



RHPS School Council Meeting Minutes:
Recorded by A. Twohey October 10, 2019
Transcribed by A. Twohey October 16, 2019

6:37 p.m.

Opening Remarks:

- Co-Chair Kristina Lilius opens meeting with introductions and thank yous to Leslie Gregory and other Welcome BBQ volunteers
- Co-Chair Andy Hall thanks volunteers for painting the library and notes many new volunteers contributed
 - Vice Principal Louise Hutchinson notes we need another painting session for the trim

School Update (Principal Todd Thompson):

- NPDL International
 - Some teachers are working as “activators” – Louise and Lyndsey Keyes
 - Open-ended learning; focusing on the ability to collaborate
 - Lyndsey:
 - Completed last year’s projects, submitted reports on findings, and were chosen to present in Toronto and to learn from other educators
 - Suzannah Harris was chosen to be “moderated” for her project of digital communication with communities, including First Nations
- OECD Study on Social-Emotional Learning and exit outcomes
 - A random sampling of 25 Grade 4/5 students were selected to complete the survey
 - Their parents were contacted, and there are 24 participants moving forward



- Results can be compared across the School Board
- PD Day
 - Three learning modules:
 - 1. Commit to Kids (Canadian Centre for Child Protection)
 - Signs to recognize with respect to child sexual abuse, and how to handle disclosure by a child
 - See Board website for parent training, which is coming up
 - Jamie McCallum: occasional teachers are also being offered training online
 - 2. Creating the Conditions for Learning
 - The Third Path
 - Social-emotional well-being
 - 3. Subject-Specific
 - Math
 - Kinder
 - French
 - We are hosting Le Phare
- EQAO Results
 - The test was designed for schools to be given feedback on how students are doing and important areas of need, in order to make sure students achieve to be successful
 - Level 3 (a “B”) is the standard of achievement
 - The media; realtors pit schools against each other
 - This cohort experienced a “nosedive”
 - Review of results
 - It is a prescriptive test; teachers are unable to coach or conference with students, which is important in the English Language Learner (ELL) community
 - Compared the math report card data with the EQAO math results and noticed a huge difference



- Somewhere in the middle is probably the most accurate
- Now reviewing math and writing assessments to ensure accuracy with EQAO Level 3
- The EQAO is a snapshot, and the cohort is small (e.g., the drop from 54 to 47 in math is equivalent to 2 students)
- Tara Downton-McNally gives personal example
- Tamara Taub: Are you focusing on writing? How much detail do you get about the assessments?
 - Todd:
 - I have down to the individual student's questions.
 - Through oral communication, our students can do well. Why the dip? The ability to communicate in writing. We provide an enormous amount of accommodation for students to show what they know – maybe too much?
 - The challenge is to not teach to a test.
- Jancey Harper: There's a balance. The difference in high school is everyone needs to pass. Can the students see examples?
 - Todd: Yes.
- Todd: Demographics play a huge role.
 - Danielle Armengaud: Statistically, if this is a blip, it's not worrying.
 - Loukman Arzin: Do you have an action plan?
 - Todd: Yes. On the website. It's usually due the end of November or early December. I will share it at a future Council meeting.
 - Question: Was there a significant difference in the demographics?
 - Todd:
 - There were a higher number of Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
 - A similar rate of ELL
 - Schools with similar demographics had a similar dip. It may have been too difficult in terms of language.



- Louise: We have had conversations with teachers about a plan, but not teaching to a test.
- Carlo Lombard: It's good to have the discussion.
- Teachers' Report (Lyndsey Keyes)
 - Orange Shirt Day was September 30
 - Explanation of the meaning of the Day
 - Had a speaker from the First Nations Caring Society
 - See the bulletin board for student work on Orange Shirt Day
 - October 18 is the Grade 5 students' mock vote
 - Done every time there is a federal, provincial or municipal election
 - Results to be released after real election
 - October 23, 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. is Take Me Outside Day
 - Donna Kind will tweet out for volunteers

Committee Updates:

- Communications (Communications Committee Chair Donna Kind)
 - Thanks to Leslie for putting up-to-date information on the website
 - Leslie: Do we have a list of all Council meeting dates?
 - Todd: They're on the website until December.
 - Andy is working on the RHOP Council calendar
- Fundraising (Fundraising Committee Chair Jamie McCallum)
 - Fresh from the Farm
 - Ongoing
 - Last day to order is October 14
 - Orders will be submitted October 16
 - Delivery date is TBD.
 - The Fundraising Committee will distribute



- Orders must be picked up on the delivery day or they will be donated to the Food Bank; problems last year with rotting food.

- Glow Run October 25
 - Stephanie Reid organizes
 - You can order on the school website
 - \$5 per person or \$20 for a family
 - The streets are blocked off; there's a dance party on the lawn after
 - It raises a lot of money
 - People from the neighbourhood are welcome to cheer or participate; they can register through your account, or pay the night of
 - We need volunteers. You can email Stephanie (see the weekly message)
 - Sarah McGregor: can we eliminate waste with glow stuff?
 - Discussion re: reusable glow stuff; confirming no water bottles
 - Jamie: we have a cooler with cups that are compostable – put the compost bin out
 - Bring flashlights
 - Danielle: put these bullet points on the School Cash Online website; have Donna emphasize

- Popcorn Days
 - We've had one
 - Once a month on Fridays
 - Bags are \$1, we get 50 cents profit
 - Ordered online
 - Goes into backpack to eat at home

- Spaghetti Dinner and Bookfair
 - Leslie:
 - November 13-15 a.m.
 - Wednesday, November 13 is viewing only

Record of Discussion, Oct. 10, 2019

- Thursday, November 14 is the Parent-Teacher Interview and Dinner
- Friday, November 15 is a PD Day (but there are some Parent-Teacher Interviews)
- Scholastic has contests and gift certificates; donates a Golden Ticket to one student per class (17 classes) – school doubles it to make it a \$10 gift card
- Classroom Wishlist: teachers make them, we display
- Thursday is family shopping night. 6pm: \$100 draw (\$25 to student; \$75 to class)
- All gift cards must be used during the Fair
- Passing out volunteer sign up sheet – focus on Thursday
- Todd:
 - Library Tech Megan Venner is to be heavily involved
- Question: Are there teacher field trips or events during the Fair?
 - Todd: Nothing on calendar
 - Louise to add note to teachers' calendars
- Leslie: Thank yous for Welcome BBQ; consider buying chafing dishes if we have somewhere to store them
- Margaret: Spaghetti Dinner
 - We sell tickets
 - East Sides gives the food
 - David Handelman usually reads his children's books
 - We need a lot of volunteers. It's mostly help day-of – plating pasta and sauce; Grade 5s also help
 - Desserts are potluck

Budget Update and Approval of 2019-2020 Budget (Treasurer Margaret Rose):

- *See attached report and 2019-2020 Budget*
- Tamara: Action Marshall Arts is looking for a proposal



- Margaret:
 - Carson Grove donation to be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in two payments
 - Half of their students are new Canadians and they have a large population of Syrians
 - They feed into the same middle school as RHPS
 - Short-term School Initiatives
 - All money from last year
 - Jamie: Spent \$100 on the kinder yard. Will discuss with kinder teachers re: replacing loose parts. Remaining \$100 in budget is enough for a storage bin.
- Tamara: Is all money spent or accounted for?
 - Margaret: As far as I know until bills come in.
- Question: Was there a drive for outdoor learning?
 - Kristina: For the next meeting, we'll have a better idea
 - Andy: To create a running "ask" list for the next meeting
 - Leslie clarifies for a 6ft easel
- Margaret: Budget update cont'd
 - Parenting library is done
 - The Scholastic credits can be used as money or as credits (we get approximately 40% more as credits); Leslie confirms \$4,056 in credits
 - Tamara: Do they expire?
 - Leslie: They say two years.
 - Andy: The idea is to spend the money in the year it was earned to benefit the people who raised it
 - Danielle: Will it be expended before the next Book Fair?
 - Todd: Yes.
 - Kristina: Once the library furniture comes in, Ms. Venner will audit the library
 - Babysitters
 - We need more. More kids are coming to meetings, so we've added more to the budget.



- “Fees” are for School Cash Online.
- “Materials” were tables for this year.

- Andy: Vote on budget. Questions?
 - Tamara: How much is needed to make sure it’s square?
 - Margaret: The fundraising plan puts us in good shape – an extra \$3,000 to \$3,500.
 - Tamara: No budget was added?
 - Margaret: No new short-term initiatives.
 - Tamara: Usually we talk to Todd and say, “What do you need?”
 - Andy: This is every ask we have.
 - Margaret: Wait and add asks later as they come up. We could put in a bucket for now, “Asks”...
 - Andy: Opposed.
 - Jancey: We need to know the “big asks” before the silent auction. before the silent auction. Certain companies donate to certain things.
 - Andy: To ask for them to be submitted by November.

- **Vote on Budget:** All voting members present in favour; none opposed. Passed unanimously.

- Fundraising Report (Jamie McCallum)
 - *See attached report*
 - Ottawa 67s game is February 28
 - Need to charge more, or make it not a fundraiser.
 - 67s will provide tickets for families whose children are in the choir who can’t afford tickets
 - Movie night may move to January.
 - School Dance is April 3
 - We may make it free and fund it with the bake sale and smoothie barFun Fair and Silent Auction is May 23



- Discussion re: “Asks”
 - Lyndsey: We have Paul Seif’s list. His biggest ask was picnic tables.
 - Tamara: Question for teachers. There is talk of fundraising cuts for arts and music; do we need anything there?
 - Todd: No cuts.
- Andy: Call for ideas for the next meeting
- Fundraising Report Cont’d (Jamie)
 - Trampolines – Danielle to ask
 - Open to ideas for fundraising. In the past, we’ve done things that bring the community together and bring in cash; for e.g., not selling chocolate bars.
 - Danielle: We did rain barrels
 - Brunella Buscicchio suggests a Christmas market with kid-made art

Round Table:

- Donna: School Cash Online doesn’t have the Glow Run
 - Jamie: It’s being added.
- Sarah: Question for Todd re: Maker Space
 - Todd: Waiting for library stuff to come in.

School Directory Update (Jamie McCallum)

- Reorganized
- List of home rooms to be sent
- By next Weekly Update, we should have the request to add kids’ info
- It will be a Google doc to be printed and sent home



- Tamara: Pam Gullen's Green Team – there may be linkages with their initiatives. Bring them along?
 - Discussion of the Golden Bucket for composting
 - Jamie: They could come to events with T-shirts and stand by garbages etc.

- Jancey: Vertical gardens?
 - Jamie: See Le Phare

- Jamie: Rising Stars Academy
 - Goal is to have this after school
 - Thinks it has to go through the Board
 - Issue is classroom space
 - Todd: Biggest issue is insurance; they have to be insured themselves

- Todd: welcome banner ask.
 - Split the cost? \$250.
 - To be proofread – add to Weekly Update.

- **Vote on proposal to add Welcome Banner co-pay to Budget:** Approved by all voting members present; opposed by none – passed unanimously.

- Lama Chami: Issues with translation of Weekly Update into Arabic
 - Todd: Discussion of technology.

- Andy: End times of meetings. Where possible, we'll move things along.

- Kristina: Let us know of proposed topics via the RHOP account in advance.

--Meeting Adjourned--