



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

MINUTES

Runnymede Public School (PS) Council - Meeting #5, 2014-15

April 1, 2015

Runnymede PS Library

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

Attendance: Jen Atkinson, Ivana Barbieri, Nancy Bestic, Dale (Narinder) Cadeau, Katherine Clark, David Corey, Amelia Dennis, J'bai Deshcahmps, Laura Edwards, Karen Gautam, Ingrid Larsen, Jackie Marrie, Bart MacLean, Rohit Parekh, Leslie Robbins, Jacqueline Schaller, Carmen Sebert, Carolyn Shaw, Jacqueline Sustar, Susan Wawrow, Helen Williams, Krista Wylie, Susan Armstrong, Helen Wong, Jackie Martin, Tanyss Price

Regrets: Sarah Frame, Marshall Leslie, Audrey Robinson

M.1 Call to order, welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

M.2 Roll call

Attendance was taken as members arrived. Quorum was determined with the inclusion of proxies.

M.3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

M.4 Review of January 22, 2015 minutes

The previous minutes were approved by email (March 24, 2015).

Review of previous meeting action items:

ACTION Item #1: A. Dennis to share an update on the Safe and Caring Schools Committee after the Jan. 2015 meeting and include a reminder about not parking illegally around the school.

A meeting of the Safe and Caring Schools Committee was held on Jan. 29. Yard duty teachers have become more visible in the yard during lunch. Morning announcements have included reminders about safe play in the yard in particular. We are continuing with Mindful Moment in the mornings. Dress code was also discussed and student representatives provided input. Plans to make a video on dress code is under consideration. Rules regarding the use of scooters, etc. were revised as a pilot to encourage physical activity getting to/from school, however use on school property is prohibited. Storage of scooters, skateboards, etc. is a concern where equipment does not fit in lockers. Car safety was discussed as well, including illegal parking/stopping around school property. The school will call 311 to report specific concerns. A summary of these initiatives will be included in the next Rapport. *[Completed]*

ACTION Item #2: R. Parekh to issue a call for volunteers in the Council newsletter for volunteers to monitor illegal parking around the school. *[Completed]*

ACTION Item #3: Administration will ask teachers to notify parents that they are required to leave strollers outside, particularly if they are blocking entries.

Notices about strollers not blocking the school entrance were created and will be posted in the front foyer. *[Completed]*

ACTION Item #4: R. Parekh to include a call for lunch supervisors in the next Council newsletter. *[Completed]*

M.5 Question/Answer session and/or Updates from Administration

No questions for Admin. were submitted in advance.

It was reported that the teacher allocation for the next year had been determined. It will be lower by 5.5 than the current year because Howard Park students will no longer be feeding into Runnymede P.S., contributing to a lower enrollment. We received some exceptions in the allocation formulas in order to reduce the number of split classes.

In terms of the school facilities, we are waiting for new hydro equipment to be connected before opening up the side yard at Colbeck. It is anticipated that the hard surface of the side yard will be newly paved, with bright lines painted, and a new gate installed. A field permit for the installation of the artificial turf field has been issued and we're waiting for the work to start.

M.6 2014-15 Budget review

The Council budget is currently trending about \$9K ahead of budget in revenue. Donations have continued to trickle in. Expenses are on track. Spring Yard Day has been cancelled due to ongoing construction in the school yard so we expect to be \$500 under budget on costs (to be reallocated as appropriate).

M.7 Committee updates (~ 3 min/each)

M.7.1 Spirit

A movie night was planned for April 17. Council members were asked to spread the word. It will be a fun night including popcorn and a bake sale.

Spirit Committee leadership and membership will see a turnover next year. The number of volunteers on the Spirit Committee has also been decreasing. The Committee is reviewing the list of Spirit initiatives and have suggested that going forward, parents/guardians sign up to help with specific tasks and those initiatives without volunteers will have to be dropped. **New volunteers are needed before the end of this school year.**

The Spirit Committee is responsible for fundraising but also building community/spirit. These are important initiatives and without the funds raised, we would not be able to support school programs to the extent currently done.

It was discussed that raising awareness of Spirit Committees and the call for volunteers should be promoted at the Apr. 17 movie night, as well as during the Spring kindergarten orientation (someone from the Spirit attend was encouraged to attend).

N. Cadeau suggested that Council ask one parent from each class to volunteer to be a Spirit representative in order to connect more closely with each class. This could be coordinated at the start of the next school year.

Pub night is another significant fundraising initiative and coming up on May 8. The aim is to have at least 400 people attend. Funds raised were to be earmarked for Centennial initiatives.

M.7.2 Arts

New Committee leadership and volunteers are also needed for the Arts Committee. The Arts

Committee provides an enrichment program for K-Gr. ?? No Spring Thaw this year. Due to space constraints and FDK. For JK-3 will have a modified program – 2 lessons for each class (in class). From Lello art school.

Mayhem Bros. for Gr. 3?

The Arts Committee has provided an extensive arts enrichment program for the Kindergarten to Gr. 3 students at Runnymede P.S. for the past 4 years. They also enjoyed showcasing the art creations at an annual Spring Thaw Art Show over the past 3 years. Unfortunately due to full-day kindergarten (FDK) implementation this year, the Arts Committee was unable to plan the usual February/March program and therefore unable to provide artwork for a Spring Thaw event. The biggest challenge was a lack of space to run the program and secondly, a lack of volunteers to run a program of this magnitude and contain costs.

An alternative solution has been found and the Arts Committee announced that they will be able to offer a modified arts enrichment program this year for JK to Gr. 3 students. Janeen Brownrigg of LELLO art school has offered to run 2 lessons for each of the Kindergarten to Gr 2 classes IN their classrooms. Administration approached the teachers and received support to proceed. Admin. will schedule lessons in May and June. Arts Committee members will do their best to support Janeen and help minimize any inconvenience for the teachers. Teachers are encouraged to reach out for in-class/parent volunteers to support the lessons once scheduled.

Gr. 3 students will receive a dance lesson from the Mayhem Brothers (one session per class).

The Arts Committee thanked Council for their continued support of the arts enrichment program. **More volunteers will be needed in the coming months to help work on plans for next year's program.**

M.7.3 STEM

The STEM Committee is planning an “amazing math race” during June 16-23 for Gr. 1 – 6 students.

J. Tiessen will be stepping down as STEM Committee Chair. The Committee has been working to recruit new members.

M.7.4 Yard

Front Yard Refresh

2 out of 3 meetings with the Ministry landscape architect have been completed. Plans for the front yard refresh should be completed by the end of April and will be shared with the school community leading up to Pub Night where we need to focus on significant fundraising in order to execute the plans.

Recess equipment

An inventory of equipment will take place over the next few weeks and then necessary equipment will be ordered for use during outside recess.

Spring Yard Day

Unfortunately spring yard day will be cancelled at the end of April. A school permit was not available due to ongoing construction. It may be possible to reschedule in May.

Full-day Kindergarten (FDK) Yard

The Yard Committee assembled a small group of parents interested in supplementing the new yard once completed (hopefully in the spring). Kindergarten teacher T. Madison provided some creative ideas that will be incorporated. Their first meeting was Apr. 8. Contact Sarah Frame if interested in joining this project.

Green Teacher

Winter sessions were completed before March Break. Planning needs to start for the May initiative where Grade 6 classes will plant native species in the Hillside Garden (this is the project we obtained a grant for). Contact Sarah Frame if you are interested in working on this very rewarding project.

Green Team

Junk Art student winners were announced today. Congratulations to all. The Green Team and caretakers are ready to expand the green binning of paper towels to the main washroom on the 2nd floor (it already started on the 1st floor) and some staff washrooms. It is proceeding well.

M.7.5 Centennial

Archives - making progress thanks to Janine, with collecting photos for a legacy video. Planning to create display for glass case.

Fundraising – on track.

Communications event - website continues to see interested alumni "register." A student's grandmother has agreed to manage that database. Planning to kick-off this Spring, need to meet with Admin to discussion plans to move forward. Banner to promote Centennial was designed and soon to be printed.

Legacy gift - funds will go towards the front yard refresh. Legacy mosaic being planned in addition for inside the school.

M.7.6 Communications

J. Sustar will wrap up her volunteer position at the end of this year. A replacement is required.

M.8 Ward 7 updates

Disrepair at Runnymede P.S. - Letter to Province

Under the umbrella of Ward 7, several Runnymede parents drafted a letter to the province about specific Runnymede P.S. repairs and the additional concern that facility concerns are taking up an inordinate amount of our Administration team's time. This letter ideally can be used as a template for other school councils to write the province about their specific repair issues as well. Attached is a draft that was reviewed with the Council. Council agreed that it be send on behalf of the school Council (following correction of the official title of the Council).

TDSB Long-term Program Accommodation Strategy

Given the overcrowding that continues to be a challenge in Ward 7, there will likely be many studies in the coming years to find suitable solutions. As of May 2015, we will have a better idea of the exact studies planned for the near-term that will impact Runnymede P.S. In the interim, here are two studies currently being proposed.

- 1) In 2015, there may be a grade change study of Runnymede P.S. to explore the feasibility of a JK-Grade 6 school with Grade 7 & 8 students attending Annette P.S.
- 2) In 2017, there may be an emerging capital priority study to explore the construction of additional classrooms at Annette P.S. to address the overcrowding at Runnymede P.S.

M. 9 Misc. Council updates

M.9.1 Anti-bullying workshop

The workshop was set for April 7.

M.9.2 Lice checks

There was a 50% reduction in lice cases compared with the checks performed earlier in the year. The challenge will be finding budget to have someone come in and do checks next year. It was suggested that Council cover the cost for a lice check next September and a combination

of vendor/parent led checks in January and March of next year.

Action item #1 (M9.2.2): D. Cadeau to obtain a quote from a vendor for a per child fee lice check in September 2015, as well as a daily fee for helping with a parent/volunteer initiated lice checks in January and March 2016.

M.10 Other business

- Suggestions for future school presentations on parenting topics were provided by H .Wong. Note that the next PRO grant submissions are due May 19, 2015. The Parenting Network offers educational sessions that are approved by TDSB. Anxiety in kids was a topic that Administration recommended for this grant in support of mental health and wellness.

M.11 Next meeting

The last Council meeting of the school year will be on May 28, 2015.

M.12 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

**Runnymede Public School Council
Profit Loss Apr 01 2015**

	Budget 14/15	Actual 14/15	Forecast 14/15	Fav / (Unfav)
Net Ordinary Income				
Donations	\$ 30,000	\$ 34,373	\$ -	\$ 4,373
Pizza Lunch	\$ 11,500	\$ 16,004	\$ (3,300)	\$ 1,204
Pub Night / Silent Auction	\$ 5,000	\$ (250)	\$ 5,250	\$ -
QSP Magazine	\$ 1,000	\$ 725	\$ 275	\$ (0)
Curriculum Night Bake Sale	\$ 500	\$ 443	\$ -	\$ (57)
T-Shirt	\$ 500	\$ 972	\$ -	\$ 472
HST / GST	\$ (1,200)	\$ -	\$ (1,200)	\$ -
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,463	\$ -	\$ 463
Yard Grant Income	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
		-	-	
Total Net Ordinary Income	\$ 48,300	\$ 56,230	\$ 1,025	\$ 8,955
Retained earnings from prior year	\$ 1,971	\$ 1,971	\$ -	\$ -
Total Net Ordinary Income & Surplus	\$ 50,271	\$ 58,201	\$ 1,025	\$ 8,955
Expense				
Committed:				
Technology				
STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Math	\$ (6,500)	\$ (1,854)	\$ (4,646)	\$ -
Yard				
Yard Improvement	\$ (4,300)	\$ (113)	\$ (3,687)	\$ 500
Green Teacher	\$ (3,800)	\$ (1,000)	\$ (300)	\$ 2,500
Yard Grant Spend - On Green Teacher	\$ -	\$ (1,000)	\$ (1,500)	\$ (2,500)
Outdoor recess equipment	\$ (2,000)	\$ (1,011)	\$ (989)	\$ -
Arts				
Primary Arts Program	\$ (7,500)	\$ -	\$ (7,500)	\$ -
Art	\$ (1,150)	\$ (650)	\$ (500)	\$ -
Instrument Renewal - Strings	\$ (1,150)	\$ (650)	\$ (500)	\$ -
Instrument Renewal - Band	\$ (1,150)	\$ (650)	\$ (500)	\$ -
Drama Program	\$ (1,150)	\$ (650)	\$ (500)	\$ -
Teacher Reimbursement				
Teacher Reimbursement Fund	\$ (15,000)	\$ (11,000)	\$ (4,000)	\$ -
Other				
Extracurricular Support	\$ (1,900)	\$ (1,900)	\$ -	\$ -
House League Sports	\$ (1,500)	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ -
Eco Schools	\$ (300)	\$ (300)	\$ -	\$ -
Peacemakers	\$ (300)	\$ (300)	\$ -	\$ -
Spirit/ Centennial	\$ (1,000)	\$ -	\$ (1,000)	\$ -
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	\$ (600)	\$ -	\$ (600)	\$ -
Council Communications	\$ (200)	\$ -	\$ (200)	\$ -
Sundry And Admin	\$ (500)	\$ (332)	\$ (168)	\$ -
Total Committed	\$ (50,000)	\$ (22,910)	\$ (26,590)	\$ 500
Uncommitted:				
Enrichment Expense	\$ (250)	\$ -	\$ (250)	\$ -
Extraordinary Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,995)	\$ (3,995)
Total Uncommitted	\$ (250)	\$ -	\$ (4,245)	\$ (3,995)
Total Other Expense	\$ (50,250)	\$ (22,910)	\$ (30,835)	\$ (3,495)
Net Income	\$ 21	\$ 35,291	\$ (29,810)	\$ 5,460

Centennial Yard Refresh	
Donations	\$ 519

Other Sources of Funds:	
Target Gift Voucher	\$ 250
Movie Tickets 4 adult tickets	\$ 52
Good Fork Gift Vouchers 2 vouchers	\$ 40
	\$ 342

TO: Premier Wynne, Minister Sandals, Deputy Minister Zegeerac, MPP Cheri DiNovo
CC: Trustee Robin Pilkey, Director Donna Quan, Chief Facility Officer Angelos Bacopoulos

April 2, 2015

Dear Premier Wynne, Minister Sandals, Deputy Minister Zegeerac & MPP Cheri DiNovo,

As the School Council of Runnymede Jr. and Sr., we are extremely concerned about the physical condition of the school. We know that our Principal, our Trustee and TDSB Facilities are aware of these issues and work hard to address them. We know that the provincial government provides limited resources and repairs go undone for far too long.

Little headway is being made in the \$3 million backlog of repairs at our school, and we feel that our children's Principal must spend an unacceptable amount of her day dealing with repair issues. As parents, we want our Principal to have the time to focus on being a curriculum leader and we look to your government to start funding public schools in a manner that would allow this to happen.

At Runnymede, we see no plans to replace items that are about to fail, or have failed. We are concerned they are not on the Renewal Needs Backlog list.

Firstly, the concrete stairs at the exit #3 have again failed and as a result the exit has been blocked off for over a month in 2015 alone. With the overcapacity at Runnymede, *we are concerned that Ontario fire safety codes are being violated* by the ongoing closure of exit #3.

Secondly, the exterior walkways surrounding the school are in an extremely poor condition with asphalt that is cracked, or in a state of upheaval in most locations and concrete that is spalling, alligating, and *in a state of failure in most locations*.

Thirdly, the concrete stairs leading from Colbeck Street to the Kindergarten entrances are also failing and dangerous. Over the past several years, *these stairs have been patched a number of times only to begin cracking and spalling even a few weeks later*.

These walkways, stairs & exits need to be replaced, not just given a quick patch.

These are just the schoolyard maintenance items we are able to observe on a regular basis. The exterior façade conditions and the conditions on the interior of the building are worse in many cases. Many of the items are mechanical or structural in nature meaning that there may be no warning when they fail and therefore could lead to fire, serious injury or death.

As parents it is our responsibility to make sure our children attend school in a safe environment. As the sole funder of public education in Ontario, we feel it is YOUR government's responsibility to fund schools so that they are safe. We would urge you to show your concern for the children at Runnymede Public School and to require that our school be repaired before failures occur rather than after.

Will your government release emergency funding immediately to address all urgent repairs at all TDSB schools which would enable the TDSB to conduct ultimately safer and more cost-effective replacements of items rather than quick patch jobs that we've seen time and again at our children's school?

Yours Sincerely,

Runnymede School Council
357 Runnymede Road, Toronto, ON