



# RUNNYMEDE Jr. & Sr. Public School



## MINUTES

### 2020-21 Runnymede Public School Council - General Council Meeting Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020; 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Item	Time	Minutes	Speaker
<b>A.1 Call to order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chairs Erin and Andrea introduced themselves and thanked everyone for attending</li> <li>To become a voting member of council, email <a href="mailto:runnymedeps@gmail.com">runnymedeps@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>	7:00 pm	5 mins	E. Meana, A. Santos
<b>A.2 Brief summary of how Council works</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will strike regular committees and have chairs as usual this year</li> <li>Will do as much as we can within current safety guidelines</li> <li>All meetings will be held virtually</li> </ul>	7:05 pm	5 mins	E. Meana
<b>A.3 Committee Introductions- Arts, STEM, Green, Spirit, Communications</b> <p><b>Arts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chairs are Ivana, Sabina and Bianca</li> <li>Runnymede has a strong Arts committee</li> <li>In regular circumstances, each year, a professional artist comes in to work with classes from JK – Grade 5, teaching 2 hours of fundamentals such as drawing, sculpting, etc. to each class</li> </ul> <p><b>STEM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chairs are David, Anne-Marie, Tasha</li> <li>Committee for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, bringing enrichment to Runnymede for all grades, usually towards the end of the school year</li> <li>Includes Angry Birds Math and the Amazing Math Race</li> <li>Not sure what this year will look like, but open to ideas</li> <li>Will have a virtual meeting within the next couple weeks and looking for interested parents to join</li> </ul> <p><b>Green (formerly Yard)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-chairs are Helen, Ryan</li> <li>Maintain Hillside Garden, which usually includes a Fall and Spring yard day</li> <li>Fall yard day wasn't possible with COVID, but a small number of volunteers helped with weeding, planting, etc.</li> <li>The Green Teacher program normally happens 3 times a year, teaching</li> </ul>	7:10 pm	5 mins	Committee Chairs

<p>curriculum based learning for K, 2, 4, and 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee also distributes recess equipment to classrooms</li> <li>• Committee assists school's Green Team, who promote recycling, etc.</li> <li>• Not sure what this year will look like</li> <li>• Committee meeting will happen in the next few weeks and always looking for volunteers</li> </ul> <p><b>Spirit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex, Andrea</li> <li>• Fundraising + for the school</li> <li>• Lots of challenges with fundraising this year, but open to innovative ideas</li> <li>• If anyone has ideas for fundraising + community building, please let the co-chairs know</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlos</li> <li>• Andrea introduced on behalf of Carlos</li> <li>• Emails, communications, etc.</li> <li>• Meeting upcoming</li> </ul>			
<p><b>A.4 Annual Co-Chair Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, Council was not able to deliver all of the planned Spring enrichment programs</li> <li>• Using money fundraised through School Council last year, Runnymede was able to purchase devices and provide teachers with Teacher Resource Fund money</li> <li>• Any fundraising dollars that we have left over from last year has been passed through into this year</li> <li>• Council will put together the budget for this year at the next meeting in October</li> <li>• Will be tentative depending on what enrichment programming we are able to deliver</li> </ul>	7:15 pm	5 mins	E. Meana, A. Santos
<p><b>A.5 Year-end Treasurer Report (2019-20)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen will be staying on as Treasurer</li> <li>• Last year, Direct Donation campaign resulted in 88k, which in</li> <li>• Total fundraising last year from Direct Donation, Pizza Lunch, Movie Night, etc. came to \$88,000</li> <li>• Runnymede used \$56,000, including 30,000 on technology</li> <li>• \$32,000 will be carried over to this year</li> <li>• Final budget will be shared for transparency</li> </ul>	7:20 pm	5 mins	H. Berhane
<p><b>A.6 Dissolution of 2019-20 Council</b></p> <p><b><u>NOTE: Motion and vote required</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion approved</li> </ul>	7:25 pm		

**AGENDA**  
**2020-21 Runnymede Public School (PS) Council**  
**Meeting #1**  
 Wednesday, October 7, 2020; 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
 Location: Virtual Meeting

Item	Time	Minutes	Speaker
<p><b>A.1 Election of 2020-21 Officers of Council</b>  <b>(Co-Chair, Secretary, Committee representatives)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year's Executive Council is listed below               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair – Erin</li> <li>○ Co-Chair – Andrea</li> <li>○ Secretary – Jessica</li> <li>○ Treasurer – Helen</li> <li>○ Arts Committee – Ivana, Sabrina, Bianca</li> <li>○ STEM Committee – Tasha, David, Anne-Marie</li> <li>○ Green Committee – Helen, Ryan</li> <li>○ Spirit Committee – Alex, Andrea</li> <li>○ Communications Committee – Carlos</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>NOTE: Motion and vote required</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion approved</li> </ul>	7:30 pm	10 mins	E. Meana, A. Santos
<p><b>A.2 Striking of 2020-21 Committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts</li> <li>• STEM</li> <li>• Green</li> <li>• Spirit</li> <li>• Communications</li> </ul> <p><b><u>NOTE: Motion and vote required</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion approved</li> </ul>	7:40 pm	5 mins	E. Meana, A. Santos
<p><b>A.3 Fundraising this school year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct donation is usually done at the start of the school year</li> <li>• Considering potentially doing it in January this year</li> <li>• The budget will be reviewed and approved at the next School Council meeting</li> </ul>	7:45 pm	5 mins	E. Meana
<p><b>A.4 Administration report</b></p> <p><b>Class reorganization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Typically, schools reorganize at the end of September</li> <li>• This year, the reorganization is mostly based on students moving between in-person and virtual school</li> <li>• Runnymede is pretty stable with 85% in-person and 15% virtual</li> <li>• 10 students are returning to in-person school and 3 – 4 will be moving to virtual</li> <li>• There will not be a big change to classes at Runnymede – teacher</li> </ul>	7:50pm	35 mins	R. Hochberg

assignments and classroom modelling will not change

- Other schools are losing teachers and are re-doing their school model, organization, time table, etc.
- Runnymede is lucky to be in a stable situation and also that we have so many dedicated teachers that care about our school community

#### **Curriculum night**

- Cannot do curriculum night like we normally do, but many teachers are reaching out for virtual curriculum night which will happen prior to the end of October

#### **Report cards**

- Do not have dates on report cards yet because there is so much movement within the Board
- Normally, progress reports would go out in November but may be different this year
- If parents have any concerns or questions at the moment, reach out directly to your child's teacher

#### **COVID / Safety**

- Safety planning committee established in August and included a number of parents
- Generally, things are going well, students are wearing masks in school and doing their best to follow new routines and protocols
- Administration is reminding students about the importance of physical distancing and mask wearing
- Students are bringing their health passes
- If a student is sick at school, they go to the Wellness room and parents are called
- The school follows messaging from Public Health and all messaging will be sent out by both the school and the Board
- Completed 3 fire drills and a hold and secure so far, somewhat modified to align with COVID protocols

#### **Mindfulness**

- Continuing with the WITS (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek Help) program, which is a bullying prevention plan
- Runnymede is a Restorative Practice school, with a focus on remediation
- Will be doing Period 0 this year, where each teacher has a period focused on mindfulness character development, wellbeing, etc.

#### **School photos**

- There will be graduation photos, but not sure about class and student photos

#### **Vice Principals**

- Introduced Runnymede's new Vice Principal, Cherill George, who will be taking on the Senior level portfolio (Grades 6, 7, and 8)
- Cherill comes to Runnymede from Swansea

- Luc Gelinias will continue as Vice Principal for grades K - 5

**Devices**

- Last spring, the Board loaned 60,000 devices in schools to students who needed them to learn remotely
- 245 devices were loaned from Runnymede
- Devices have not yet been returned
- The board has delivered some devices to replace the ones that have been removed, but it is limited
- Although School Council is supportive of loaning devices and helping, most of the devices were paid for with funds raised by parent fundraising and School Council believes they should be returned to Runnymede at some point
- Erin will continue to work with Rob and will keep everyone updated

**COVID Q&A**

- Q: Hi Everyone, do we know anything about whether/how the TDSB email from last night re: shuffling of teachers will impact Runnymede?
- A: Already answered in the admin report (see notes above)
  
- Q: Will we be getting our devices back? Or replenished for Runnymede students to use this year in in-person learning?
- A: Already answered (see notes above)
  
- Q: I heard from our teacher that the school has been working on an outdoor space usage plan. Could you share how this works? How much outdoor learning will be happening this year?
- A: Cherill put together a document that allows teachers to sign up to use outdoor spaces. There are 5 outdoor spaces at Runnymede and the field at Western Tech has also been secured. Teachers are regularly going outside informally, as well.
  
- Q: In the event of a shutdown, do we have a school wide plan for how online learning will be rolled out?
- A: Runnymede is prepared. Every teacher has a Google classroom account and has asked to be prepared for a direct transition to online learning at any time.
  
- Q: In the event of a switch to online, what would be the expectation for virtual learning? Half day, full day, a couple hours? Thank you.
- Will be full day learning, 300 minutes a day.
  
- Q: Apologies if I missed discussion of this earlier - any info on how Hallowe'en might work this year at the school?
- A: Students can wear costumes to school and there will be individual class parties.
  
- Q: I understand there have been mask exemptions in some schools. Are there any at RPS? I heard about a mask exemption at the school. Is there an update on that?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A: No update on this. There are updated guidelines on mask exemptions and it is still being considered.</li>   <li>• Q: Would it be possible for teachers to use clear masks as some students may have a challenge with hearing when they can't read lips at the same time. I'm assuming no but thought I would ask.</li> <li>• A: Yes, Runnymede is aware of students who need clear masks and some have been ordered. Please let us know if your child needs one. [Parent who is a teacher at another school added that these masks are very expensive and hard to sanitize.]</li> <li>•</li> <li>• Q: Can we fundraise for HEPA filters?</li> <li>• A: No. Board has clearly stated that school councils cannot fundraise for HEPA filters or outdoor tents. The board is looking into ventilation solutions.</li>   <li>• Q: Can you donate HEPA filters to your kids class?</li> <li>• A: Erin responded that if you feel strongly about it, chat with your kids' teachers.</li>   <li>• Q: With safe practices in place in the classroom which has kids sitting more (less free movement), is there a guideline or expectation on how much outdoor, free movement time each class should have? Everyone is doing great!!!</li> <li>• A: Every student up to grade 6 gets recess break in morning + afternoon as well as lunch. Breaks for grades 6, 7, and 8 are ad hoc. There are scheduled breaks, but teachers are also being encouraged to take kids out any time they feel it's needed. Many teachers are taking senior kids for break in morning + afternoon, but trying to minimize the # of kids in the yard at the same time.</li>   <li>• Q: Is there any talk of voice amplifiers for teachers? Taking some TRF funds and putting it towards voice amplifiers for teachers who need them?</li> <li>• A: Will look into School Council funding these through TRF.</li>   <li>• Q: Can you please comment on air circulation in the rooms during the winter months?</li> <li>• A: Teachers have been told to keep windows open, Rob has been visiting classes and when windows are open can feel fresh air in the classroom and air circulation seems good. Some teachers are also using fans to circulate air which are facing the ceiling. Head Caretaker confirmed that there is a vent in every classroom circulating clean air, clean filters are in the HVAC system and are being checked regularly.</li>   <li>• Q: Have the windows been 'unlocked' so that they can open more than 2"?</li> <li>• A: Not yet. Erin continues to campaign for this.</li>   <li>• Q: How often were filters being changed prior to COVID? How often do they need to be changed and is this being increased?</li> <li>• A: Not sure will follow up.</li> </ul>			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: A common method of measuring ventilation is a CO2 monitor. Is the TDSB/Runnymede checking CO2 levels in the classrooms during the school day?</li> <li>• A: Not sure will follow up.</li>   <li>• Q: Do we know if EQAO will be running this year?</li> <li>• EQAO will not be running this year.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>A.5 Teacher report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Wosik provided the teacher report</li> <li>• Teachers are working very hard right now to put programs together and get the year off to a good start</li> <li>• Teachers have new and different assignments, especially rotary teachers</li> <li>• Kids are excited to be back at school</li> <li>• Students in primary grades are being patient, wearing masks, sanitizing, etc.</li> <li>• Terry Fox Run is on Friday – 40 laps around the school</li> <li>• Erin said if there is anything that teachers need this year, please let School Council know and we will fit it into the budget</li> </ul>	8:25 pm	5 mins	A. Wosik
<p><b>A.6 Next meeting</b> Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm; this year's budget will be presented, open to discussion and changes, and the final version approved and voted on.</p> <p><b><u>School Council Meetings</u></b> Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm</p> <p><b><u>Executive Council Meetings</u></b> Oct. TBD at 7:00pm May (date to be confirmed) at 7:00pm</p>			
<p><b>A.7 Adjourn</b></p>	8:30pm		