

**DRAFT RPPS SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2015**

PARTICIPANTS:

Caroline Matt, Chair
Abby DeWolfe, Past President
Imbaw Storer, Vice-Chair
Nicole White, Treasurer
Kristi Squires, Secretary
Shari Brodie, Principal, RPPS
Joni Hamlin, Book Fair Chair
Nabanita Giri, Member at Large
Inge Vander Horst, Book Fair Volunteer Coordinator
Ali Asgari, Volunteer Coordinator
Marta Reyes Lipman, Member at Large

REGRETS:

Anna Zyzniewski, Member at Large
Joel Berger, OCASC Representative
RPPS Teacher Representative
Abigail Fyfe, Member at Large
John Arnold, Member at Large

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved. Moved by Kristi Squires; seconded by Abby DeWolfe; carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2015 MINUTES

Minutes were approved. Moved by Nabanita Giri; seconded by Joni Hamlin; carried. It was agreed that Caroline Matt would follow-up with Miro Vala to seek clarity concerning application and funding process for Kindergarten yard.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Caroline Matt noted that a number of events will take place over the coming weeks and encouraged Council members to get involved if their schedules will permit. The events are as follows:

- PRO Talk, entitled "Parenting in the Digital Generation (April 21, 2015)
- Author Workshops (May 6-7, 2015)
- Parent Volunteer Breakfast (May 7, 2015)
- Grandparents Reading Day (May 8, 2015)
- School BBQ (May 14, 2015)
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch (mid-June 2015; date TBC)

Caroline noted that remaining issues will be addressed as the agenda progresses.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Shari Brodie made mention of a number of issues, as follows:

- Teacher placements for the coming school year have been drafted. It was noted that the same number of English and French classes will exist; though split levels may be a bit different. Shari informed that an email will be sent out to parents concerning class placement, and the thought that goes into such each year. She relayed that parents will be invited to communicate any "Special Needs" concerning placement.
- Students will be encouraged to complete an online survey entitled, "Tell Them from Me." Those who participate will be asked questions about what they like about school; what they would like to see changed; whether they are being bullied; etc. Results will be shared with teachers and parents, and changes will be made, as appropriate.
- Artist/Educator Alicia Borisonik, who comes highly recommended by the Continuing Education Department, has been hired to provide an arts program entitled "Play it, Sing it, Move it!" to all RPPS classes. The program provides children with an opportunity to experience world music through singing, playing a variety of percussion instruments and movement. By singing and playing music from all over the world, students learn about diversity and other cultures. Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes will also have time with Alicia. It is hoped that all classes will partake in a final performance. Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes will also partake in sessions with "Monkey Rock," which is a fun, entertaining and creative participatory music program for young children.
- Education Week will take place from May 4-8, 2015. The week may include performances by a dance club and the RPPS choir. It will also involve an "Art in Bloom" display, an open house in all classrooms, author workshops, and grandparents reading day and luncheon.
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessments will commence on May 25, 2015 and conclude on June 5, 2015. It was noted that students following an Education Plan will have access to scribe. Volunteers will be sought to perform scribe functions throughout the assessment period.
- Basketball try-outs are currently taking place.
- A meeting with Dan Fourier (Project Manager, OCDSB), Shari Brodie, Imbaw Storer and Caroline Matt is scheduled to take place on April 15, 2015 discuss plans in relation to the Kindergarten yard. Shari noted that she may also arrange for hopscotch and four-square lines on pavement to be repainted.
- RPPS' Clean the Yard Day will take place on April 22, 2015. Teachers and parents are encouraged to bring a rake to school that day.
- The big gym was painted over spring break. The hall mural was also painted over. It will soon feature Grade 6 students' framed works of art.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Nicole White noted that only a few changes have been made to the Council budget since the meeting in March. Changes include monies spent on Teacher/Classroom Enrichment (\$2467.26) and Gym Equipment/Sports Tournaments (\$339.00). With respect to the remaining Teacher/Classroom Enrichment allotment (\$4800.00), it was agreed that monies would be re-allocated at the end of May 2015 if not spent in

advance of such. Re-allocated monies will likely be used to purchase books for either the library or classrooms.

6. COMMITTEE UPDATES

BOOK FAIR

Joni Hamlin provided Council members with background information concerning the development of the RPPS School Council Book Fair Standing Committee Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference were approved as presented, with the exception of two changes, as follows:

- Page 6, under section entitled “RPPS School Council Chair” – change first paragraph to read “The current Chair of RPPS School Council. In the absence of a BFSC Chair, the School Council will determine how to proceed.”
- Page 15, under section entitled “Financial Procedures” – commence third paragraph by adding “Unless otherwise directed by the Board”...

Motions:

1. To amend the School Council Constitution, as noted in Joni Hamlin’s Memo to RPPS School Council Re: Proposed Changes to Council Constitution, dated April 10, 2015. Moved by Caroline Matt; seconded by Kristi Squires; carried.
2. To approve the RPPS School Council Book Fair Standing Committee Terms of Reference, with amendments (2), as specified above. Moved by Nicole White; seconded by Kristi Squires; carried. One abstention was put forth.

Brief discussion ensued concerning the summary document that Inge Vander Horst drafted re RPPS Book Fair 2014.

Joni relayed that an additional Critical Path document will be presented to Council for review at the next Council meeting.

Joni closed by noting that the theme of Book Fair 2015 will be Dr. Seuss.

MILK / PIZZA

Ali Asgari noted that milk order is short about once every three weeks.

VOLUNTEERS

Ali Asgari noted that the yoga program continues to run very well, though numbers have declined slightly given the nice weather. Ali confirmed that the yoga program will take place outside when the grounds dry.

OCASC

Caroline Matt noted that Stittsville Public School is reportedly able to accept online payments for items such as milk, pizza, etc. Caroline will contact the school to acquire information as to how this was set up.

ACTION: Caroline Matt to contact Stittsville Public School to acquire information re online payment system set-up.

PRO TALK #3 – MediaSmarts

Marta Reyes-Lipman provided an update concerning planning for the MediaSmarts workshop. She noted that posters have been distributed throughout the neighborhood, including Metro, coffee shops, and community centres. Packages have also been provided to teachers for distribution. Council members were encouraged to publicize the workshop at their workplaces.

Caroline reported that five Ashbury students will be present to assist. Caroline, Marta, Ali, and Abby all confirmed their willingness to help out with room set-up, etc. on the night in question.

Caroline and Kristi agreed to send out reminders on Listserves.

RPPS BBQ

Caroline Matt advised that the BBQ will take place on May 14, 2015. She noted that registration will be conducted online this year. Brief discussion ensued regarding potential sports entertainment for the kids.

ACTION: Kristi Squires to contact Pro+ Sports to determine availability and interest in providing sports entertainment from 1530 to 1700 hours on May 14, 2015.

Joni Hamlin informed that her husband Andrew has volunteered to do all the shopping for the BBQ. She noted that volunteers will be needed to man the volunteer tent, monitor drinks, help with cooking, engage families, work the food line, manage the sound system, etc.

ACTION: Abby DeWolfe to send volunteer request to Council members.
Ali Asgari to seek additional volunteers, if required.

Motions:

1. To re-allocate \$1K from the School Wide Music Program to School Council Events to cover expenses related to food and sports entertainment. Moved by Caroline Matt; seconded by Kristi Squires; carried.

GRADE 6 TRIP

Caroline Matt relayed that the Grade 6 trip will take place in Montreal. 59 students reportedly plan to participate; as do seven chaperones. Their Graduation Ceremony will take place from 1300 to 1500 hours on June 23 at RPPS, followed by a bowling party at McArthur Lanes. While Grade 6 parents will supply snacks for the reception after the ceremony, the snacks will be served by Grade 5 parents. Grade 5 parent volunteers will also chaperone the bowling party.

KINDERGARTEN PLAY STRUCTURE

Caroline Matt noted that Megan Brady helped to prepare the application for funding for a kindergarten play structure, which must be submitted to the City of Ottawa by May 1, 2015. She reiterated that a meeting will take place with Dan Fournier, Project Manager, OCDSB, on April 15 to discuss ideas, review drawings, acquire information concerning costs, etc.

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Caroline Matt and Abby DeWolfe agreed to develop and disseminate election nomination forms for the 2015/16 School Council and will run the election committee in September 2015.

ACTION: Caroline Matt and Abby DeWolfe to develop and disseminate election nomination form and run the committee in September 2015.

CLOTHING CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP

It was noted that monies have been collected and items delivered. Shari has contact information for another reputable company whom she will be contacting. It is hoped that clothing samples will be available for viewing during Meet the Teacher Night in September 2015, so that goods can be purchased and delivered early and worn throughout the school year.

ACTION: Shari Brodie to contact clothing company to solicit interest in serving as RPPS supplier for 2015/2016 school year.

OTHER BUSINESS

None to report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2104 hours.

Minutes prepared by Kristi Squires, Secretary