

Runnymede Public School Council – Meeting Minutes November 22nd, 2007 - DRAFT

Attendees: Kshama Patel, Juli Belliveau, Manon Gardner, Karen Hanna, Hilary Inwood, Anne Lakoff, Joan Lash, Anne Markee, Nancy Moloney, Rosanna Sardella, Basia Stec Atherton, Nadine Singh, Jerry Tiessen Kathy Tudor, Susan Wild, Dana Bortolin, Emma Castelhana,

Regrets: Andrea Baldwin, Andrea McPherson, Catherine Kirkland, Dianne Roberti

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and introduction from Kshama Patel

2. Secretary’s Business:

In the Secretary’s absence, we will need to receive October’s meeting’s minutes at our next meeting.

3. Motion to receive correspondence:

Nothing of importance was received.

4. Treasurer’s Report:

Statement of Forcasted Cash Position at the end of the Year September 2007 through August 2008

We are \$399.00 short in “committed” fundraising funds however we are “tracking to plan.”

Jerry explained the “Priorities for council Budgeting and Requirements for funding Requests.” Handout

A discussion was held regarding the number of fundraising activities and the timing of each event – mainly the amount of events in the fall. Parents may feel happier seeing the results of their donations, so these will be communicated in the school newsletter.

These items include things such as; the Yard committee’s new signage and retaining walls in the Hillside Garden and, the installation of clay butterflies. Also, ten pictures have been framed to decorate the senior hallway near the library. It also includes individual teacher purchases for their programs from The Teacher Resource Fund, the Grade 5 and 8 Stratford Experience, as well as Instrument renewal. Nancy Moloney will follow up with the newsletter coordinator (Andrea Baldwin) to include these items in the next issue.

A schedule of fundraising events did go home in the “Welcome Folder” in September. Manon will also list the preset fundraisers and dates on the school calendar.

A discussion was held regarding the effectiveness of a fundraiser if council targeted their money in advance. In order to target money ahead of time, we need to decide “what council is willing to fundraise for.” We need to prioritize fundraisers in terms of program funding as well as capital.

Motion by Juli Belliveau for Manon to prioritize a list of expenses and “big ticket items” with her staff. Council will then decide if a targeted fundraiser is needed. Seconded by Karen Hanna. Nadine Singh will meet with Manon to discuss these items on behalf of the Spirit committee and Council and bring them to our next meeting.

There was a discussion around fundraisers driven by teachers (for other charities) versus fundraisers driven by parents (to benefit our school and children directly). The discussion mentioned benefits to both as students will see the world beyond their own as they help others. Anne Markee reminded the group that there are many ways to promote awareness of charitable issues, (ie. Food drives) that don't cost much money. It was noted that although children want to participate for various reasons, teachers do not pressure children into participating in events. Parents can make their own choices as to the events they want to support.

The issue came up regarding class competitions during fundraising events. The concern was that posting results is discouraging for younger children.

5. Committee Reports

Yard

Hilary reported that there is new artwork in the Senior Hallway near the library (10 pictures were framed for \$500. She would like the council to consider an “art night” to showcase the student work and perhaps fundraise. Erosion is still too severe to open the garden however new retaining walls have been installed and new signs are in the garden. Council members are invited to bring their undecorated (no tinsel either) Christmas trees to the garden after Christmas to help block the eroded areas. Only a few trees are needed.

Important to note - the mud zone near the south parking lot has been asphalted. The next Yard Committee meeting is January 31, 2008.

Spirit

The Spirit committee is hosting an event at Chapters (Bloor and Runnymede) on Dec. 5. from 6-9pm. A percentage of every sale will go directly to the council to buy Chapters gift cards.

There will be a dance-a-thon on February 12, 2008.

There will be a new initiative in the form of a pub night for parents in April.

Emma Castelhans proposed a “Shop and Support fundraiser” whereby parents purchase gift cards from a huge selection of Runnymede parent-friendly retailers (Loblaws, Dominion, Starbucks, etc) and Runnymede gets a percentage of every purchase. Motion by Joan Lash to launch shop and Support. Seconded by Basia Stec Atherton.

6. Administration Report

Manon reminded us that report cards will go home on Monday (Nov.26) for Sk-gr.8). Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held Thurs. Nov. 29 and Fri. Nov.30. Thus Friday Nov. 30 is a P.D.day.

On November 7, Carleton Village PS and the Guidance Counselors for SW2 hosted a gr.8 to 9 Transition information session for parents and students. There will be a meeting for the grade 8 International Baccalariate program soon.

The installation of the new PA system is still a work in progress. The wiring is finished, new phones should be installed next week. There are outdoor speakers. It should all be completed by the end of December.

The heating system is not working and ongoing patience is needed while the problem is being solved.

French Immersion applications for a mid-immersion (students entering grade 4) program at Swansea will be available soon. The applications for children entering SK French immersion next year will be available in January and due Feb. 15, 2008.

Manon mentioned the issue of full day kindergarten and the space at Runnymede. There will not be enough space to accommodate all the full day kindergarten students.

Hilary Inwood will meet with Manon to look at the Eco Schools application.

7. Ward 7 Report

Class sizes were discussed at the meeting on Oct. 23. Teacher allocation to high schools depends on the program profile (e.g. academic, applied, technical or special) rather than the specific subject. Secondary school class sizes are much larger in the “academic “ courses.

Basia AStec Atherton would like an alternate rep to attend Ward 7 meetings when she is unavailable.

The Ward 7 meeting discussed “Planning for Tomorrow” The numbers show Runnymede’s population decreasing to 600 students by 2016. Our increasing numbers each year suggest differently.

Budgeting was a big topic of discussion at the Ward 7 meeting.

Basia will add surveys she receives from Ward 7 meetings to the Runnymede council website.

8. Other Business

Safety concerns re:south driveway – Manon will look into “blocking” the driveway during peak times (entry and dismissal).

Funds for extra-curricular activity- Anne Markee handed out information detailing a request for \$430.00 for “Destination ImagiNation” a program Julie McDonnell is running. This item was deferred to our January meeting so the council can look over the proposal and speak with Julie directly regarding any questions. Anne will ask Julie for an electronic proposal so the council members have access to it online.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Juli Belliveau
Seconded by Karen Hanna