms (given that they are oddly shaped, and you are required to walk through one to get to the other).
- A Right to Play assembly took place on February 8, 2017. Right to Play is an international organization that uses play to educate and empower children and youth to overcome the effects of poverty, conflict and disease in disadvantaged communities. The Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, and Senator Chantal Petitclerc and others were in attendance. The presentation was described as powerful. RPPS has been invited to send 10-15 students for training at the Board in June, who, when they return, will train other

students. Grade 4 and 5 students will be selected, so that they can continue to train others in their remaining years at RPPS.

- Three teams represented RPPS at the Kids Lit Competition at Ashbury College. RPPS placed third. The teams were asked questions about books, poetry and fiction, and were required to be well-versed in variety of subjects.
- Ski club begins on Thursday, February 14, 2017 and is open to kids in grades 5 and 6.
- Friday, February 17th is a Professional Development Day, and Monday, February 20th is Family Day.
- A Mad Science Club will take place at the Rockcliffe Park Community Centre on Sundays for 5 weeks, commencing February 26, 2017. The registration deadline is February 17, 2017. Students / little scientists will learn different skills that will help them at school and in their everyday life; including observation and hypothesis; teamwork; interactive and hands-on experiments; and focus and problem solving.
- Volleyball practices continue; basketball starts during the week of February 20, 2017.
- During the 2017/18 school year, the Ottawa School Transportation Authority (OSTA) will assume responsibility for all processes, including application and empty seat reviews.
- Shari officially announced that she will retire at the end of the school year, but hopes to come back as a supply Principal thereafter. She noted that it was always her dream to return to RPPS, and that she has thoroughly enjoyed working with RPPS parents and students for the last four years.

6. UPDATES

Treasurer

In Nicole White's absence, Imbaw Storer made mention of a recent incident that took place at Leslie Park Public School in which nearly \$15,000 in fundraising proceeds went missing. In an effort to further strengthen RPPS's checks and balances, it was noted that changes will be made to our accounting and reconciliation processes, including future use of QuickBooks.

Volunteer Coordinator

Jane Hooker advised that she, Caroline Matt, Joni Hamlin, Christina Leadlay and Imbaw Storer met on January 25, 2017 to talk about volunteer recruitment. As in previous years, it was agreed that Council would seek volunteer recruits at Kindergarten Information Night and at the end of the year BBQ. It was also agreed that, going forth, recruitment efforts will take place at Meet the Teacher Night. Parents will be invited to come and meet with Council and other members of the parent community after the first round of meet and greets. It was also agreed that parents picking up directories would be asked to do so in the designated recruitment area, which might help to generate interest and nominations.

Jane also advised that they talked about involving class parents in our recruitment efforts, as potential Council members and/or volunteers, might be more apt to put their hands up if message comes from a parent and not Council member.

Shari Brodie noted that the role of Class Parent Volunteer differs, depending on the individual in question and his/her comfort level. Some volunteers serve as field trip supervisors; others assist teachers in their rooms; etc.

For upcoming calendar events, Jane noted that she would get in touch with the Council Event Lead to determine the number of volunteers required for specific tasks. Electronic sign-up will also be facilitated.

OCASC Representative

Given David Mackie's absence, an update with respect to this item will be provided at the next Council meeting.

Book Fair Chair

Christina Leadlay informed that a Book Fair Meet and Greet will be held on February 16, 2017 from 1900 to 2100 hours in the school library. It will provide interested parents with an opportunity to get to know other Book Fair members, find out which jobs require filling, and have a glass of wine and some cheese. A liquor permit has been obtained.

A truck has been rented to transport books from a book sale in Kanata back to RPPS on February 25, 2017. A call letter will be sent out in attempt to recruit volunteers to assist in unloading books.

Book Fair's café team leader will contact the caterer from last year and offer her the right of first refusal for this year's event. If she is not interested, Mazzola will be approached.

Book bins will open on April 1, 2017 this year.

The next Book Fair meeting will take place on March 7, 2017.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

2017 Schedule of Events

The 2017 Schedule of Events was reviewed.

School Council Communications:

Brief discussion ensued about whether the Council Chair and Vice Chair (and others, as appropriate) should use their personal email addresses to communicate to the parent body, or if more formal addresses should be created. It was agreed that the latter would be appropriate. It was also suggested that school council updates that are emailed to the school community be posted to the website.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 2122 hours.

Minutes prepared by Kristi Squires.