

**DRAFT RPPS SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 9, 2014**

PARTICIPANTS:

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

REGRETS:

Joel Berger, OCASC Representative

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved. Moved by Abby DeWolfe; seconded by Joni Hamlin; carried.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 11, 2014 MINUTES

Minutes were approved. Moved by Abby DeWolfe; seconded by Carline Matt; carried.

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Caroline commenced her report by welcoming Jenn Kennedy, Grade 2/3 English/French Immersion Teacher, to Council. The Teacher Representative will be rotational.

Caroline noted that RPPS will not be subject to a bell time change in September 2015, as originally proposed by OSTA. She thanked all who took the time to ensure their voices were heard.

Caroline advised that Dr. Maggie Mamen's talk on November 26, 2014, entitled "Growing up Feeling Good," was a great success. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. It was noted that participants in attendance were asked to fill out a survey and that survey results indicated that parents of 14 local schools were represented. Survey results also indicated that parents are most interested in attending speaker events focusing on: Bullying and How to Prevent It; How to Deal with Anxiety in Children; Discipline; and Internet Safety.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

- RPPS' medal-winner girls' soccer team participated in a "Walk of Champions" during nutrition break on December 8, 2014. The team visited every classroom, including those in portables. It was noted that similar "Walks of Champions" may take place in the future for medal-winning teams.
- A Kindergarten Information Night will take place at 1830 hours on January 22, 2015; registration will commence in early February 2015. Shari indicated that she would be appreciative if Council could communicate this information to parents that have children entering Kindergarten in September 2015.
- A story teller visited RPPS grades 1-6 on December 3, 2014 and read a book called "Just Kidding." The book was about a boy being bullied by another boy. The students were said to be very engaged, and the presentation reportedly served as a great lead-in to the WITS launch on December 5, 2014.
- The WITS Primary and WITS Leads Programs were officially launched at RPPS on December 4, 2014. During the launch, community members from NECTAR, Rockcliffe Child Care Centre and Lindenlea Community Association, along with a school reserves police officer, partook in a tug of war demonstration (i.e., "Tug of Health), in which community members came to the assistance of a student that was pulled down. The presentation, which was reportedly well-received by students, was followed by a "swearing in" ceremony.
 - N.B., the WITS Primary and WITS Leads Programs are designed to help elementary school children deal with bullying and peer victimization and encourage adults to respond to children's requests for help. The WITS Primary Program stands for Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out and Seek help. This program teaches Kindergarten to Grade 3 children to make safe and positive choices about peer conflict, and provides a common language that children and adults can use to talk about and respond to peer victimization. The WITS LEADS Program stands for Look and listen, Explore points of view, Act, Did it work? and Seek help. It teaches problem-solving strategies to help Grade 4-6 children deal with conflict and stay safe, and provides developmentally appropriate strategies and resources to older elementary students so they can become WITS Leaders in their school.
- RPPS has submitted a grant application to the OCDSB for its kitchen renovation. If successful, a maximum of \$25K will be provided.
- RPPS's F.A.I.R. Club is running "10 Days of Random Acts of Kindness" leading up to the holiday break. Each day, students are encouraged to do a different act of kindness. For example, hold the door open for someone, say please and thank you, give someone a compliment, etc. In addition, the F.A.I.R. Club will be collecting donations of warm clothing (e.g., adult and children's sweaters, mittens, snowsuits, scarves, hats, and socks) in December and early January, which will be donated to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre and the Ottawa Mission.
- The RPPS Holiday Concert will take place on December 18, 2014. Parents are encouraged to assist in the coordination and facilitation of such.
- Volunteer Coordinator Ali Asgari has reached out to the parent body to identify volunteers to help clean out the gym cupboard. As part of the Grade 6 Legacy Project, Ali has also identified a volunteer to paint a mural in the stairwell. Joni Hamlin suggested said volunteer's efforts might be better spent restoring the existing mural or painting over it.

ACTION: Shari Brodie to discuss mural placement with Grade 6 students.

- With respect to setting up a music program within RPPS, Shari noted that she had recently met with a couple of people from “Arts Express” to discuss implementing a “Glee-type Club” during nutrition and/or lunch breaks. Additional information will be provided concerning such at an upcoming Council meeting.
- The Ministry of Education is proposing implementing a new sex education curriculum in September 2015. The existing curriculum reportedly dates back to 1998, and is not reflective of the current societal reality (e.g. proliferation of cell phones, use of sexting, puberty taking place at a younger age, differing family compositions, etc.)

ACTION: Caroline Matt to forward OCDSB School Council Newsletter to RPPS School Council members.

- Ms. Kerry Buck will be on long-term leave commencing January 2015. It is not known at this time how the OCDSB will fill the position (i.e., via interview process or placement)

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Nicole White informed that the Budget has been updated to include Book Fair revenue (\$67K) and expenses (\$22.5K). Discussion then ensued regarding allocation of funds.

It was agreed that allocation changes to budget would be as follows:

School Enrichment	
Yard Improvements	\$7500.00
Technology	
iPads for classrooms	\$6700.00
Class set of notebooks	\$4500.00
2 Projectors	\$1000.00
Curriculum Subject Enrichment	
Workshops – 1 per classroom (\$200x21)	\$4200.00
Other	
Grade 6 Year-End Trip	\$11000.00
Website	\$250.00

MOTIONS

1. To accept changes to budget allocations [as delineated above]. Moved by Abby DeWolfe; seconded by Nabanita Giri; carried.

5. Committee Updates

BOOK FAIR

Joni Hamlin noted that a Book Fair wrap-up meeting will take place on Thursday, December 11, 2014. Committee members and parents are invited to contact Joni if additional information is required concerning Book Fair.

MILK / PIZZA

While both the Milk and Pizza Programs are running smoothly, Ali Asgari noted that one of RPPS' Milk Volunteers has stepped down and that a replacement Volunteer is therefore required. Ali advised that order forms for milk and pizza will be distributed next week. One Council member suggested that forms be handed out upon return in January so that they are not lost/misplaced during the holiday period.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Ali Asgari noted that clothing sales totaled \$2400 (up 60%). Profits are not yet known; however, Ali advised that margins are typically minimal. The next clothing order will take place in September 2015. Joni Hamlin publicly thanked Ali for a job well done!

Caroline Matt relayed that she has developed a list of Council Events until the end of the School Year. The list includes the second PRO Speaker Series Workshop, which will be facilitated by Marian Small on February 5, 2015. Marian, a local educator, will speak about numeracy and strategies on how to help your child succeed in math.. The list also includes the RPPS Dance-a-thon, which will take place on Thursday, February 12, 2015.

ACTION: Shari Brodie to ask Chris Hewston to book DJ for Dance-a-thon.
Caroline Matt to update pledge form.
Council to identify volunteers to assist with the event.

Brief discussion ensued concerning the identification of a third speaker for the PRO Speaker Series. It was agreed that Shari Brodie would conduct research and present options at a future Council meeting.

ACTION: Shari Brodie to research and present options concerning third speaker for the PRO Speaker Series at upcoming Council meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 21:04 hours.

Minutes prepared by Kristi Squires, Secretary