

**Runnymede Public School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday Mar. 24, 2011**

Attendees: Jessica Bell, Erin Carroll, Sarah Frame, Karen Hanna, Suzanne Gordon, Heather Jordan, Joan Lash, Tanyss Price, Chris Sheehan, Jess Shulman, Jerry Tiessen, Kirsten Tenebaum, Catherine Willson, Bruce Toner, Andrew Violi, Janet Williams, Krista Wylie, Katherine Clark, Irene Tashiro

Teachers: Natalie Edgar, Anne Markee

School Administration: Michael Kanalec, Rob Hochberg

Students (Parliament):

Regrets: Amelia Dennis, Alice Bell, Jason Thompson

OVERVIEW OF KEY DECISIONS, MOTIONS, ACTIONS & INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

	Action?
Information: Michael Kanalec shared that Runnymede P.S. has been allotted 1.5 more teachers next year which translates into 1.5 actual new classes. While total school population is not expected to change, there will be more primary classes which must meet the 20-student provincial caps, so there will need to be more actual <i>classes</i> at the school. The challenge is that there are NO ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS at the school. Solutions are being explored.	
Action: Council Members all signed surveys sent out by Irene Atkinson's office... Council will gather more signatures on surveys at the upcoming Spring Thaw and then send en masse to the recipients.	
Action: Next e-newsletter will include the survey from Irene's office, encouragement to send the letters on our website, the youtube rant about TDSB underfunding (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3SWvokrRKA), and the facebook group started called TDSB Funding Crisis to continue to draw attention to this issue.	
Action: Subcommittee to meet with Administration to determine how to allocate the donations that were targeted to specific divisions.	
Information: Mr. Tran is working with the Heart & Stroke Foundation to introduce a skipping program at the school starting in mid-April.	

1. Welcome

Jerry Tiessen welcomed all in attendance.

2. Receive Previous Meeting's Minutes (Feb. 18, 2011)

Motion:

→ Bruce Toner put forward the motion to accept the previous meeting minutes from Feb. 18, 2011.

→ Seconded by Karen Hanna

Motion carried

3. Receive Correspondence

Motion:

→ Jess Shulman put forward the motion to receive all correspondence.

→ Seconded by Joan Lash

Motion carried

4. Administration Report**Michael Kanalec, VP – Senior School reported on the following items****a) Staffing Process – Staffing Committee**

- A Staffing Committee for the school has been struck and will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine the staffing model for Runnymede P.S. in the 2011/2012 school year. The staffing model refers to how all Runnymede JK-8 regular and immersion students will be dispersed among actual classes while adhering to Ministry of Education guidelines. (i.e. how many classes of each grade and how many split classes will be required to accommodate student population)
- There are mandated positions (i.e. teacher librarian and special ed) that cannot be touched)
- The goal is to create a timetable that is great for kids and workable for the school
- Runnymede has gained 1.5 teachers for the coming year and this increase is in tangible classrooms. No forecast of additional total students at the school however the make-up of the student population will change such that with ministry caps at certain ages, it means the addition of 1.5 classes next year.
- The challenge is that this teacher allocation leads to an increase of .5 kindergarten classes and 1.0 French immersion class but there are NO ACTUAL ROOMS AVAILABLE at the school.
- The Ministry cap for JK-Grade 3 Classes of 20 students per class serves to upload mores students per classroom in our school in the older grades. Grade 4-8 classes will likely have more students per class next year to accommodate the need for an additional 0.5 class of kindergarten and 1.0 french immersion. Based on the 2 staffing models that have been short-listed, number of students in each class for grade 4-8's would be in the mid-upper 20's per class, with a few exceeding 30 students. This year, Mr. Kight has 2 classes of 36 and 37 students respectively.
- Michael & Rob have already gone through process of documenting use per minute of each class in the building and there are no available classrooms to accommodate the 1.5 additional classes.
- Is another portable an option? Stackable portables? Last year's addition of the 3rd portable required a lot of consultation – Irene Atkinson is NOT a fan of portables.
- TDSB doesn't seem to be planning for the continued pressure on class sizes at our school and our Ward. While Irene Atkinson and Chris Innes (superintendent) are looking at catchment area definitions and feeder school requirements, this can be a long, political process.
- On the plus side – the school runs extremely well despite being overcapacity – amazing and unique.
- There were 94 applications this year for Early Immersion at Runnymede and only 60 spots, which delayed the acceptance e-mails being sent. These should be received by April 1.

Rob Hochberg, VP reported on the following items**a) School Achievements**

- Both hockey teams went to semi-finals.
- All strings and band that went to Kiwanis made it to top 3 in city.
- Great teams and great music programs at the school.

b) Japan Earthquake

- Toonie Tuesday to support this cause.
- Selling cookies to support this cause.
- All proceeds to Canadian red cross to help those in Japan.

5. Ward 7 Report

Jessica Bell provided the following update:

- Presentation was given that was similar to the one Irene gave us at Runnymede.
- One woman mentioned several PR firms who would be willing to take on the TDSB underfunding issue pro bono – so that may be pursued.
- Local Levy – Private Members Bill – was discussed.
- Possibility of moving boundaries within the whole system – changing catchment areas – superintendant said they were looking at the system as a whole.
- Irene Atkinson had issued a survey to be given out to parents and sent to elected officials. These surveys were distributed to Council members and signed and returned. They will be mailed en masse after the Spring Thaw, when the surveys will be made available to parents attending the SPRING THAW event.

ACTION → Next E-newsletter → include the survey from Irene's office... include encouragement to send the letters in from our website → include youtube rant → include facebook group – continue to advertise this cause.

Chris Sheehan lead a discussion about the private members bill:

- In order to address the underfunding of schools, a private members bill that would allow a school board to levy a local tax of up to 5% of their budget has been introduced.
- In the press release about this private members bill, it was stated that the additional amount to appear on our tax bill would be equivalent to a cup of coffee whereas Irene Atkinson said the amount would be closer to \$500 – when there is such a huge variance in numbers, the numbers lose all credibility. A best guess by Chris about the actual amount is over \$100 per household.
- Education Minister is against the private members bills
- The TDSB is not funding capital maintenance or renewal. The revenue side of the provincial education funding formula is based on a fixed % levy based on the assessed value of our houses. With this in mind, it would appear that Toronto homeowners, whose houses are more expensive, are paying more in taxes, yet dealing with a legacy of old schools in grave need of maintenance and renewal.
- Last ARC voted to keep a school at 45% capacity open so the TDSB continues to make decisions about school closures that do not appear financially sound or feasible.
- McGuinty has promised for 8 years to fix funding formula – and has done nothing...

Do we want to support the private members bill?

Motion:

→ *Suzanne Gordon moved to support the bill*

→ *No second for motion*

Defeated

Motion:

→ *Sheila Hepworth moved to abstain from comment on the bill*

→ Heather Jordan second
Motion carried

We can find out about more about what Irene Atkinson wants us to do... distribute link to bill – more discussion at next meeting.

Other Ward 7 Discussion

- Debenture program is another possibility being explored to fund capital maintenance and renewal. The idea would be to leverage province's credit rating and issue .5 billion debt for each year of the next 15 years to raise \$7.5 billion in order to deal with maintenance backlog.
- Issue is around demographics informing planning of TDSB – they do not do any long-term planning – ARCs only look out 5 years.
- Who audits TDSB??

6. Treasurer's Report

Chris Sheehan presented the following Profit/Loss Budget as at March 23, 2011:

	Budget 10/11	Actual Mar 23rd	Forecast	Total	Fav/(Unfav)
Net Ordinary Income					
				\$	
Pub Night / Silent Auction	\$ 5,000	\$ (100)	\$ 5,100	5,000	\$ -
Movie Day	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$	
Swim Club	\$ -	\$ 408	\$ (408)	0	\$ 0
Shop and Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$	
Pizza Lunch	\$ 11,600	\$ 16,541	\$ (4,000)	12,541	\$ 941
				\$	
Magazine Drive	\$ 11,000	\$ 13,757	\$ -	13,757	\$ 2,757
				\$	
Gift Wrap	\$ 1,000	\$ 611	\$ -	611	\$ (389)
				\$	
Dance-a-thon	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,708	\$ -	8,708	\$ 708
				\$	
T-Shirt	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,338	\$ (750)	1,588	\$ 588
Spirit Clothing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$	
Donations	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,327	\$ -	3,327	\$ 827
				\$	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 3,500	\$ (535)	\$ 7,985	7,450	\$ 3,950
Prior Year's Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$	
GST	\$ (750)	\$ (441)	\$ (309)	(750)	\$ -
				\$	
Primary Arts Donations	\$ 1,040	\$ -	\$ 1,040	1,040	\$ -
				\$	
JK/SK Divisional Donations	\$ -	\$ 805	\$ -	805	\$ 805

Primary Divisional Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,123	\$ -	\$ 1,123	\$ 1,123
Junior Divisional Donations	\$ -	\$ 262	\$ -	\$ 262	\$ 262
Senior Divisional Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				\$	
Total Net Ordinary Income	\$ 43,890	\$ 46,805	\$ 8,658	\$ 55,462	\$ 11,572
Other Expense					
				\$	
Technology	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Eco Schools	\$ (500)	\$ -	\$ (500)	(500)	\$ -
Committed:					
Extracurricular Support	\$ (2,500)	\$ -	\$ (2,500)	(2,500)	\$ -
Yard Improvement	\$ (4,500)	\$ (475)	\$ (4,025)	(4,500)	\$ -
Green Teacher	\$ (3,000)	\$ -	\$ (3,000)	(3,000)	\$ -
Instrument Renewal - Strings	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Instrument Renewal - Band	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Drama Program	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Library	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
House League Sports	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Art	\$ (1,500)	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	(1,500)	\$ -
Awards	\$ (400)	\$ -	\$ (400)	(400)	\$ -
TRF	\$ (18,100)	\$ (20,000)	\$ 1,900	(18,100)	\$ -
Field Trip Bursary	\$ (2,000)	\$ -	\$ (2,000)	(2,000)	\$ -
Teacher Appreciation Lunch	\$ (500)	\$ -	\$ (500)	(500)	\$ -
Council Communications	\$ (500)	\$ (464)	\$ (36)	(500)	\$ -
Sundry And Admin	\$ (500)	\$ (249)	\$ (251)	(500)	\$ -
Total Committed	\$ (41,000)	\$ (21,189)	\$ (19,811)	\$ (41,000)	\$ -
Uncommitted:					
Primary Arts	\$ (1,040)	\$ (2,003)	\$ (1,040)	(3,043)	\$ (2,003)
JK/SK Divisional Priorities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (805)	(805)	\$ (805)

Primary Divisional Priorities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,123)	\$ (1,123)	\$ (1,123)
Junior Divisional Priorities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (262)	(262)	\$ (262)
Senior Divisional Priorities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Enrichment Expense	\$ (4,000)	\$ -	\$ (2,824)	(2,824)	\$ 1,176
Extraordinary Expense	\$ (2,000)	\$ (248)	\$ (500)	(748)	\$ 1,252
Total Uncommitted	\$ (7,040)	\$ (2,251)	\$ (6,554)	(8,805)	\$ (1,765)
Total Other Expense	\$ (50,040)	\$ (23,439)	\$ (28,365)	(51,805)	\$ (1,765)
Net income	\$ (6,150)	\$ 23,365	\$ (19,708)	\$- 3,658	\$ 9,808

Questions from Parents

- Can we carry forward money from year to year in order to save for larger expenses (i.e. a sound system for the senior gym)?
 - ➔ TDSB dictates that we shouldn't carry forward revenue for more than 2 years unless the money is allocated to specific purposes.
 - ➔ Since Council dissolves every year and one Council should not commit on behalf of the next council, there is a small challenge. However, it is logical that if one Council is committing to and funding expenditures, presumably the following year's Council would follow that Council's lead and continue to work towards the same initiatives.
 - ➔ We should NOT be funding something the board should usually fund – so we need to be careful
 - ➔ Council has historically spent most of what was raised within any given year – so no issue from a Disbursement Quota perspective.

7. Committee Reports

a) Yard Committee

- Runnymede's Spring Yard day → Sat. April 16, 9:00 am - noon
 - Performance booked: percussion performance called "Drummatix"
 - Several truckloads of mulch to be delivered.
- Pre-Yard Day → Sunday April 10th @ noon – 3:00 pm
 - No children for this preparatory day of work
 - Plan is to dig and cut out pathway in the Kinder-garden – please contact Sarah or Bruce if you can help.
- Kinder-garden Update:
 - Yard Committee will be working with Grades 1-2 classes on projects in this garden.
 - Developing a resource bin of items that teachers can use in the garden
 - Based on showcase gardens at the recent "Canada Blooms" show, this garden is truly leading edge and Runnymede is fortunate to have this resource for our children.
- Working with Arts committee on a plan for tidying up and refurbishing the outdoor art and also addressing the graffiti this spring.
- Green Teacher:

- Deborah Moffat at staff meeting today with Rob H and actively working with 15 teachers at the school.
- Green Intern will be helping in the classrooms from mid-late April – for 2 months

b) Subcommittee on Targeted Donations – Suzanne Gordon

Here is what we have raised so far:

Kindergarten: \$735

Primary: \$1053.50

Junior: \$262.50

General Donations: \$2029

TOTAL: \$4080

ACTION: Need to meet with Administration to determine how to allocate the donations that were targeted to specific divisions

c) Spirit Committee – Krista Wylie

- New initiatives:
 - Mabel's Labels – currently net \$134.20
 - Domino's Pizza Days – currently net \$50
 - Spring Thaw Art Show & FUNdraiser – next Thursday March 31st –estimated \$6K
- Pub Night & Silent Auction → April 29th
 - Really fun night out with great music and silent auction
 - New location this year – Crooked Cue on Bloor West
 - Be sure to buy your ticket and spread the word!
- Dance-a-thon:
 - Ended up netting \$8438.30
 - Amazing success and a lot of fun
 - A LOT of work goes into this and it costs us \$2000 to run the dance-a-thon
- Year to date fundraising is \$40,077
- Proposed Survey of Parent Community:
 - In considering the cost/benefit of each fundraiser, the Spirit Committee will be putting together a survey to administer to parents about their perceptions of each fundraiser and their willingness to give via a straight cheque should Spirit Committee drop certain fundraisers such as QSP Magazine Drive, Dance-a-thon, Domino's Pizza Days, Gift Wrap from its portfolio of fundraisers.
 - Spirit Committee referred to St. Pius' recent switch to a fundraising strategy that relies heavily on a straight cheque they call an "activity fee".
 - Comments from Council:
 - What is Board policy on Activity Fees?
 - Be clear on what it is – call it a donation and not an "activity fee"
 - Good to have kids involved in raising money for their school
 - Concern over potential wording of survey and urged Spirit Committee to be careful in its wording

d) Arts Enrichment Committee – Alice Bell

- JK-Grade 3 Arts Enrichment Program to culminate in SPRING THAW: Art Show & FUNdraiser:
 - The Arts Enrichment Program was expanded this year to include ALL JK – Grade 3 classes in the school.
 - This program will culminate in the SPRING THAW: Art Show and FUNdraiser on March 31st where all the art will be displayed.
 - Special thanks to Mike Goodge from Art Works, Janeen Brownrigg from Lello Art School, and the Mayhem Brothers for providing their expertise to our students.
- Career Day for Grade 7's → April 21st:
 - A joint initiative between the school and the Arts Committee, a Career Day for approximately 180 Grade 7 students is being planned for April 21st.
 - A keynote speaker is addressing the classes from 10:40 – 11:30 am and many parents who have worked in non-traditional jobs have signed up to speak to students.

e) Centennial Committee – Vangelia Nitsis/Marshall Leslie

- Is starting to use the library scanner to digitize parts of the school's collection
- Seeking support from a community program that I have called on that is provided by the Archives Association of Ontario (appropriately) called "Archives Advisor", see: <http://aao-archivists.ca/services/archives-advisor>
- Continued to receive a good response to last month's "Centennial Kick-Off" , credit for which is entirely due to the Spirit Committee and Vangelia Nitsis

f) Communications Committee – Jess Shulman (on behalf of Jason Thompson)

- New website will be ready for preview at next Council Meeting

8. Other Business

a) Skipping in the playground: funding of skipping ropes? Inclusion in curriculum? Would kids want this?

- Mr. Tran has initiated a jump rope program at Runnymede and is liaising with Heart & Stroke foundation to run this initiative starting in mid-April.
- Rob Hochberg has asked teachers what they need to top up their class bags of recess/outdoor equipment and will be making purchases required.
- Kindergarten didn't get bag of phys ed stuff like balls and stuff → Rob Hochberg will ensure Kindergarten classes receive a bag of recess/outdoor equipment

Next meeting is on Tuesday April 19

Motion to Adjourn
Erin Carroll