

**Annual General Meeting Minutes
Runnymede Public School Council Meeting
September 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Andrea Baldwin, Manon Gardner, Dori Hawkinson, Gary Karasiuk, Anne Lakoff, Andrea MacPherson, Anne Markee, Dianne Roberti, Rosanna Sardella, Ela Sawistowska, Nadine Singh, Basia Stec Atherton, Kathy Tudor, representatives from Booster Juice, parent representatives

Regrets: Marketa Evans, Scott Forbes, Andrea Rutty

1. Welcome from the Chair and additions to Agenda

Dianne welcomed parents to the Annual General Meeting.

2. Secretary's Business

Presentation and motion to accept minutes of last September's AGM meetings

Moved: Kathy Tudor
Seconded: Basia Stec Atherton
Carried

3. Chair's Annual Report

Dianne provided a report on activities of the past years. The report will be posted on the website and is attached as Appendix A.

4. Annual Report of the Treasurer

Gary reported that fundraising amounted to \$22,530 which includes: gift wrap of \$2840, magazines for \$11,540, pizza \$7,090 and yard funds of \$1,600. A campaign to raise money for Runnymede paraphernalia led to sales of \$3,380 at a cost of \$5,520 but with a remaining inventory of items to sell.

Program expenses of \$41,550 was spent in a number of areas: including Teachers' Resource Fund (\$8000), classroom equipment (\$4000), drama (\$2200), enrichment activities (\$3870), field trip support (\$2000), extraordinary expenses (\$2000), instruments (\$3000), sports teams (\$5800), yard fund expense (\$1600), etc.

A proposal was made to take greater advantage of its status as a registered charity. Gary will also explore applying for a GST rebate.

5. Annual Reports of the Committees of Council

Yard Committee: Last year the committee held two yard clean ups and added enhancements to the yard (e.g. artwork, large rocks). They have drafted a charter and management plan to help with governance going forward. The school was also awarded a Leonardo DaVinci award for creativity for its work in the yard and artwork. The next meeting will be at the school library on September 25, 2006.

Spirit Committee: Kathy reported that the Spirit committee has launched a new season including information on magazines, gift wrap, pizza days, Chapters day and the Dance-a-thon. Other ideas are being considered. The next meeting will be at Starbucks on September 28, 2006.

6. Nominations of new Council Members

Presentation and motion to accept nominations for new Council members.

Moved: Ela Sawistowska
Seconded: Basia Stec Atherton
Carried

Presentation and motion to close nominations for new Council members.

Moved: Ela Sawistowska
Seconded: Basia Stec Atherton
Carried

New members to include: Andrea Baldwin, Gary Karasiuk, Dianne Roberti, Ela Sawistowska, Nadine Singh, Basia Stec Atherton, Kathy Tudor, Jerry Tiessen, Robin Christian, Karen Hanna, Mary Machamer

Motion to adjourn meeting

Moved by Anne Lakoff
Seconded by Anne Markee
Carried

Appendix A

Runnymede Public School Council
Annual General Meeting
Chair's Annual Report
Tuesday September 19, 2006

Good Evening and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of Runnymede Public School Council. I am Dianne Roberti and I have had the pleasure of serving as the Council Chair for the past year. Previously, I served as Council Treasurer, from September 2001 to September 2003.

Council worked closely with the administration throughout the year and received support for all our activities. At Christmas, we said good bye to our VP, Senior School, Amelia Dennis and welcomed Rosanna Sardella. We congratulate Andrea Van Kampen on her marriage this summer and since she has chosen to change her surname, she will now be VP Andrea McPherson.

We welcomed many new faces on Council this year and adopted some new procedures. In early March, a sub-committee of Council met to analyze the budget and spending for the year to date in order to ensure that the money allocated in our 05-06 Budget was being spent. A surplus had accumulated over the previous years and many felt that we should adhere to the Toronto District School Board's Fundraising Guideline for spending the money within two years of it being raised unless the money is for a specific project. Details of Council spending will be provided during the Treasurer's Annual Report.

With a student population of almost 1000 students, communication is always a challenge for Council. In an effort to get more information to the parents we represent, especially those parents who are working and have older children and therefore might not be in the playground for drop off and pickup, Council launched a web site, www.runnymedecouncil.org. While rather rudimentary in the beginning, a \$500 grant from the Ministry of Education allowed us to redesign the site this summer. We are still working out the bugs and in the next few weeks, plan to have all its features in use. Please bookmark this site and check for updates regularly. Parents can sign up on-line to receive updates from Council as well.

As always our Committees were hard at work. The Fundraising Committee and Social Committee merged to form the Spirit Committee. In an effort to put 'fun' back into Fundraising, the Committee looked at some new types of programs. Lack of volunteers made some projects a bit overwhelming at times. However, this year, the Committee is seeing new faces come out and put together a great 'Welcome to Runnymede' package that looks like the beginning of a great tradition.

The hard work of the Yard & Garden committee was rewarded in the Spring with the Leonardo da Vinci Creativity Award. The Fall and Spring Yard Clean Ups were huge successes. Some work around the school yard, such as the new stone seating and steps along the basketball court, were initiated and overseen by the Committee. The environment our children can enjoy every day gets better and better thanks to the hard work of this committee. The co-Chairs, Dori Hawkinson and Carol Walmsley stepped down at the end of the year and were replaced by new co-Chairs, Hilary Inwood and Anne Bell.

And speaking of Hilary, we must thank her for her wonderful work with students and artists which produced two new installations at the school: the mural on the front door and the ceramic tiles over the interior entry doors. The coordinated efforts of the Spirit Committee and Hilary's vision are changing the landscape of our school, inside & out.

Our Ward 7 Representatives attended many meetings and kept us up-to-date on two primary concerns for our school: the hard cap of 20 students in JK-grade 3 and the provincial government's failure to live up to its commitment to fully fund the cost of education including teachers' salaries & utilities. As you know, a recent by-election in our riding brought these issues

to the forefront. With a new Minister of Education, we hope that our fears regarding the hard cap and lack of funding might be addressed.

In June our school hosted a meeting on dual track schools which was attended by Council reps from dual track schools in our Ward and Superintendents from the TDSB. While Runnymede faces some challenges running a dual track programme, judging from the presentations we heard from other schools, we seem to enjoy a rather peaceful co-existence as a result of strong programs and excellent teaching in both streams.

Still, we struggle with poor attendance at our Council meetings. Suggestions about changing the structure of meetings and voting remained in the discussion sphere, but for Council to operate, we need more participation and input from parents. Often special sessions produce a good turnout. We were only able to hold one of these this year. In January we had a special session on health and nutrition that was to jump start a lunch program for the grade 7s and 8s. Lack of space for a hot lunch program, which seemed to be student preference after a survey was conducted, meant that we were not able to deliver such a program at the present time. This year, Grade 7 & 8 students can participate in Pizza Day.

We hope that the web site will allow parents to communicate with Council if they cannot attend meetings although we do believe meetings are a critical part of the communication necessary to make our school community cohesive and harmonious.