



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

Runnymede Parent Council Meeting – September 27th, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

Co-Chair update - Greg and Anh

- Announcement of minutes in May –
- Were circulated on the 21st, avail for review if needed
- Greg will be stepping down, Anh continuing in the role

Admin Update

Rob Hochberg

- Feedback even from the first day, seemed to work fairly well, since the first morning, things have been going really well
- Library – re-furbished over the summer, books were weeded
- There were over 70 boxes of books that were removed
- Students are now able to have access to new, updated and in better condition books, more space for student learning, and itops and computers coming in too, also our shelves are lower so students can have easier access to books on the shelves
- On one side of the room – more teaching and partnership with the library, Prometheus board
- Grade 1-3 – assembly tomorrow, community police officer liaison will be coming
- Common language – WITS program foundation – walk away, ignore, talk it out, seek help.
- EQAO – results are out
 - Results in Grade 3 – Reading 91, Writing 91 and Math 89%
 - Grade 6 - 92, 96 77 Math, we are staying consistent, students at Runnymede are doing fairly well both from province and TDSB perspective
- We are working on communication between teachers and parents – might have a website, or an application they can use to communicate between home and school, more and more teachers being trained on Google classroom
- No longer using Seesaw, it is not backed up by the TDSB, asking teachers not to use it
- Hoping to get trained up on one or two more programs
- Did order another Chrome cart, with 20 more Chrome books
- John Kim – he is here, made a connection with a private school, donated musical storage worth of thousands of dollars
- Chairs – swivel. Chairs.desks – donated by same school, got a full class set of those chairs
- Great turn out – school council thanks, Greg at the table helping to get them to class line ups, welcome to Kindergarten, tomorrow first pizza lunch

- Without the partnership and working together with school council, so many things we wouldn't be able to accomplish without them

Waheeda Khan Fitzpatrick

- Senior division VP, Luc Gelinis also coming soon
- Today was our annual Terry Fox Run – out there all morning, students were incredible
- It was a wonderful event, want to thank you for your support, students had fun and were safe
- A new change for our school – had morning announcements read, it was reading into instructional time, surveyed teachers and they wanted a change, come up with a new system where we do everything in line
- Students can see everything, but can't edit, can just view the announcements that pertain to them
- We are launching that after Thanksgiving
- For the younger grades, it will be read to them or assign someone to read it to them
- Still some large announcements will go out – national anthem, land acknowledgement etc.

Luke Gelinis

- Transferred here as VP, came from a school in the East end
- Official welcome for Luke, he is going to be a great fit
- He is French speaking, was a French immersion teacher for 20 years

Questions

- Q – in EQAO – drop in math scores from Grade 3 to 6, province wide issue, what is the problem and how it is being addressed at a macro level? A – it will take time to address at the Ministry level, they are reviewing curriculum, we have looked at Math at the school, year by year, when we look at the data it is hard to figure out where the issues really are, Board wide however, they are trying to deal with this issue
- Q – will parents be able to see the announcements? A - It won't be open to parents, but still it will be accessible through Google classroom.
- Q – will every student have google classroom? A: Yes, even JK students have it, all classrooms and students have it. The point is that announcements are usually for the students and teachers, not so much for parents.
- Q – is peaceful recess going to continue this year? A: Anne Markee speaks – will start next Thursday for afternoon recess for Grades 1-2 and 2-3 split, don't know if it has been decided for other class levels.
- Q: How come it is limited to those grades? A: It is not, have to figure out which teachers are willing to take this on. Anne is only speaking to what she is able to do.

Committee Intros and updates

Arts - Ivana and Sabrina

- Means visual arts, band, strings and drama -
- We spearhead fine visual arts, painting, multimedia, FDK-Grade 5, support a program on this end, don't know what that will look like yet, working on that now, if you are interested in these things, please come and join us

Spirit – Erin and Alison

- Direct donation this year – our focus for the big chunk of DD is supposed to be going to the performing arts program at Runnymede, right now we are just over \$49K, we are doing well, tomorrow is the last official day
- Ingrid and I will stop sending out emails after that – goal is \$60K, still have a little bit of a ways to go
- The amount of money we are able to put towards the arts program is dependent on how much money we get in the campaign
- Other than DD – running all of the same community events – movie night, pub nights, Nuit Orange and we are also going to be doing the fun run in the Spring to raise money for another school, last year we raised about \$2500
- Pizza lunch – Grades 1-8 starting tomorrow, makes about \$15K
- Kindergarten – starting in Oct, last Friday of every month for both
- T-shirt sales – sold a lot of shirts, already made \$1100, delivered tomorrow to kids classrooms
- Then we had the bake sale on curriculum night – if anyone \$700 raised, she is stepping down so if anyone wants to take that over

STEM – Tasha and David

- Our focus is on STEM enrichment, science, engineering, technology and Math
- Angry Birds program – KD
- Amazing math race for Grades 1-4
- Want to run an enrichment for seniors, our activity is pretty quiet in the first half, but second half of the year is when we really ramp up
- We are looking for a little bit of help, programs happen during school hours, opportunities also after school
- Q – is there a robotics class? A: there is a first lego lead, there are two teams, runs from Sept to December, tryouts are in May/June, for Grades 4-8
- The Stem Committee will hold its first meeting on October 22nd at 8PM. Still at Koffea Espresso Bar.

Yard - Sarah and Helen

- Our interest is twofold, maintain and use the nature garden
- Second – try to make enhancements to the school yard so that kids have positive recess time
- Nature garden – planted by teachers and parents over 20 years ago, there is a trail system in there, teachers are out there exploring and learning, outdoor amphitheatre

- Yard Day – semi annual maintenance on the space, once spruced up then sponsor the Green Teacher program, they have a field trip that is linked to their curriculum, we care for that nature garden but then also make sure it is being appreciated by the students
- Recess – provide recess equipment, distribute balls to the classroom, etc. something I am able to do with my daughter, gave up part of her summer holidays to plant chrysanthemums, and so proud of what she was doing with her school friends and teachers, can come and join with your child
- Front yard – a lot of improvements and the adventure yard in the back – open to feedback and ideas, things you have noticed that could be better, can work together to figure out how to make improvements
- This year – we would like to investigate, in the side yard shade is an issue, if we have parents that agree with that, we could research that and figure out how to pay for it etc.

Communications – Danielle

- Ingrid is stepping down
- We are responsible for the website and all the emails that you get
- Every Thursday I send a list that should go into the Friday emails that go out from the Principal
- When is the meeting – typically meet at Baka, toying with the idea of not having a committee, the idea of joining a committee in order to volunteer, people may not be so interested
- Can clearly divide up the work without having to meet – and we work from home, it is on our home computer
- How many hours a week? An hour a week or once every three months – I think the problem is that the work is in peaks and valleys
- For instance with website updates – could be an hour a week
- Emails – could be some weeks there is nothing, but in September and Jan many emails
- Overall, we do a lot at the Council – a lot parents help run the events and put them together
- Runnymede has a very long tradition of parent involvement, want to keep that going
- Really need parents to step up and volunteer their time in order to keep this community as vibrant as it is
- Talk of Runnymede being on the front cover of Toronto Life, #1 neighbourhood, that's because of the parent community and our involvement

Ward 7 update – Kathleen

- To attend the Ward 7 meetings, about once a month and to bring back information to our meetings
- It would be great if I could have someone to help, to take turns going to meetings
- Not too many updates for now, election coming up so make sure you go and vote
- Some updates coming to the ward 7 page on our website, important events that are coming up will be posted there

- We are still with Ward 7 for the TDSB board, that isn't changing even though at the municipal level we are moving to Ward 4

Nuit orange plans for this year: January 31, 2019 – 6:30-9pm – Ian and John

- Last year, started Nuit Orange, opened up the whole building and people could see what we are doing here, it is mostly senior student activities, although not in visual art where we are focused on K-5
- Walk in the building, every hallway, locker and wall space has visual art on it, we had about 72 performing groups on rotation
- Had four food stations set up by parent council
- We had a movie playing on an exterior, art installations
- The whole week we saw art everywhere
- Doing it again this year, it will look a little bit different
- We want it to look different every year, so it can be fluid and kept up to date with people's new ideas
- It was really fun, one of the best parts was that you could tell that students were taking the lead

Finance – Shirley

- High level piece – when we forecasted to where would end in May, set about \$4500, doing a bit better than that
- David – on the STEM side, there was a senior enrichment, and some manipulatives – pick up of \$3300
- End of May – Yard Grant, there would be \$2000, the numbers I have here there is \$3500, not 100% sure about those three pieces so not final numbers
- Surplus of \$9500
- Decided last year to give excess money to Rob to buy stationary bicycles, they are in place and being used regularly
- The rest is going to science and tech as it was our focus for last year
- Q – where are they? A – Luke's office, and the other two in resource classrooms
- Q - Field Trip Bursary – can you confirm if that was enough for last year? A: I can only tell you last year, we didn't use it at all, but year before that we did use it, might be okay this year.
- Q – school cash online, is there a way to make a request there anonymous or discreet for parents to say they need the assistance? A: will look into that, but not a system we run ourselves, run externally, will see if that is possible.
- Q – is it launched? A: Yes, it is launched. Used in the first week for senior students, little things we need to work through, but going forward if there is field trip then it will happen through schoocashonline
- Dissolve this year's council – stepping down as Co-Chair, say thank to all of you

- Admin does an incredible job and helps parent council, wanted to say thank you for your engagement and it has been a fun ride and if you are thinking of joining as a co-chair, not where near demanding as Ingrid's role
- Motion to dissolve this year's council – Jube, Dale seconded – motion passed

OPEN VOLUNTEER ROLES

- Co-Chair
 - Secretary
 - Communications Co-Chair
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- Nominate for a few vacant positions
 - Co-chair – hours involved, 2 hours a week, it is a position where you can make it as much as you want, bringing the subcommittees together, and point of contact for parents and admin, can scale it up or down
 - Point of contact for parents for their ideas, problems and will direct them to the right committee or admin
 - Can think about it and email me afterwards
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- Secretary – in advance of meetings are arranging for babysitting and permits, also putting together the agenda with feedback from Council, getting the paperwork ready.
 - Then at the meetings taking minutes. After meetings, cleaning up the minutes and getting them approved.
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- Form the council as it sits – everyone that is here, please spread the word
 - Motion forward to form the council for this year - first Ivana, Seconded Erin
 - Motion to strike the Committees - first Anh, Ivana Second
 - Yard motion –Green Teacher program up and running, probably 5-6 have already had their first GT program, the first \$1000 is the fall salary, \$1000 in winter and \$1000 in the spring
 - Preapproval for the \$1000 – Ingrid and David seconded, motion passed
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- Jube – annual costume sale, pure cash for the school Oct 10-12, outside in the front yard, supplies permitting, Kalila is running it this year
 - Hopefully purchase from us first and if you can't find anything, you can go buy them
 - Will need volunteers as well for the sale days
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- Time for future meetings – starting at 6:30pm from now on
 - Q – what is the role of a class parent? A: liaison between classroom and the council
 - Add for the JK parents special role – to make sure they know how to connect with the school, they don't know about the facebook and twitter etc.
 - Around the holidays – do a class gift for the teachers

- Class Rep – at the onset, school council and parents interaction, but not the role of the teacher to be involved, the list of emails for social purposes is really up the teacher if they want to be involved
- List of upcoming meetings – Nov 21st may change
- Child minding – tonight Anne Marie Roberts has stayed, this is a volunteer type position but it is minimum wage, last year she didn't even put in to be paid, if you do have children in there please thank her, there needs to be a TDSB child minder in there.
- Our first meeting of the year – that is a wrap, 7:56pm