

## Runnymede Public Parent Council Parent Council Minutes

**Date:** May 20, 2009

**Attendees:** Andrea Baldwin, James Cockhill, Principal Amelia Dennis, Rob Dunford, Suzanne Gordon, Karen Hanna, Dori Hawkinson, VP Michael Kanalec, Anne Lakoff, Joan Lash, Mark Latter, Marshall Leslie, VP Andrea McPherson, Mary Machamer, Anne Markee, Kshama Patel, Isolde Seiden Long, Chris Sheehan, Basia Stec Atherton, Nadine Singh, Jacqueline Sustar, Jerry Tiessen, Brian Withnell **Regrets:** Catherine Kirkland

Agenda Item	Comments	Action
Correspondence	<p>Kshama Patel presented correspondence to Parent Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anti-bullying information that was passed on to the administration</li> <li>- Toronto Public Health information on a Sun Safe planning guide that was passed on to the administration</li> <li>- Parents Education Network newsletter that will be posted</li> <li>- Program resource information for French books that was passed on to the librarian</li> </ul>	
Minutes	Anne Lakoff noted that there had been a dropped paragraph in last month's minutes as well as some missed attendees. That will be corrected and re-circulated prior to a motion to adopt them.	Andrea to follow up with Catherine
Treasurer's Report	<p>Jerry Tiessen reported that this month's revenue numbers reflect the addition of pub night revenue of \$6000. Outstanding expenses include some unspent Teachers' Resource Fund spending, outstanding pizza lunch expenses and some yard committee funds. Most other line items have been spent.</p> <p>The outstanding balance is expected to be \$18,000 prior to any spending approvals today. We have an obligation under the Council constitution to leave \$4000 leaving up to \$14,000 to spend as part of this year's Council budget.</p>	
Committee Reports: Yard	<p>Hilary Inwood reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- today was the last yard committee event of the year: a nature walk in the Hillside Gardens</li> <li>- there was good local press coverage of Earth Day celebrations</li> <li>- the last parts of the Peace Circle have been wrapped up, including an opening ceremony and engraving on the rocks</li> <li>- there is a new garbage can in the yard with another on the way</li> <li>- the yard committee will spend \$3000 of its \$4000 budget. The difference is because they were not able set up outdoor recycling bins as they had hoped</li> <li>- the last meeting is set for Tuesday, May 26</li> <li>- there will a call to the 'Extra Set of Hands' list to do some of the jobs that need to be done in the yard over the summer.</li> </ul> <p>A special thank you to Sandra Franke and Marshall Leslie, retiring yard committee members, who have made enormous contributions to the yard over the years.</p>	

Committee  
Reports: Spirit

Nadine Singh highlighted that:

- Cobb's bakery has an initiative that if parents go into the store and say 'raising the dough' they will donate 5% of your sale to Runnymede
- Teacher Appreciate lunch is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. The committee is still looking for food donations and volunteers
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Committee  
Reports:  
Centennial

Marshall Leslie noted that:

- the committee had accessed the TDSB archives to learn the true Centennial date for the school. They learned that –
  - o In 1914, TDSB voted to purchase the property, acquired most of the property, awarded the contract for the school's construction and voted to name the school 'Runnymede'
  - o In 1916, the first classes were held at the site. The students transferred from Strathcona secondary school as did the first Principal was Mr. Fydell
- more work will be done to pinpoint the Centennial year and to document other parts of Runnymede's history

Committee  
Reports:  
Communications

Rob Dunford reported that:

- he has taken over the Council website for now and is generally just focused on keeping it up to date. The committee will consider the possibility of improving the website based on what they learn from the Communication committee
- the communication survey results are starting to come in:
  - o 160 participants with 146 completions
  - o good distribution between French/English streams and across grade levels
  - o respondents like email as a form of communication, support the parent-class liaison concept, feel generally well informed and that their children are getting a good education
  - o 85 respondents asked to have their email added to the distribution list
  - o general comments centre on safety and fundraising

Administration  
reports

Principal Dennis reported that the new lights in the back of the building seem to be working (less graffiti!) and that painting over the graffiti and new signage has begun.

The administration did a Safe School survey audit to understand ways to make the school safer, including additional cameras with signage. There is also the possibility of having a buzzer at the front door to alert office staff to visitors.

There will a change to performing arts so that Grade 4 children will all rotate through strings-band-drama to learn more about the program. Children will then be streamed into one of the three programs.

There is the need to hire a new grade ½ teacher. We will have 5 JK/SK classes and 3 SK French Immersions. The current Grade 7 gifted program will continue for the next two years but younger Runnymede students will be eligible for the gifted program that starts in Grade 4 at Queen Victoria.

Principal Dennis noted that VP Kanalec will be doing the Grade 7/8 VP position and that VP McPherson's maternity leave will be filled by a temporary appointment.

Administration reports (cont)	VP McPherson reported that after two years, the administration is considering new photographers. Council agreed that they did not need to provide input.	
	VP Kanalec reported that students are preparing for the Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO testing.	
Ward 7 report	Isolde Seiden Long reported that there continue to be cutbacks in teaching positions at the Board level. Principal Dennis confirmed, however, that our headcount at Runnymede will not change from what was reported earlier in the year.	Isolde to send Rob the minutes from the meeting for the website
	TDSB has proposed a number of cutbacks to address the budget deficit (operating and capital), including suggestions on how to reduce bussing costs. Isolde noted that the elementary school teachers have ratified a new contract.	
Lunch program	James presented his idea for a lunch program that provides healthy, affordable drop-off lunches for primary grades. It would include fruit, vegetable, bread, proteins and water, be eco-friendly and peanut-free. He asked the Council for feedback on the concept.	James to follow up with administration
	Marshall Leslie pointed out that there was a previous lunch program where Western Tech students prepared hot lunches and sold them to students. He asked what happened to that program.	
	He also asked whether the program would use the servery in the school basement. If so, he recommended that the administration look into any regulations around the use of that space.	
	Hilary Inwood suggested that it was important for the school and/or Council to decide if they wanted to have a program and if so, to open a lunch program to a tendering process.	
	<p>Rob Dunford summarized next steps of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- James to incorporate feedback and further detail his proposal and present it to the administration</li> <li>- the administration to look into any regulations or constraints that could prevent a lunch program of this nature</li> <li>- the administration to decide, with input from Council, how to proceed with a tendering process</li> </ul>	
Drama funding proposal	Mr. Latter made a funding proposal for drama funding for \$3700 to cover the costs of Trinity Theatre Training and a Theatresports Programs.	
	There were questions about whether the programs would benefit a wide enough base of students, particularly in younger grades. There was also concern that this request was in addition to a funding request that would be made in September.	
	<p>Proposed by: Suzanne Gordon          Seconded by: Isolde Seiden Long          Motion was carried.</p>	

Graduation funding proposal VP Macpherson requested \$400 for extraordinary costs associated with Grade 6 and Grade 8 graduations at Western Tech.

Proposed by: Mary Machamer  
Seconded by: Anne Lakoff  
Carried unanimously

Humberside Pool permit funding Dori Hawkinson explained that Humberside pool is at risk of closure. An effort is being made by concerned parents to secure permit funding from community groups to offset some of the operational costs. Dori proposed a program where the Council commits to a permit to open the pool for seven family swims next school year. The \$800 cost (estimate) could be recouped by charging small admission fees.

Dori made the motion that Runnymede School Council apply for a TDSB permit to use the Humberside Pool for a one hour, evening school swim event in each of the months of October, November and January – May (7 events) of the 2009-2010 school year. The cost would be capped at a maximum of \$800 and could be reimbursed through admission fees.

Proposed by: Dori Hawkinson  
Seconded by: Andrea Baldwin  
Carried unanimously

Proposal for new meeting Given the late hour, all remaining proposals were deferred. There was a motion to hold a June meeting on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Proposed by: Jacqueline Sustar  
Seconded by: Kshama Patel  
Carried unanimously