



RUNNYMEDE JR. & SR. PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENNIAL · 1916-2016 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

MINUTES

Runnymede Public School (PS) Council Meeting 4th Meeting of the 2013-14 Runnymede PS Council

January 21, 2014

Runnymede PS CAFETERIA 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

Jen Atkinson, Ivana Barbieri, Erin Carroll, Katherine Clark, Amelia Dennis, J'bai Deschamps, Sarah Frame, Karen Gautam, Suzanne Gordon, Anne Lakoff, Leslie Fountain, Anne Markee, Jackie Marrie, Pam McArthur, Rohit Parekh, Tanyss Price, Leslie Robbins, Audrey Robinson, Jacqueline Schaller, Jacqueline Sustar, Susan Wawrow, Helen Williams

A.1 Call to order, welcome and opening remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

A.2 Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

A.3 Review of previous minutes (Nov 28, 2013)

The previous minutes were accepted as circulated.

A.7 Subcommittee Updates

i) Ward 7 – See attached update.

David Percival's response to Sinking North Addition:

- built it as a superstructure. They believe the slab (floor) is dropping, and will remediate that.
- Foundation is fine. No mention of load bearing walls, or building up another story.

ii) Centennial:

Alan Skeoch, Toronto Sun reporter, offered to write recollection of Runnymede School as he went here. Jack Long (of Long & McQuade) is also an alumni.

iii) Arts:

Enrichment program is starting soon. They have list of volunteers and will request help as needed for projects. They will remind potential volunteers that they must submit Police Reference check form.

iv) Communications.

Nothing to report. They will work with Amelia if boiler breaks and communications needed.

v) Spirit

- Donation Campaign: remains at just over \$35,000, a nominal increase since last Council mtg.
- Chapters Night: Net total of \$1765 which translates to 118 \$15 gift cards for the school.
- Centennial Countdown Assembly: Thursday Feb 6. Kelly Kenny is organizing. The event will include a student-made video, teacher's fashion show from the 60's & 70's (this is apparently a secret) , a fun candy giveaway from that era, talk from past students of Runnymede & a short blurb to discuss the grade 5 mural project.
- Spring Thaw: Thursday April 3. Event will have a similar format to last year including dinner, silent auction, various crafts and activities for kids and a cake walk.
- Pub Night: Friday May 2 at 3030 Dundas St.

vi) **Yard**

- Green Teacher, Zac Smith, moving to a full-time position.
 - Katy Fielev (sp) - from High Park Nature Centre, will join us for the rest of the year.
- Hillside Garden is very icy now. Green Teacher winter session would occur in late Feb. If it does not warm up before then, it will be cancelled as is not safe.
- A lot of tree limbs fell during Dec storm. Photos taken, Amelia sending to Board. Too big/much for us to clean up during Family Day
- \$2000 grant from TD Friends of the Environment in Dec. For Spring session of Green Teacher with Gr. 6. To help manage soil erosion. Pays teacher and materials
 - may use half of those funds to kindergarten classes in the spring.
 - releasing equivalent amount back to Council.
- asking landscape architect to look at plans for front space
- Yard Day, Sat., April 26th

vii) **STEM – See attached update**

- Melissa Moens using the science kits. Coordinating teacher input as to what kits they want built. Kits are now in the Teacher's Lounge so they are more easily accessible.
- Susan, VP, collecting info from teachers w/o Smart Boards if they want them and why
- May want to consider purchasing another ipad cart. To consider at year end, depending on our financials. 30 laptops and carts is approx \$20K.
- There is no computer lab in school now. There are computers in classrooms. There are 30 ipads, and 72 cart spaces. Slotted for senior students. (Gr 6-8).
- Amazing Math Race, in June, will use Western Tech students to help, who can get volunteer credits.
- Applied for Honda and Telus grants, innovation focused.
- A teacher volunteer is needed for Junior League Lego. Update: Mme Kling and Mme Bedard have volunteered for this.

A.8 2013-14 Financial Update

Helen has been having terrible computer problems so there is no printout. (Financials from Feb are attached)

- Deposit run will be next week, if anyone has cheques
- Only urgent requests for cheques will be considered. She prefers not to do manual cheque request.
- \$2900 uncommitted funds in budget now. Proposal for \$500 to reserve for teachers who spend small amounts (\$20-\$50) for things that benefit more students than their class. Council will review at year end to decide if it should be standing fund, or if amount is correct. Expense request to Helen, to verify it meets our criteria. Motion by J'bai Deschamps to create \$500 fund for extraneous expenses. Seconded, Jackie Sustar. Passed.

A.9 Administration update

- 1) Introduction of new Vice-Principal – Susan Wawrow. Ms. Wawrow is our new permanent Vice-Principal for the Senior Students.
- 2) Anna Intarakosit will be returning from her Maternity Leave on March 1st.
- 3) Full Day Kindergarten (FDK):
 - There was an error in the letter sent to parents. Runnymede will have FDK.
 - Preliminary drawings of the proposed changes have been received from the architect.
 - Looking to relocate the fence out from the nursery school doors so that children can exit into an enclosed area.
 - The kindergarten washrooms are included as part of our total washroom count. Administration may ask Ward 7 Reps for help in fighting this.
 - Amelia was part of the interviews for ECE's. They can list their preferred schools.
- 4) Our boilers are 11 years old. One of them is currently down and the other is on "life support". Crews are working on it and the caretaker will stay on site tonight. Western Tech is our evacuation site should the boiler go down during school hours. The Superintendent is aware of the situation.

- 5) The Senior Gym will be refinished over the March Break.
- 6) Amelia met with the engineers re: steel beam construction to reinforce several sections around the school. Some classrooms may get new windows.
- 7) The Landscape architect has been on site to plan for artificial turf. They are planning for a late spring instillation. The Yard Committee and the two senior Phys Ed teachers will have some input on how the yard will look.
- 8) Security Doors update:
 - Staff has noticed fewer interruptions and less congestion in the hallways.
 - The smartlocks at Exit #7 have been difficult to lock due to condensation in the mechanism.
 - The main door has a part on order because it was not working.
- 9) Police Checks:
 - They have been redone and sent back to the Police.
 - Parents will receive notification and it is up to the parents to tell the school when you receive your approved check.
 - Volunteers without police checks are currently not allowed to be left alone with children.

A. 10 Other Business

- 1) The Runnymede Fire station is set for closure again.
- 2) Mrs. Lakoff asked how much is in the Teacher Resource Fund and when it will be distributed. \$18,700 total. Helen has given Amelia a portion of the money already. Can distribute the balance as needed. Amelia will update the staff at the next staff meeting.
- 3) Reminder to not park on Runnymede where buses have to stop.

A. 11 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Ward 7 Update

The following letters have been/will be sent out on behalf of council by the Ward 7 Committee.

1) State of Disrepair of the School - To: Angelos Bacopoulos, Chief, Facilities - TDSB

- We sent a letter on this topic to Angelos last year in Nov. 2012 and it resulted in many repairs being done at the school - we feel it is time to do this again and seek additional repairs (bathrooms, heating system, uneven stairs, holes in walls)

2) Sinking North Addition - To: Angelos Bacopoulos, Chief, Facilities - TDSB & David Percival, Senior Manager, Building Design and Renewal

- David Percival attended our January 2013 Council Meeting and promised to investigate the sinking north addition of our school. He followed through on this promised and came out in Spring with Structural Engineer to investigate but, to date, no results from this investigation so we are following up and trying to ascertain the recommended solution. Given our capacity issues, it strikes us that if this addition were rebuilt with a proper foundation, it could be built as a 3-story addition to provide additional classroom space.

3) Howard Park Students will no longer come to Runnymede P.S. for Grade 7/8 starting in September 2015 - To: Irene Atkinson, Trustee & Jane Phillips-Long, Superintendent

- This is great news for Runnymede P.S. since it will alleviate our overcrowding a bit so we want to commend Trustee Atkinson and Superintendent Phillips-Long on this decision.

STEM Committee Update

The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Learning Committee is a group of parents interested in helping to enrich Runnymede through hands-on science, mathematics and technology opportunities that focus on the reinforcement of the mathematics and science curricula.

What have we been up to?

Science: We are very glad to see that last year's science investigation kits are now hard at work in classrooms. This year's list of kits and manipulatives are being selected and allocated and should be in production soon.

Technology: With SMART boards up and running, STEM has moved into the community to source funding for new technology for our school. Though we are still in the first week of the campaign, we have already secured a donation of \$700 from Bank of Montreal's Bloor West Village branch. We would like to thank BMO for their generous support of our school and look forward to hearing back from other local financial institutions.

Engineering: Our FIRST League Lego Robotics team had a phenomenal showing at their December competition. The Hurricanes (Grade 4-6) and Lions (Grades 7-8) both competed and placed 6th and 10th respectively out of 27 teams. Possibly more exciting than their mission results, the junior team won the "Inspiration Award" for an outstanding display of FLL's Core values and exhibiting "Gracious Professionalism" throughout the tournament. All of the team members were participating in their first tournament which makes receiving this award in their first year simply amazing. Head Coach Jerry Tiessen was also voted "Coach of the Year"! We would like to congratulate all team members, coaches and staff on an extremely successful season and to thank all of the teachers (Katherine Daye, Stan Hallman-Chung, Jon Johrendt, and Shannon Nyers) as well as former VP Sean Hume for their participation in the program this year. Junior FLL will start late February. Keep listening to morning announcements for sign-up information.

Math: Preparations are underway for the second, annual "Math Amazing Race". This year we will be including all students from grades 1 – 8 in the Math Amazing Race with kindergarten students having separate Math Fun days in June as well. The Math team will meet on Tuesday February 11th at 7 pm in the school library to discuss ongoing preparations and activity selection. Anyone who is interested in helping or even just curious about this committee is more than welcome to join us.

Volunteers: The STEM committee is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in building science activity kits, volunteering for the Math Amazing Race, translating activity sheets or generally joining our committee, please e-mail us at runnymedeSTEMcommittee@gmail.com. We welcome anyone interested in joining our group – no STEM expertise required.

Meeting: Our next general meeting will be Tuesday March 18th, 2014 from 7 pm – 9 pm in the school library.