

**Rousseau School Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday February 21, 2017**  
**6:30pm – 8:00 pm**

**School Council Attendees:** Kim Strecker (Chair); Helene Monzon (Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal); Aviva Dunsiger (Teacher Representative)

**Regrets:** Laura Hustler (Treasurer)

**School Community Attendees:** Stephanie Gasko, Melissa Jeffreys; Amy Wolfe; Anthony Nicholl; Maeve Grady; Leah Maskell; Gint Murphy; Alex Johnston (Trustee)

**\*\*Parents – please remember to subscribe for email updates at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/rousseau/subscribe/>**

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**Meeting Summary**

1. Welcome to all – Kim **Strecker**
2. Approval of Minutes - December 2016 School Council minutes are posted on the Rousseau website; Approval of minutes motioned by Leah M. and seconded by Maeve G.
3. Student Report – Provided by Aviva
  - a. Mid Winter Mashup Dance – Date has b– Option to donate \$1 for food drive. Will have a play list of songs for the dance. Beach/Hawaiian theme. Food drive donations will be accepted on day of dance.  
  
**ACTION:** John to send out a reminder about the food drive as part of the Assembly.
  - b. Outdoor Winter Play Event – Student Council planning, weather permitting.
  - c. Food Drive – Gr. 6s - Focus is to increase the food drive donations (accepting non-perishable food donations, grocery gift cards, etc.) – in comparison to last year, there is a decrease in donations. Students learning about what needs there are in the community and about compassion and giving.
  - d. Choir/Music focused School Assembly – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017
4. Teacher Report – Provided by Aviva
  - a. Reminder about upcoming Hot Dog day – Friday February 24<sup>th</sup>, same day as school Awards Assembly (@2:40pm)

- b. February 27: Mid-Winter Mash-up Dance
  - c. February 28: Grade 3 Trip to Jordan Historical Museum
  - d. March 1: HWDSB Checkers Tournament
  - e. March 2: Ancaster Pupil Accommodation Review Working Group – Fessenden
  - f. March 3: PA Day
  - g. March 7: Grade 4/5 trip to ROM
  - h. March 8: Home & School Meeting
  - i. March 9: Oral Communication Festival – Gr. 4-6 Students; Ancaster PAR Public Meeting @ Ancaster High
  - j. March 10: Hot Chocolate Day
  - k. March 13-17: Mid-Winter Break
  - l. March 20: Freeze DNA Comic Art Workshop – Gr. 2-5. Goal is to teach children how to sketch/create comics – each child participating will receive instruction during school day hours
  - m. March 21: Ancaster Pupil Accommodation Review Working Group Meeting – Ancaster Senior P.S.
5. Principal's Report
- a. Welcome and Thank you
  - b. Air Quality Update – It has been confirmed that there is no air intake for the school – we only have exhaust and can only rely on windows for adequate air circulation. Work order has been placed to fix the fans; however, the company engaged has indicated that they cannot go on the roof until the weather gets better. Parents have indicated that they would like this escalated given that this issue was raised back in the September School Council meeting and has yet to be resolved.
  - c. Continuous Learning & Improvement – School Reading levels are currently below Board Learning Targets (evaluating Gr.1 levels). Math has been identified as the focus. Kim S. asked if Math is going to be the focus, how do we get our Reading levels up? John indicates that they are hoping to accomplish both – teachers are actively looking for ways to help students be successful
- ACTION:** John to speak to Facilities Management to escalate. When Alex Johnston (Trustee) joined the meeting, this was reiterated and Alex indicated that she and John

would follow up on this and provide update.

- d. Learning Styles – previously purchased ~1500 options, have only used ~400. Data last collected about 3 years ago. Info for JK/SK-2 was sent home for parents to complete, 4-6 were completed by the child then sent to parents for validation/addition. The purpose was that this would help identify individual learning styles by child, and would be carried through each year and teacher with the child. Melissa indicates that teachers actively do this as part of their ongoing assessments and how to best support children. Kim asked the school council participants whether there is value to continue/re-start this activity – general consensus that this was a good thing.

**ACTION:** John to present this to the staff and follow up on restarting this program

- e. Asbestos Inventory – this was requested to from the December 2016 meeting. John provided to the group to circulate during the meeting. This document is available in the Staff Room. The inventory currently states that asbestos is throughout the school in the tile floors, but also other areas.

**ACTION:** John to follow up with a review of the School for any loose floor tiles that could be disturbed and release asbestos, as well as any other areas that could be issues (e.g. caulking, radiators, etc.)

- f. Outdoor Learning Manual – link can be found on HWDSB site: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/outdoor-design-manual/> Manual provides recommendations. Copy circulated during meeting and can be used by Home and School Committee to provide ideas. Home & School is coordinating a sub-committee for outdoor developments to Rousseau (e.g. class garden, etc.) – please refer to Home & School for more info.
- g. Summer Experiences Showcase – March 21<sup>st</sup> – this showcase is to promote some of the summer programs offered by HWDSB (e.g. Literacy camps). The current date of this meeting coincides with the next School Council meeting and a PAR Working Group meeting.

**ACTION:** Move March School Council meeting out to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – general agreement received to move the next School Council Meeting.

## 6. Trustee's Update

- a. Board Update –
  - i. 2 Pupil Accommodation Reviews currently underway – East Hamilton and Ancaster – the Pupil Accommodation Reviews were a multi-year plan and is almost complete for all schools (except Waterdown, Dundas and East Hamilton Mountain areas)

- ii. Elementary Program and French Immersion Strategy - \$11MM received annually from Ministry for updates to schools to address big structural items (e.g. Gyms, washrooms, etc.) – schools rank based on priority/need and base the ranking on ministry standards. French Immersion Strategy uses a new application process where Applications are collected and reviewed “centrally” so that the board can anticipate growth and demand for French Immersion. Board is looking to review the Secondary program in the Fall – Ministry working to roll out specialized programs at the High School level
  - iii. Budget Finance & Facilities – budgets are being put together to be presented to the Trustees
- b. Air Quality @ Rousseau – School Council reiterated parental concerns over Air Quality at Rousseau and the delay to have an Air Quality check performed as well as a fix to the exhaust fans. Previously, School Council has requested that air quality measurements be taken, but was given explanation that this would need to be done once the exhaust fans were fixed in order to get a more accurate reading. However, School Council would like the measurements scheduled ASAP – and not necessarily wait to have the exhaust fans fixed (given the already lengthy delay). A work order has been in place since September 2016; however, still not completed and pending scheduling until the weather is better (original concerns over ice on the roof). Meeting participants indicate that they would expect that current weather conditions make this a prime opportunity to have this addressed.

**ACTION:** Alex and John to follow up on escalating the request to have this work order completed as well as scheduling of an Air Quality Control test.

- c. Ancaster Pupil Accommodation Review – Alex indicated that she attended the last working group session as an observer. Alex strongly encourages parents and community members to attend the next public meeting (March 9<sup>th</sup>) and voice what they would like to see for Rousseau Elementary – she also suggests sharing suggestions with the Working Group through your committee representatives OR emailing the PAR committee (email: [reviews@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:reviews@hwdsb.on.ca)), or email your Trustee (email: [ajjohnst@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:ajjohnst@hwdsb.on.ca)). Alex indicates the importance of voicing ideas and opinions – and generally providing support of the desire to keep the school within the community. Alex emphasizes thinking outside the box and sharing ideas, provided some ideas that were being presented within the Working Group, including: Building 3 new schools – CH Bray, ASPS + Fessenden, Rousseau; Queens Rangers merger; CH Bray move to Ancaster High site. Considerations include what impacts/makes strong Business Case/Proposals, the committee considers current state of the school and repair needs (e.g. CH Bray – over 60% of the school requires repair/renewal), services needed in the areas that can be paired with the Elementary schools (e.g. could we keep Queen’s Rangers and create an Outdoor Facility area) – Ministry of Education gives additional consideration if the Business Case includes Community Hub related

proposals (e.g. Youth Technology Hubs, Senior’s Home partnerships, etc.). Staff Proposal initially outlined a recommendation – Staff are Planning Staff of HWDSB with backgrounds similar to city planners. Process – Trustees are presented 2 reports – Staff Recommendation and Working Group Committee – in most cases these align – Staff also sit in on Working Group meetings to hear various proposals/considerations.

7. Home and School Meeting Updates

- a. Hot Chocolate Event March 10<sup>th</sup> – Free event
- b. Next meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup> afternoon meeting to discuss how to spend ~\$3500 on
- c. Movie Night – Movie “Sing” & Karaoke Party – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – free event but encourage donations, will also be selling items at a concession stand
- d. Groove-a-thon set for April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8. Ancaster Pupil Accommodation Review Call Out

**ALL Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the Public Meeting scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - where one can ask questions, voice concerns, etc.. It is vital that we show our support for Rousseau Elementary School and reiterate how important the school is to our community!**

| # | Description                          | Date & Time                           | Location             |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | ARC Working Group Meeting            | Thursday March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2017 | Fessenden Elementary |
| 2 | ARC Public Meeting                   | Thursday March 9, 2017                | Ancaster High School |
| 3 | Ancaster Accommodation Proposal Date | Tuesday March 21, 2017                | --                   |

9. Garden Project – Mrs. Bennett & Mr. Strecker are interested in starting a Garden Project at Rousseau that would involve students participating in building and caring for a garden.

**ACTIONS:** John to follow up on whether there is an outdoor water source that can be used during the summer months to keep the garden going. Also, John to ask for staff involvement at the next Staff meeting.

10. Class Representative Engagement/Involvement – In earlier School Council meetings, Student Council choose class representatives, but to date these reps haven’t had any follow-up or

been engaged in activities.

**ACTION:** John indicates that Student Council will have a meeting scheduled with the Reps within the next month.

The School Council meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Helene Monzon. Next meeting to take place on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 pm.