

RPPS School Council Meeting Notes

January 10, 2017

PARTICIPANTS

Imbaw Storer, Chair
Candace Amis, Vice Chair
Caroline Matt, Past President
Nicole White, Treasurer
Jane Hooker, Volunteer Coordinator
David Mackie, OCASC Representative
Christina Leadlay, Book Fair Representative
Heather Gordon, Teacher Representative
Linda Lee, Member at Large

Éric Grenon, Member at Large
Laura Charlton, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Shari Brodie, Principal, RPPS
Kristi Squires, Secretary
Roxan Clark, Member at Large
Hacene Oukacine, Member at Large

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved. Moved by Caroline Matt; seconded by David Mackie; carried.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2016 MINUTES

Minutes were approved with the following changes to the motion in the Treasurer section: Add to the motion that the Book Fair revenue be changed to \$50K; change that "...an additional \$3,355 be allocated to the School Wide Program..." (and not \$5K); and change that "...an additional \$2K be allocated to "Kitchen Renovations" and line item be added for "Kitchen Renovations" under "School Enrichment".

MOTION: Motion to approve Minutes with the changes. Moved by Caroline Matt; seconded by Nicole White; carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Action items arising from December 13, 2016 minutes were completed, as follows:

- Imbaw Storer sent the photos from Green Tea Photography to Caroline Matt for posting on the RPPS website.
- Imbaw Storer invited Christina Leadlay to the January 10, 2017 meeting and included an item in the agenda regarding the vacant Book Chair role.

OUTSTANDING ACTION: Jane Hooker is organizing a meeting with Caroline Matt, Joni Hamlin, Candace Amis, Christina Leadlay and Imbaw Storer in January to discuss the volunteer coordinator role.

OUTSTANDING ACTION: Nicole White is completing the wording for the sign indicating the times the school yard is available for public use.

4. DELEGATION TO OCDSB COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Following the motion from the previous Council meeting, Imbaw Storer drafted a RPPS School Council Delegation statement on the Elementary School Program Framework. It was sent out for feedback to the Council members, and it was also shared with Chris Ellis. The intention is to submit the statement by January 14th and attend the OCDSB Committee of the Whole public meeting on January 17th. Imbaw indicated that more parents can participate and join the delegation for the meeting.

There was a point raised about whether Council was justified in sending the statement and a delegation. However, as Council's position was shared with the parent community for feedback but received no opposition, Council will proceed with the original plan. Some changes were suggested to clarify a line in the statement.

MOTION: Motion to send a delegation to the OCDSB Committee of the Whole public meeting on January 17th and to approve the RPPS Parent Council Delegation Statement with the following modification to the last sentence in the 4th paragraph: "... or that **an exception is made for** schools that have strong English Programs but do not meet the target." Moved by David Mackie; seconded by Jane Hooker; carried with one abstention.

(See attached updated Statement)

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Imbaw Storer noted that Shari Brodie was unable to meet with the Head Hoser and a meeting will be set up at a later date.

6. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As Shari Brodie was not present, Heather Gordon reported on the following items on Shari's behalf:

- Ski forms were sent to Grade 5/6 classes. The forms are due January 16th and students will be accepted on first come, first served basis. The forms had an incorrect due date printed and Shari sent an email to Grade 5/6 parents with the correct date of January 16, 2017.
- Grade 6 trip to Montreal will be on June 23rd and a down payment has been made. The Grade 6 leaving ceremony will be on June 27th.
- Kindergarten registration will commence week of January 23-27. An information session will be held on January 17 from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Parent Council and Book Fair representatives will be in attendance.
- Grades 4/5/6 will attend a Skate Canada performance at TD place on January 19th and forms were sent home.
- Skating sessions will be starting at the school outdoor rink and parents are reminded to send skates and proper helmets to school with their child. Donations of skates and helmets are welcome as well as parent volunteers to help with lace up.

- The Can Lit competition is being held on January 26th and there are 12 Grade 6 students participating from RPPS.
- On January 26th, teachers will be attending a PD session with Marion Small that is being hosted at Manor Park Public School. There will also an evening session for parents on January 17th at 6:30pm, and the Manor Park Public School principal asked if RPPS could donate \$800 to offset this cost.

MOTION: Motion to approve a contribution of \$800 to the Marion Small math workshop at Manor Park on January 17, 2017. Moved by David Mackie, seconded by Nicole White; carried.

- There was a question whether the Mad Science after-school program will be offered again this year. Last year it was done through the local community centre and they were able to pick up and walk the kids to the community centre from the school last year. Shari indicated that this may be offered later in the year.

7. UPDATES

Treasurer

Nicole White had no further updates as all items were covered in previous sections of the meeting.

Volunteer Coordinator

Jane Hooker had no updates. As mentioned earlier, she will be organizing a meeting in the near future to discuss the volunteer coordinator role.

OSCASC Representative

David Mackie attended the December OCASC meeting and provided the following debrief:

- Discussion around how OCASC is/should be part of the consultation process for Board decision
 - Forming a sub-committee to examine OCASC constitution.
 - Parents don't have input early enough in the process
- COW Committee Report
 - Parental concern surrounding Elementary school framework / school closures
 - Lack of voice for parents evidenced in EDP, kindergarten programs decisions
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) report
 - Concern about gifted program review
 - Many parents unaware
- Role of OCASC in improving communication with parents
- Facilitating parent attendance at COW meetings
 - Offer workshops on board process?
 - Trustee Penny suggested sending brief emails to trustees, let them bring concerns forward.

Book Fair Chair

Christina Leadlay was present as the Book Fair representative and will continue to attend future Council meetings. Without a Book Fair Chair or Co-Chair, it was noted that the Council will need to be more

involved. There are no specific asks at this point, and things are ok and on track. It was agreed that Christina will bring forward the critical paths at the next Council meetings to see where and how Council can help.

ACTION: Imbaw to send Christina the Council email list.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

2017 Schedule of Events

Updates were provided for the following events:

- Clothing – Caroline Matt provided an update on the clothing orders and everything is ok. Shari Brodie confirmed that signatures have been done for the Class of 2017 t-shirt.
- Dance a thon – FAIR Club has chosen to donate the proceeds to The Phoebe Rose Rocks Foundation and the OCDSB Education Foundation.
- Author's Workshop – Candice Amis will coordinate and work with Christina Leadlay on the Author's Workshop

Other:

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be on February 14th. The original meeting date was kept for now and Imbaw will check later if the meeting date should change.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

RPPS School Council Delegation Statement on the Elementary School Program Framework (ESPF)

At the December 2016 meeting of the RPPS School Council, parents were invited to attend and discuss the ESPF as suggested by the consultation information provided by the OCDSB.

Throughout the discussion, the main point of concern was the possible elimination of the English Program at RPPS if the ESPF is adopted as RPPS is not close to meeting the 1.5 classes per grade target, and has not been for many years. This would be challenging for our school community as within our catchment area reside many diplomatic and international families, and families of Canadians that work abroad for years at a time. As the children of these families are not able to participate in the EFI Program due to their time away, the English Program at RPPS is essential for them to have a community school they can attend within the OCDSB and not have to seek education elsewhere. On top of not being able to attend their community school, siblings may not be able to attend the same school or children may be forced to leave the school they have attended for years if EFI is not for them.

In response to these concerns, the RPPS School Council approved a motion "**recognizing Council's support for a continued dual track program at RPPS**".

While we understand the 1.5 number is a target, we must assume that, if the ESPF is approved, there is a strong possibility of the elimination of the English Program at RPPS at some point as the RPPS physical school capacity is not able to support two programs at the desired size. We therefore request that the 1.5 classes per grade per program target be removed from the ESPF or that an exception is made for schools that have strong English Programs but do not meet the target.

We do not feel that the stated potential benefits of the 1.5 classes target, "To ensure adequate flexibility for student placement and allow for teacher collaboration", address issues that are concerns at RPPS. RPPS has operated with a small English Program for years and parents have indicated that they would choose a smaller program size over having to send their children to a school further away. As well, the RPPS EQAO results demonstrate an excellent learning environment for all RPPS students despite smaller grade populations in the English Program.

The ESPF report states, "The district's model for elementary school program delivery is a designated community school model which seeks to provide programming options for elementary school students in their designated school as close as possible to their home community." The RPPS School Council does not feel that single track EFI schools fit within this model as EFI is a restrictive program with entry requirements based on age. To truly be a community school, a school must maintain an English Program which allows for entry to the school at any age.

Approved by the RPPS School Council - January 10, 2017