



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

MINUTES

Runnymede Public School (PS) Council - Meeting #3, 2015-16

November 25, 2015

Runnymede PS Library

6:45 pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance: Jen Atkinson, Ivana Barbieri, David Begleiter, Alexandra Caliginri, Lori Cant, Erin Carroll, Amelia Dennis, Sarah Frame, Brian Halford, Colette Harper, Kathleen Hyatt, Anna Intarakosit, Ingrid Larsen, Anne Markee, Jackie Marrie, Tricia McGovern, Jennifer McLean, Erin Meana, Nikolina Mizdrak, Maureen Petrie, Tanyss Price, Miriam Riches, Leslie Robbins, Audrey Robinson, Carolyn Shaw, Shirley Suurdt, Susan Wawrow, Helen Williams, Helen Wong, Krista Wylie

Regrets: Nancy Bestic, Dale (Narinder) Cadeau, Carmen Sebert

M.1 Administration Update

- J. Marrie welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced two guests from TDSB:
 - David Percival, Senior Manager, Building Design & Renewal; and
 - Jane Phillips-Long, Superintendent WR6.
- A. Dennis explained that the TDSB guests were attending the meeting to provide updates on upcoming construction projects at Runnymede P.S., explain the Grade Change Study, and to answer parents' questions.

M.1.1 Construction Projects at Runnymede P.S.

D. Percival

- D. Percival described upcoming construction projects at Runnymede P.S. He explained that the projects, together with the Centennial Playground construction, will be simultaneous and co-ordinated. D. Percival and J. Phillips-Long met with the Centennial Committee to make sure that the projects could be co-ordinated by phasing the construction.
- North Wing (Senior/"New" wing)

- The floor slabs of the north wing ground floor will be removed and replaced. This is necessary due to settling and structural cracking in the interior partitions due to settling of the floor slabs. Some work is required on the east side of the same wing (injection of foam materials).
- Work will begin in July with the west side of the wing (complete demolition). This work on the west side, affecting Rooms 115 and 116, will not be completed until January/February 2017.
- The remaining portion of the work, affecting Rooms 117, 118 and 119, will be completed by the beginning of September 2016 so that those classrooms will be ready for occupancy when school begins. However, the corridors to these three rooms will not be available; instead, doors will be opened in those classrooms to allow for access from the exterior (i.e., the rooms will operate like portables, but inside the school). This will continue until the entire project is completed in winter 2017.
- The end product will be two new classrooms (including new windows) and two new washrooms.
- Restoration of Masonry and Windows (East-West/"Original" wing)
 - Restoration of masonry and windows ("cluster columns") is required due to corrosion of the steel columns between the windows. The windows will be replaced. This is a major undertaking but will be completed during summer months.
 - This project will be completed in two phases: Phase 1 (north wall of the east-west wing) in the summer of 2016, and Phase 2 (south side, along Colbeck/kindergarten yard) in summer 2017. The phasing is necessary to allow for the Centennial Playground project to continue as planned.
- D. Percival and A. Dennis answered a number of questions from parents, including:
 - Assuring that the need for use of the turf field will be taken into consideration, and no heavy equipment will be located on the turf field
 - Assuring that efforts will be made to keep children safe during construction (e.g., bringing materials in early each day to avoid crossing the path of children during the school day; following proper requirements for testing and handling building materials)
 - Including representation from the full-year on-site child care centre at meetings to address parent concerns.

J. Phillips-Long

- To deal with overcrowding, the TDSB is conducting a Grade Change Study, to begin in January 2016, that will consider making Runnymede P.S. a junior school from K-6, with all grade 7 and 8 students (French Immersion and English streams) moving off site. Options being explored are moving students to Annette Jr. & Sr. PS and a campus arrangement with Western Technical School, amongst others.
- J. Phillips-Long explained the process for TDSB studies:
 - A Local Feasibility Team (LFT) will be formed. It will include TDSB Planning staff, the neighbouring Principals, affected Superintendents, program staff and our local Trustee, Robin Pilkey. The LFT will look at enrollment projection data and explore potential long- and short-term solutions to address overcrowding at Runnymede.
 - A focus group with parents will be conducted simultaneously with the LFT.
 - The LFT may conclude one of the following options:
 - a) That monitoring Runnymede's enrolment is acceptable in the short-term, and that a significant change in demographic data will bring the team back together when needed;
 - b) That a Program Area Review Team (PART) should be formed to further examine immediate and long-term solutions. If a PART is recommended, this team would include all members of the LFT plus parent representatives. The PART would meet at least twice to review the data and discuss solutions. A public meeting would be scheduled to share information and seek input.

M.2 Call to Order, Welcome

J. Marrie called the regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

J. Marrie took a moment to specifically thank Sarah Frame, Erin Meana and Sharon Zupancic for their hard work in reaching Council's goal for the Centennial Playground. Thanks also went out to Council and to all of the families that donated to the Centennial Playground fundraiser.

M.3 Roll call

Attendance was taken during the meeting.

M.4 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

M.5 Review of October 22, 2015 minutes

The previous minutes were approved by email (Nov. 20, 2015).

Review of Previous Action Item: Parent Talks (H. Wong)

- Council has enough money to hold two Parent Talks this year. The first talk will be on Anxiety (all grades). There are a number of options for the second talk (see attachment – Parenting Network, Most Popular Workshops).
- J. Marrie reviewed the list of options and asked those present to express their interest in each parent talk subject through a show of hands. There was greatest interest in “Instilling True Self Esteem” for younger children.
- The first parent talk is scheduled for February 3, 2016. It was generally felt that two parent talks in one night would be too much. Keeping in mind previous challenges finding available dates, H. Wong agreed to look for another date for the second parent talk in April 2016.
- An invitation to the talks may be extended to Annette P.S./other schools in the area.

ACTION ITEM: H. Wong to look for a date in April for a Parent Talk on Instilling True Self Esteem

M.6 Question/Answer Session with Administration

- No questions submitted in advance.
- Q: A concern was raised about the school clocks; kindergarten students are going into the school before 9:00 a.m. and being dismissed at 2:55.
A: A. Dennis explained that the clocks are in sync with the bell times. The bells are four minutes fast. Getting it fixed requires having TDSB workers come to the school to fix the bell system, and eventually the problem will recur. A. Dennis suggested spreading the word about the clocks so that parents can arrive on time to drop off and pick up students on time for the bells. M. Petrie will also post a notice about the clocks on the Council website.
- S. Wawrow provided an update on the following school initiatives:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters for Grades 4-6. This program is great for students' self esteem. They meet every Wednesday after school for one hour. This year the program is limited to 20 students due to the number of available mentors.
- Social Justice Club for Grades 6, 7 and 8. Ms. Edgar, Mme. Cianfarani and Ms. Bunting are working with S. Wawrow on this club, which has 45 student members. The teachers facilitate and provide guidance, but the students come up with the campaigns. The club's first campaign is the "Me to We" campaign, selling Rafiki bracelets. The campaign is student-driven and the students are passionate about it. The club will be working on a new, more local, campaign in the New Year.
- Student Parliament. The focus is on giving back, through a food drive and toy drive. Also looking into another cookie drive to raise funds for Syrian families.
- J. Marrie reminded Council of the opportunity to submit questions to Admin in advance of Council meetings by emailing any questions to C. Shaw (Secretary) at least one week in advance. A. Dennis reminded Council of the school's open-door policy, noting that parents don't have to wait for a Council meeting to ask a question of Admin.

M.7 Committee Updates

M.7.1 Centennial

- S. Frame specifically recognized the following members of Council for their help with the Centennial Playground fundraiser:
 - K. Wylie (for setting up direct donation); H. Williams and S. Suurdt (for accounting work); I. Larsen and M. Petrie (emails and website); the Admin team (for being supportive and accommodating); and Council Co-Chairs N. Cadeau and J. Marrie.
- The Centennial Committee has raised \$235,000; \$10,000 more than the fundraising goal. JK direct donation raised over \$11,000, and Councillor Sarah Doucette helped Council get \$35,000 in section 37 funding.
- For the rest of the year:
 - There are fewer than 100 t-shirts remaining to be sold
 - Other potential Centennial fundraisers are on hold
 - Funds raised at Pub Night 2016 will not be required for the Centennial Playground, so that money will go to general Council activities
 - The Centennial Open House and Fun Fair on Saturday, May 28, 2016 will go ahead. The Centennial Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan this event; please contact S. Frame or email runnymedecentennial@gmail.com.

- Work on the final design phase for the playground is underway. The schedule is being manipulated a bit to work with the other construction projects at the school, but the majority of the playground will go in this summer, with the exception of some asphalt work at the south end. Drawings are expected to be completed by the end of January 2016, and final bids and a firm budget in March 2016.

M.7.2 Spirit

- The Mural Project is complete. Murals have been installed around the school from every decade that Runnymede P.S. has been open.
- Upcoming Spirit Committee events:
 - Movie Night – January 21, 2016
 - Centennial Assembly for staff and students – first week in February 2016
 - Pub Night – March 4, 2016. This year Pub Night will be more of a community-building event, less focused on fundraising. The first planning meeting for Pub Night is Friday November 27, 2016 after pizza lunch. Volunteers are still needed!

M.7.3 Arts

- No update provided.

M.7.4 STEM

- Our First League LEGO Robotics team (students, parents and staff) are working very hard for the upcoming tournament December 12th. Thank you to Susan and Jerry as well as Mme. Post and Mr. Wang (Western Tech) for supporting this wonderful initiative. We are also very thankful to our neighbours at Western Tech for their space and their support and we hope we can continue this relationship in the years to come.
- The STEM committee is also busy with ongoing preparations for our spring math enrichment programs (Math Amazing Race for grade 1-6 students and Angry Birds Math for kindergartens). We will have our next meeting on Tuesday January 26th at 7:00 pm in the school library. If you are interested in the STEM committee please feel free to join us our e-mail us at runnymedeSTEMcommittee@gmail.com

M.7.5 Yard

- The fall Green Teacher program has wrapped up. Grades 2, 4 and 6 received nature lessons in the Hillside Garden and it was enjoyed by all. There will be no winter Green Teacher program this year, but the Yard Committee has put in an application for a TD Friends of the Environment Fund grant for the spring program. If that money doesn't come

through, it can be revisited based on the budget.

- The Yard Committee's order for new recess/playground equipment (balls, etc.) has come in, and the Committee will be distributing the equipment to the classrooms.
- The school Green Team, through the EcoSchools program, has put in an application for "Project Refill," a program that would supply a new drinking water filling station in the school for students to use to fill their re-usable water bottles. The purpose is to curb the use of disposable plastic bottles.
- The paper towel green bin project is back in effect.
- In January the Yard Committee will start planning a spring Yard Day (to be held in April 2016).

M.7.6 Communications

- The Runnymede Council website is being upgraded:
 - A new "subscribe" feature allows you to automatically sync your calendar to the Council calendar. Please contact the Communications Committee (Runnymedeps@gmail.com) if you know of an event that should be in the calendar.
 - Core information will be updated.
 - Information about kindergarten will be added in anticipation of kindergarten registration coming up in February 2016.
 - A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section is in the works.
- The Committee is also considering migrating the email database (approximately 1,200 parents) to a new service. Anyone who can help or has suggestions can contact the Committee at Runnymedeps@gmail.com.

M.8 2015-16 Budget Review

- The 2015/2016 Budget (Phase 1) was approved at Council's last meeting on October 22, 2015.
- See attached budget document. At this point we are tracking to forecast, with \$750 favourable to budget due to a donation from Suncor obtained by a parent. The donation will go to general Council funds.
- At Council's next meeting on January 19, 2016 we will review and vote on Phase 2 of the budget, which will include deciding where to allocate funds from Pub Night.

M.9 Ward 7 Updates

- K. Wylie referred Council members to the Council website for a Ward 7 update.
 - TDSBcares is partnering with the Canadian Red Cross for the Refugee Crisis Appeal.
 - TDSB's Dewson P.S. has issued a "1000 School Challenge" urging 1000 schools across Canada to join them in sponsoring Syrian refugees and provides tools and resources to support.
 - Labour update: While central bargaining for our teachers is done, local bargaining and settlement is still in process.
 - A link to the TDSB Long-term Program & Accommodation Strategy is posted on the Council website.
 - The catchment areas for secondary students in the Gifted Program have changed. Our designated gifted program for secondary is at Western Tech.
- Fix Our Schools (fixourschools.ca) is a non-partisan, grassroots, parent-led campaign that originated in Ward 7 and is asking for safe, well-maintained public schools in Ontario. They are currently running a letter-writing campaign asking the provincial government to increase capital funding for public school buildings. K. Wylie encouraged parents to sign up, write a letter and spread the word.

M.10 Other Business

M.10.1 Google Expeditions Pioneer Program – free loan of virtual reality equipment for classrooms

- K. Hyatt described this free program, which loans virtual reality equipment to schools to use for a day. It requires six (6) interested teachers. T. Maddison is currently talking to other teachers to gauge interest in applying for this program. K. Hyatt will keep Council updated.

Other Items

- J. Atkinson provided an update on lost and found:
 - Unclaimed lost and found items usually go to Goodwill. The items could be donated to Syrian refugees, but the items must be laundered first to do so. Please contact J. Atkinson if you are interested in volunteering to launder the large volume of items to be donated.
- K. Wylie reported that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee has information about French Immersion and other online French resources. The Communications Committee will scan and post on Council website.

M.11 Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **January 19, 2016**.

Subsequent meetings have been scheduled for:

- March 31, 2016
- May 19, 2016

M.12 Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Most Popular Workshops

1. No Praise Junkies in this House! (Teens or Younger Children)

Praise has now been shown to be counterproductive to children's self-esteem. Given with the best of intentions, praise can actually lead to more challenging behavior and undermine the life goals we have for our children. How can I keep my child from becoming a "praise junkie"? Learn how to be a more encouraging parent and help your child reach his true potential.

2. Instilling True Self Esteem (Teens or Younger Children)

Some children seem to navigate life with confidence and ease, while others are anxious, full of self-doubt. Learn to assess the state of your child's self-esteem, and gain ways to improve it. We give you easy, everyday tools that will equip your child to withstand peer pressure, cliques, and bullying, while laying the groundwork for their self-confidence and happiness all through life.

3. Getting Out of the House... without Losing Your Mind

Understand the reasons behind your child's behavior and how to avoid power struggles. Learn responses that create more harmony and cooperation as well as the use of consequences and other positive discipline methods. Ensure your children develop the life-skills to succeed.

4. Positive Time Out

Time Out has become one of the most popular methods of discipline for young children today. It can seem to work but often backfires. What do children learn from time outs and what are the long range effects? Learn effective uses of Time Out and other positive approaches to discipline.

5. Are Power Struggles Driving you Crazy?

Power, power, power. How much is enough for kids? How much is too much? What is going to happen as they get older if it is like this already? Whether your child is 2 or 14, you might have these questions. Learn what power struggles are all about, why they take so much out of us and what we can do about them. Get strategies for avoiding power struggles as well as practical tools to use in the middle of one.

6. Strengthening the Bond with Your Preteen/Teen

Adolescence is often a time of great turmoil. Our teens are exploring a new sense of independence and parents are struggling with letting go. Evidence shows that when you improve the relationship, you reduce the chance of high-risk behaviours during these years. Learn how to strengthen the bond and improve communication with your teen.

7. Preventing High Risk Behaviors in your Teen

Drugs, alcohol, sex, and even the internet pose potentially serious risks to our teenagers. Help them navigate this challenging time in their lives and learn about curfews, grounding, drinking and parties. Learn strategies to help better equip your teenager to withstand peer pressure, cliques, bullying and the tendency to indulge in high risk behaviors.

8. Bullying – How To Safeguard Your Children and Teach Conflict Resolution

Bullying hurts all our kids, even if they are not victims themselves. It undermines the social fabric of our schools and our communities. How can we recognize bullying from normal conflict? How can we safeguard our children or help them deal with it? As parents, are we contributing to the problem? You will gain confidence in your parenting that you can make a difference and help stop bullying.

**Runnymede Public School Council
Profit Loss
November 25, 2015**

	Budget 15/16	Actual 15/16	Forecast 15/16	Fav / (Unfav)
Net Ordinary Income				
Donations	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
Pizza Lunch	\$ 13,500	\$ 23,172	\$ (9,672)	\$ (0)
Pub Night / Silent Auction	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Movie Nights	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
QSP Magazine	\$ 750	\$ 266	\$ 484	\$ 0
Orange T-Shirts	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Halloween Costume Sale	\$ 400	\$ 401	\$ -	\$ 1
HST / GST	\$ (400)	\$ -	\$ (400)	\$ -
Total Net Ordinary Income	\$ 20,750	\$ 25,089	\$ (3,588)	\$ 751
Expense				
Committed:				
Technology				
STEM Science, Technology, Engineering & Math	\$ (1,000)	\$ (88)	\$ (912)	\$ -
Yard				
Yard Improvement	\$ (300)	\$ -	\$ (300)	\$ -
Green Teacher	\$ (1,000)	\$ (1,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Arts				
Primary Arts Program	\$ (1,600)	\$ -	\$ (1,600)	\$ -
Teacher Resource				
Teacher Resource Fund	\$ (15,750)	\$ -	\$ (15,750)	\$ -
Other				
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	\$ (400)	\$ -	\$ (400)	\$ -
Council Communications	\$ (200)	\$ -	\$ (200)	\$ -
Sundry And Admin	\$ (500)	\$ (383)	\$ (117)	\$ -
Total Expense	\$ (20,750)	\$ (1,472)	\$ (19,278)	\$ -
Net Income	\$ -	\$ 23,617	\$ (22,866)	\$ 751