

## **Runnymede Public School Council – Meeting Minutes April 16th, 2008**

**Attendees:** Kshama Patel, Juli Belliveau, Andrea McPherson, Dianne Roberti, Hilary Inwood, Anne Lakoff, Anne Markee, Nancy Moloney, Andrea Baldwin, Rosanna Sardella, Basia Stec Atherton, Colleen Younder, Mary Machamer, Kathy Tudor, Susan Wild,

**Regrets:** Catherine Kirkland, Toni Lisi

### **Agenda Items:**

**1. Welcome** and introduction from Kshama Patel.

**2. Motion to Receive Previous Meeting's Minutes** made by Andrea, seconded by Anne.- passed

**3. Motion to receive correspondence:**  
Nothing of importance was received.

**4. Treasurer's Report:**  
In the absence of our treasurer, there was no report.

### **5. Committee Reports**

#### ***Spirit***

Colleen reported that the pub night was a great success with 145 guests in attendance. The silent auction raised \$2054. and ticket sales raised \$2300. The total raised so far unofficially is \$5169. We need to pay the band's expenses. Special thanks to Kelly Kenny and Emma Castelhana for coordinating the pub night.

A discussion was held regarding another pub night and we decided to keep it an annual event rather than a biannual event.

If we raise more than the \$3000. we need to pass on to next year's council, we need to try and spend it within 2 years.

Flyers went out for QSP and, Shop and Support.  
Congratulations to the Spirit Committee.

#### ***Yard***

Earth Day – there will be a Yard Day on Saturday April 19. Two officials from Toyota Canada (who support Evergreen) and have donated to Runnymede in the past will attend. Media will also be present. Entertainment, food, etc.

Astronomy Night will be on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Anne will book the LCD machine for the library. Meet at 7:30 in the library and from 8-9pm the astronomers will move to the front of the school.

Door Murals – the winning class gets pizza.

Toni Lisi has been working on the Eco Schools application. It is wonderful that our school could have received “gold” status, but we have applied for silver status for now so that we have specific goals to work towards in the future. This will be our initiative for next year, working towards our gold status. Once the application has been approved, the Green team will be able to identify further greening initiatives for next year to work towards this goal.

Five classes will participate in Mayor Miller’s 20 minute clean up initiative in the local parkettes on Friday April 18th

A motion was made by Andrea Baldwin and seconded by Mary Machamer to give \$500. to the Eco Schools project to cover some expenses (worm composting, t-shirts, workshop on worms- vermacomposting, incentives, etc.) - passed.

A motion should be made at our next meeting to recommend Eco Schools be on next year’s budget. It is school driven.

Regarding Bill Saundercook’s \$25000.00, the yard committee has looked into the cost of each initiative and found some complications, ie. the fitness stations must go where the burms are, so we’ll have to remove the burms. The peace garden cannot have log seating because of ant infestations. The total cost of all three projects will be \$35000.00. We will vote on prioritization and funding at our next meeting. Juli Belliveau will invite the Adventure Club and Time for Play leaders to the next meeting so their voices may also be heard.

## **6. Administration Report**

Andrea McPherson reported on the staff allocation model. The Reading Clinic allocation which services four schools (Dovercourt, Annette, Pauline and Runnymede) has gone up by 0.5 to 1.0 teacher.

All children whom share Runnymede as their home French Immersion school received a spot in the FI program. There will be three SK classes. There are names on the waiting list for “optional attendance.”

Rosanna Sardella reported that EQAO will be the week of May 26-28. Grade 3 FI only do the math component of EQAO. Grade 6 students do both English and math.

Andrea McPherson brought forward a proposal for a “more viable computer lab” and asked for funding from the Council. A discussion was held and questions were raised regarding costs for wiring, number of computers, ventilation, other space for a lab, disruption of library flow, minimizing the library space, necessity since most kids have computer access at home, courses to integrate into the grade 9 curriculum, laptops to

travel with the “Smart Board,” versus investing in “already old” technology, maintaining the architectural integrity of the library.

It was decided that Andrea will put a “call-out” to “technology-wise” parents to sit on the committee

### **7. Ward 7 Report**

Homework – in the survey, homework was shown to make little, if any, difference until secondary school.

Student Safety Helpline – is being used by many students, especially those at the elementary level

The system is losing about 4,000 children a year thus staffing is being decreased, however special education needs are rising.

Budget cuts- Some TDSB reading clinics have been closed; at the same time, some trustees are questioning whether the board should continue spending approximately \$24 million on adult education while children's education requirements are being cut -School principals have been asked to cut 5% of their budgets for the next school year. This will be extremely difficult as most schools have already experienced serious cuts to their programs.

A new SK French immersion class will be open at Fern Public School. There is a call in ward 7 for a study of the impact changing to a dual track school has on the school environment.

The Minister of Ed mandated a review of governance of TDSB; trustees have been asked to decide on the reorganization by the end of May. Irene Atkinson will vote to put money back into children's programs, like the Reading Clinics, instead of reorganizing.

Safe Schools – “Zero” tolerance is gone

Printouts summarizing the consequences of inappropriate student behaviour have been sent home; for a full report on the "interim" Policy procedures see the office. Trustees are now more involved in suspension and expulsion procedures in Safe Schools, so please vote for your trustee.

### **8. Other Business**

***Drama Funding proposal*** – generally the council will fund shows coming into the school (from the Enrichment budget) and we don't fund outside performances.

A motion was made by Andrea Baldwin to approve “Little Big Frog” - seconded by Basia,- passed.

***Community Service Award*** – (the grade 8 bursary in Manon's honour). It was decided that the grade 8 graduate will receive a plaque to keep and money to donate to a charity of their choice. Rather than ask the parent community to donate money to a bursary, The Chair and Treasurer have \$150. in “discretionary” funds so they will decide whether to give the award this year only (\$100 to charity, and \$50 for the plaque) or spend \$50 for the next 3 years towards the bursary.

Juli will look into getting a gift for Manon from the council and will talk to Andrea McPherson regarding the qualities of the student and wording on the plaque.

***Council Newsletter*** – Andrea Baldwin will fix the columns and jazz it up a bit. Kshama will send a call-out for a new design.

***Council Website***

1. Dianne has been paying her own money for the cost of the website and wants approval to pay her with discretionary funds . The ministry gives the council money for “parent communication” so we can use that money to pay her.
2. we need a committee to help with the council website. Dianne will send a call-out. Basia mentioned that high school students are willing to help with our website as part of their “volunteer hours.”

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Juli Belliveau. -Carried.