

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

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**PARTICIPANTS:**

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

**REGRETS:**

Joni Hamlin, Book Fair Chair  
John Arnold, Member at Large  
Abigail Fyfe, Member at Large  
Anna Zyzniewski, Member at Large  
Joel Berger, OCASC Representative

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda approved. Moved by Kristi Squires; seconded by Nabanita Giri; carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2014 MINUTES**

Minutes were approved, pending minor change, as follows: deletion of "Jenn will serve as the RPPS Teacher Representative for the remainder of the school year" to "The Teacher Representative will be rotational."  
Moved by Caroline Matt; seconded by Abby DeWolfe; carried.

**3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Caroline Matt noted that the items she wishes to discuss will be addressed as agenda progresses.

**4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

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

- She is scheduled to meet with someone from Design on Friday, January 16, 2015 to look at drawings, discuss costs, etc., for RPPS's proposed kitchen renovation. She will also be meeting with the Superintendent, Manager of Construction and Project Manager concerning the Kindergarten yard, and a myriad of other issues, including AC and ceiling repairs, new windows on the second floor, the school garden, and the wall mural.
- RPPS students are invited to Queen Elizabeth to attend drama and science classes. A parent information night will be held at Queen Elizabeth on January 29, 2015.
- RPPS Spirit Week will commence on Friday, February 6, 2015, to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. On 100th day, students will be encouraged to dress up like they did a 100 years ago or dress

up as if they are 100. Spirit Week will conclude on Thursday, February 12, 2015 with the Dance-a-Thon. Friday, February 13, 2015 is a PD Day.

- David Robinson has replaced Katharyn Buck, currently on maternity leave. David is reportedly a wonderful fit for RPPS and comes to us from Henry Munro Middle School. He is teaching Grade 5/6 English.
- Council and attending parents were reminded of the importance of ensuring children arrive to school on time each morning.
- Lindenlea Community Centre's Jamaal Rogers, along with partners from the Rockcliffe Child Care Centre, NECTAR, and the police were invited to two assemblies on January 6, 2015 to further discuss the WITS Primary and WITS Leads Programs, particularly in relation to body listening behaviour. As was the case previously, the information was reportedly well-received.
- Clode Deschamps thanked Council for approving the purchase of iPads for classrooms, and talked about how they are assisting teachers in reaching curriculum expectations. She noted that they are extremely versatile and particularly helpful in supporting ESL students who require extra support.
- Volleyball will be starting soon for students in Grades 4-6.
- Students in Grades 4-6 are starting to prepare for speech competitions in both French and English.
- A fee-based, 9-week Glee Time program will soon commence after school. Discussion ensued about whether or not Council would agree to set aside some funding for children to participate that might otherwise not be able to do so. It was agreed that formal criteria should be developed if such funding is to be set aside for extracurricular activities, and that access to such should not be restricted to the Glee Time program.

**ACTION:** Kristi Squires and Abby DeWolfe to develop proposed criteria for accessing School Council funding for extracurricular activities. Proposed criteria to be presented at future Council meeting for discussion.

Shari Brodie to discuss whether ArtsExpress would be willing to subsidize some children from low income families to participate in the Glee Time program.

- Council and parents were reminded that a Kindergarten Information Night will take place on January 26, 2015.

**ACTION:** Kristi Squires and Caroline Matt to disseminate information concerning such to the New Edinburgh, Lindenlea and Downtown Listserves.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Nicole White noted that the Council budget is balanced and money is being spent as allocated.

## **6. Committee Updates**

### **BOOK FAIR**

In Joni Hamlin's absence, Caroline Matt made mentioned of the wrap-up meeting in December 2014. She advised that a follow-up wrap-up meeting will take place later in January 2015.

### **MILK / PIZZA**

Ali Asgari relayed that milk and pizza forms were disseminated prior to the holiday break, and that a replacement Milk Volunteer has been identified. Grade 6 students reportedly help out with both the milk and pizza programs, when the need arises.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Clode Deschamps noted that she is pleased to see so many parent volunteers helping out in RPPS classrooms.

Ali Asgari relayed that his partner is interested in donating her time once a week to teach yoga to students over the lunch hour. Shari asked that Ali have his partner follow-up directly with Clode Deschamps.

### **OCASC**

Item deferred given absence of Joel Berger.

## **7. PRO Talk #2 – Marian Small**

Caroline Matt noted that she'd hoped to have completed the posters prior to today's Council meeting, however, was not successful in acquiring workshop details from Marian Small. Once information is obtained, posters will be disseminated through regular channels.

**ACTION:** Shari Brodie to disseminate information to OCDSB. Shari to talk to Pierre about setting up chairs in the Library.

Caroline Matt to disseminate information to New Ed Listserve.

Kristi Squires to disseminate information to the Lindenlea and Downtown Listserves.

Joel Berger to disseminate information to OCASC.

The workshop will take place in the Library at 7:00 pm on February 4, 2015 and will focus on numeracy and strategies on how to help children succeed in math.

## **8. Dance-a-Thon**

Caroline Matt noted that she updated pledge forms and letters from last year. Council is asked to review and send comments directly to Caroline. All monies raised will be put towards the Kindergarten yard.

Discussion ensued about pledge prizes. It was agreed that prizes will be as follows: Lunch with Principal at The Works (winner plus 3 friends); Digital Camera; Sky Zone Trampoline Park Party for 10; and Gift Cards from a variety of other vendors.

**ACTION:** Council to forward suggested changes re pledge form and letters to Caroline Matt. Caroline to revise forms, as appropriate.

Nicole White to staple forms.

Shari Brodie to provide class numbers and follow-up with Lisa re envelopes.

Kristi Squires to seek donation from the Works for Lunch mentioned above.

Abby DeWolfe and Caroline Matt to purchase Gift Cards, including that for Sky Zone Party.

Chris Hewston to hire DJ. Nicole White to arrange for backup DJ, if required.

Council to count pledge money during Council meeting on February 10, 2015.

Kristi Squires and Imbaw Storer to volunteer during Dance-a-Thon on February 12, 2015. Class parents will also be asked to volunteer.

## **9. Kindergarten Yard**

Further to the information Shari Brodie provided concerning the Kindergarten yard, Caroline Matt noted that following Shari's meeting with the Superintendent and other implicated parties on Monday, January 19, 2015, Shari will forward more concrete plans to Council so that Meagan Brady and Imbaw Storer can prepare the necessary grant application.

## **10. School Bus Delays**

Caroline Matt advised that she recently received an email from a parent concerning ongoing issues with Bus L67. The parent was reportedly seeking advice as to how she should go about formally registering her complaint and seeking a resolution. Shari Brodie noted that all such complaints should be directed to OSTA, as well as First Student (bus transportation company).

## **11. Other Business**

Kristi Squires noted that she will be absent during the next Council meeting.

**ACTION:** Caroline Matt to identify volunteer to take minutes.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2056 hours.

*Minutes prepared by Kristi Squires, Secretary*