

**DRAFT RPPS SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2015**

PARTICIPANTS:

Caroline Matt, Chair
Imbaw Storer, Vice-Chair
Nicole White, Treasurer
Kristi Squires, Secretary
Ali Asgari, Volunteer Coordinator
Shari Brodie, Principal, RPPS
Joni Hamlin, Book Fair Chair
Nabanita Giri, Member at Large
Miro Vala, Supervisor of Design & Construction Services,
OCDSB
Wes Huffman, RCCC Representative
Marta Reyes Lipman, Member at Large

John Arnold, Member at Large
Abigail Fyfe, Member at Large
Manon des Groseilliers, Parent

REGRETS:

Abby DeWolfe, Past President
Inge Vander Horst, Book Fair Volunteer
Coordinator
Anna Zyzniewski, Member at Large
Joel Berger, OCASC Representative
RPPS Teacher Representative

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved. Moved by Kristi Squires; seconded by Marta Reyes Lipman; carried.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2015 MINUTES

Minutes were approved. Moved by Nabanita Giri; seconded by Marta Reyes Lipman; carried

3. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

4. PRESENTATION BY MIRO VALA

Miro Vala, supervisor of Design and Construction Services, OCDSB, was present to provide Council with a number of updates concerning RPPS. Miro relayed the following:

- All school buildings within the Board are audited with respect to the theoretical end dates of various elements, including windows, roofs, flooring, electrical and cooling systems, lighting, fire alarms, etc. If said elements are due for replacement, they are identified as a capital need.
- At present, there is a funding shortfall in excess of \$500 million with respect to identified capital needs within the Board. OCDSB strives to replace and/or repair elements at the end of their lifecycle and in advance of them creating damage to other elements.

- While RPPS is one of seven schools that is being considered as a “Prohibitive to Repair” candidate, it is in much better shape than most of the other schools identified as candidates. Having said that, there are elements at RPPS that are in need of repair.
- Within the past six years, almost \$2.5M has been invested in RPPS.
- The Board is currently preparing its budget for the 2015/2016 school year. On average \$25 M is invested in capital projects each year. Capital investment work plans are being drafted, and much of the necessary work (provided it is within budget) will take place in the summer months (i.e., when schools are not occupied).
- The application for RPPS’ kitchen renovation was acknowledged. While 32 applications have been submitted, Miro noted that he will ensure his manager discusses the RPPS application with the Board Superintendent.
- The Board has recently hired a painting group; Shari informed that lots of painting will take place at RPPS over March Break.
- With respect to RPPS’ intended application for its Kindergarten yard improvement, it was noted that the City deadline is May 1, 2015. Miro advised that even if City funding is approved, the Board will be unable to roll-out the project this year, as there are already too many projects in the queue. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, monies can be carried over to 2016 but must be spent in advance of June. (Caroline Matt to follow-up with the City to confirm accuracy of this statement)
- RPPS is free to raise money on its own for projects such as the proposed playstructure; however, Board must facilitate tender process and all work must meet CSA standards. Provided that projects are tendered through the Board, the Board will oversee its upkeep, even if entirely funded by RPPS School Council.

5. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

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

- A meeting took place with Dan Fournier on March 10, 2015 concerning the Kindergarten yard. Dan will be sending Shari a catalogue to provide ideas concerning options. Consideration must be given to pavement, accessibility and drainage issues. The importance of continued communication between the Board, Council and RPPS was underlined.
- The air conditioning system at RPPS will be replaced during the summer 2015.
- Many students and staff are away with the stomach flu.
- The new Kindergarten room is now open. Shari is hoping to organize a breakfast for parents and Council to celebrate the opening.

ACTION: Shari Brodie to determine date for breakfast celebration and facilitate organization of such.

- RPPS competed in a volleyball tournament during the week of March 2, 2015 and proceeded to the semi-finals. School spirit abounded and staff and students were very proud of those involved.
- Students in Grades 3 through 6 will participate in the MATHLETES Program on March 11, 2015. MATHLETES is a full day “hands on” math event that sets the tone for mathematical success and builds bonds between students in an atmosphere that promotes co-operation, fun and learning. In

the morning, Grade six students, along with volunteers from Ashbury and parents will be trained to be a math coach. In the afternoon, students in Grades 3 through 5 will move through four engaging math zones, working together in teams to complete as many math activities as possible. The day will conclude with a ribbon ceremony for all students to celebrate their math accomplishments.

- 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 the school; what they would like to see changed; whether they are being bullied; etc. Shari noted she will review the results with staff and make changes, as required.

6. TREASURER’S REPORT

Nicole White noted that only a few changes have been made to the Council budget since the meeting in February. Changes include monies spent in relation to Teacher/Classroom Enrichment (\$1730.80), Miscellaneous (\$209.89)(includes charitable donations), Reading Resources (\$1944.44), and Workshops (\$920.00). Nicole noted that there were errors on the Budget sheet that was handed out, and that the Total Revenues should read \$117K and not \$107K and the Estimated Funds Remaining should read “\$24,915.00 and not \$14,915.00.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

BOOK FAIR

Joni Hamlin noted that Book Bins have been open since March 1, 2015, and that four new volunteers have joined the Book Bin Team. Additional volunteers are being sought.

Joni further advised that Imbaw Storer and Adrienne Blair have created a new Book Fair website. The site and advertising materials in relation to such will read “ROCKCLIFFE PARK BOOK FAIR (at Rockcliffe Park Public School)”

Book Fair Themes being considered for 2015 include: Mythology; Richard Scarry; Roald Dahl; Dr. Seuss and Narnia.

Joni concluded by informing that while she is prepared to return as Book Fair Chair in the coming year, she will only do so if a Co-Chair is identified.

MILK / PIZZA

Nothing to report.

VOLUNTEERS

Ali Asgari noted that the yoga program has been running very well. He inquired as to whether the yoga program could take place outside once the weather warms and grounds dry. Shari responded in the affirmative.

OCASC

Caroline Matt advised that she asked Joel to put forth a couple of questions on behalf of RPPS Council, including how other Councils within the Board allocate funds to school libraries, and whether or not Council is able to accept online payment for items such as milk, pizza, etc. Joel Berger to report back at future Council Meeting. .

8. DANCE-A-THON WRAP-UP

Caroline Matt noted that the Dance-A-Thon was a huge financial success again this year, raising approximately \$6K after expenses were deducted. She and Shari relayed; however, that students had mixed feelings about the event. Some students were reportedly very pleased with the event; however, others were not, articulating that they did not feel engaged (given funds were being raised solely for the new Kindergarten yard), and that the music was too loud.

In an effort to ensure greater student participation next year, it was suggested that more emphasis be placed on communication, and that students be more involved in identifying the cause. It was further suggested that an alternate activity be organized for students that do not like dance or music (e.g., an obstacle course in the small gym).

Given that Nikon Canada donated the camera that was gifted for the event, Ali Asgari asked that a letter of thanks be forwarded on behalf of Council.

ACTION: Ali Asgari to forward mailing or email address of Nikon Canada and Caroline Matt to send letter of thanks on behalf of Council.

9. PRO TALK #3 – MediaSmarts

Marta Reyes-Lipman and Nabanita Giri reported that Matthew Johnson, Director of Education for MediaSmarts will facilitate RPPS' third PRO Talk Workshop at 7 pm on April 21, 2015. Matthew is the designer of the comprehensive digital literacy tutorials *Passport to the Internet* (Grades 4-8) and *MyWorld* (Grades 9-12). He has contributed blogs and articles to websites and magazines around the world as well as presenting MediaSmarts' materials on topics such as copyright, cyberbullying, body image and online hate to parents, journalists, academics and government bodies in Canada and around the world. Matthew is also an educator with nearly ten years' experience teaching media education, film-making, English and special education among other subjects.

Marta and Nabanita noted that Matthew would be willing to focus his presentation on one of the following:

1. Raising Ethical Kids For a Networked World;
2. Parenting the Digital Generation; or
3. Growing with the Net

Council agreed that Workshop presentation would focus on Parenting the Digital Generation. The workshop will look at various activities kids love to do online and offer tips and strategies for parents to help kids safely navigate the online spaces and activities. .

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

Caroline Matt to prepare poster and disseminate information to New Ed Listserve.

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

Joel Berger to disseminate information to OCASC.

10. KINDERGARTEN PLAY STRUCTURE

Notwithstanding the fact that, if approved, the Board will be unable to roll-out the project this year, it was agreed that efforts would be made to submit RPPS' application to the City by the May 1, 2015 deadline.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Joni Hamelin noted that the crossing guard at Springfield had been absent for a week due to illness. Having placed a call to the City, Joni informed that a guard from the Glebe was posted there for 20 minutes each morning, but not for the entirety of the shift, as this individual needed to be present for his post in the Glebe.

ACTION: Caroline Matt to place school clothing as an agenda item for next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2114 hours.

Minutes prepared by Kristi Squires, Secretary