

**Rousseau School Council Meeting**  
**March 24, 2015 – 6:30-8:00pm**

**School Council Member Attendees:**

Mrs. Susan Boshier (Principal), Laura Hustler (Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Mrs. Janet Raymond (Teachers' Representative), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), Tara Hamilton (Treasurer)

**School Community Attendees:**

Honor H., Michelle S.

**Regrets:**

Kim Strecker (Vice-Chair)

**Agenda Items:**

1. **Welcome**

Laura H. welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Last Month's Minutes**

Approval of last month's minutes (February 2015) was *motioned* by Kaitryn C. and *seconded* by Tara H.

3. **Review of Action Items**

See appended Action Table.

4. **Reports**

**Student Report**

Owen L.: The spirit day and pay it forward combo this month is literally "pay it forward". It is a reminder to our Rousseau students to be kind any day. This week the students will be trying to get as many leaves as possible for the Rousseau tree. Students can wear green. Growing kindness goes with a Spring theme. ELP2 has challenged other classes to earn a leaf on a tree.

SPCA: Raised \$301.25 for SPCA as well as a generous sized box of items.

**Teacher Report - J. Raymond**

Upcoming Events:

March 26 Assembly & Spirit Day (*Wear Green, earn a leaf for the Giving Tree*)

April 2 Book Fair

April 8 *HWDSB Day of Pink*

April 9 Oral Communications - West Cluster Finals, Elise VanHeerden

April 9 Curling Rocks and Rings

April 16 Violin Presentation 9:30 (Gr 3-6 Gym)

April 29 Assembly & Spirit Day (Wacky Hair Day- collect toiletries for Women's Shelter)

May 4 Rousseau Music Monday Assembly (Junior Choir rehearsing weekly in anticipation of a performance at this assembly)

May 30 Touch a Truck Fundraiser @ Ancaster Fair Grounds- 10-3 Request for use of Rousseau Tent. Laura H. will obtain quotes on a Rousseau Tent to be used for all Rousseau events including Fun Fair, Track & Field, Cross Country, etc. The possibility of using Athletic funds for this was discussed.

**Worthy of Note: Junior Choir- Juno Fest**

Junior Choir was unable to perform due to March Break conflict, but they were invited to sing O Canada at one of the pre-juno Awards “JunoFest” events on Fri. March 13th. The invitation came from Hamilton musician Tom Wilson, who has heard Rousseau’s choir at Hamilton Place for MLK in years gone by.

Music Champions is still happening in classes 4/5O, 5/6F and 6R and will be wrapping up this week with a culminating task- a music video! Students have written and professionally recorded Ojibwe-style songs and are currently in the process of vesting the video to go along with their songs. School Wide performances and showing of the music video projects will happen end of April or Start of May-- date to be confirmed One class that has been blogging about the Music Champions was featured in the Hamilton Spectator on March 12th.

**BOKS- “Build Our Kids’ Success”**

Starting the week of April 7th

BOKS promotes the impact that physical activity has on a child’s mind, body and spirit.

**ACTIVE KIDS = ACTIVE MINDS**

Twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 7th to May 14th 8:00 - 8:45

warm up followed by organized play including running activities, obstacle courses and games which incorporate functional fitness movements such as sit ups, jumping, lunges etc.

FREE- fully funded by Reebok Canada Fitness Foundation, Public Health Agency of Canada, and 20 spots available, will be offered first to grade 3, then opened up for 2 then 1 if spots don’t fill.

Thank you to Mrs. Crocker for supervising this initiative!

**Spirit Days and Pay It Forward Activities**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Spirit Day</b>	<b>Pay It Forward Activity</b>	<b>Supervising</b>
<i>October</i>	<i>black &amp; orange</i>	<i>food drive</i>	<i>√</i>
<i>November 27</i>	<i>wear blue</i>	<i>prostate cancer</i>	<i>√</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>green &amp; red</i>	<i>toy drive</i>	<i>√</i>
<i>January 29</i>	<i>pajama day</i>	<i>NEW...blankets, towels, pjs to donate to shelter</i>	<i>√</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>dress up/ bring a stuffed animal</i>	<i>bring a toonie or an item from the SPCA Wish list</i>	<i>√ raised \$301.25 + toys</i>
<b>March</b>	<b>Wear Green</b>	<b>Growing Kindness- earn your leaf on the Giving Tree</b>	<b>Janet Raymond</b>

April	Crazy Hair Day	toiletries for women's shelter	Sonya Reid
May	?	Cystic Fibrosis	Peter Lees
June	soccer tournament kids vs parents,	Sell freezies, send a kid to camp (Tim Hortons)	Ryan Peters

Rocks and Rings

A Rousseau family has sponsored a rocks and rings day to learn how to curl. Grades 1-6 will participate on April 9th.

**Principal Report - S. Boshier**

**1. New Curriculum for Health & Phys-ed for September 2015**

- schools will be receiving in-servicing (April/May)
- the Board will be providing parent information to parents that will include both web based and face to face opportunities
- parent resources on line:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html>
- Links will be made available on Ram-blings

**2. Starting to plan for the 2015-2016 school year**

- Ramblings post will be made mid-April to provide parents with an opportunity to share any academic concerns as it relates to class placements
- if you have a child eligible for JK in September we encourage you to register to allow for appropriate planning for September

**3. School Cash Online**

- Reminder to register as more "events" will be posted throughout the year
- Rousseau data:
  - #of students 238 # registered 74 = 31%

**4. Teacher Wish Lists**

- like last year we will have these ready for June

**5. Upcoming Dates:**

- EQAO for Grade 3 &6 May 25-28
- Grade 6 Celebration Date: Monday June 22nd

Honor H. informed the group that former Rousseau students are performing in the theatre production, Mulan. On May 20 and 21 feeder schools are invited to attend a performance at a cost of \$2 per child.

## **5. Understanding and Defining our School Council Purpose**

Laura H. asked for feedback and an open discussion about the mandate of parent council. Laura H. asked for attendees to brainstorm ideas to bring back to our next meeting including a clear definition of our purpose. School Council is looking to set new goals for the 2015/2016 school year.

The purpose of School Councils is to improve student achievement and ensure accountability between school and parents. The purpose is not solely for fundraising. We have many parents involved in many ways at the school. It would be good to see how or in what ways our parents would be interested in participating in school council. The Ministry of Education outlines the requirements for a school council.

Fundraising initiatives and goals in the past have not been clear. In recent years, we have relied on the write a cheque program which recently has not been as successful as hoped. Laura H. has also asked that parents brainstorm ideas for possible new fundraising methods for 2015/2016.

Susan B. and Janet R. suggested that School Council set up an information table at Meet-the-Teacher night to encourage more parents to attend the meetings. In addition, it was further suggested the kindergarten orientation also include an invitation to attend School Council meetings. Set something up at meet the teacher night to encourage people to come out in September. The membership and self-nomination form will be provided to all families in September. Laura H. suggested that an email be sent to all people that respond to the form indicating that we are happy they are responding to encourage their attendance. Janet R. further suggested that all teaches create a blog post that includes an invitation to take part in School Council.

## **6. Possible Revisions for 2015/2016 School Year**

Food sales: Considering changing the milk program from 5 days per week to 3 days per week to reduce costs to parents. An alternative may be to use school cash online to allow for multiple payments throughout the year instead of lump sum payments in September. It was suggested that an online survey be created to obtain parent feedback on milk usage. Janet R. will get teacher feedback as to what their preference would be in terms of logistic concerns, etc.

Fundraising: Laura H. is asking for ideas for fundraising initiatives and ideas with a goal to plan ahead in April/May for activities to take place in September.

Events: Laura H. is asking for ideas for Rousseau events.

School Council Meeting Times: Meeting times could be altered from the current 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Considering a rotation of meeting times between after school and evening. Susan B. suggested evening meetings for months with more predictable weather. Meetings could be held in the Hub if more space is required. It was suggested that a google form be sent out to parents to see if there is a preference for meeting time. Laura is asking for people to help create this form and suggested that Mr. Peters could possibly help. Hope to have feedback for next meeting.

Extra Curricular for Grades 1-3: There may be opportunity in the future for parents to be involved with or lead extracurricular activities.

## **7. Prom Project**

Laura H. will organize the start of Prom Project for the week of March 30th and will collect donated items until

Tuesday April 7th. Laura H. will arrange for the drop off of these items.

#### **8. Teacher Appreciation**

Rousseau Open House will take place on May 7. The Rousseau staff appreciation lunch will tentatively be scheduled to take place this same week (1st full week in May). Details will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **9. Fun Fair**

Seeking donations for the silent auction continues to be a priority for preparing for the fun fair. Natalie Booth is in charge of the silent action. If anyone has any items that can be donated contact Natalie at [natalietombooth@yahoo.ca](mailto:natalietombooth@yahoo.ca).

Kim will discuss volunteer roles at next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie G. Next meeting will take place March 24, 2015 from 6:30-8pm.

**List of Action Items – School Council Meeting March 24, 2015**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible Person(s)</b>	<b>Complete? (Y/N)</b>
February-1	Create a list of all volunteer positions required for Fun Fair activities.	Kim S.	N
February-2	Post list of volunteer positions needed for Fun Fair on School Blog.	Susan B.	N
February-3	Organize collection of goods for the Prom Project. Collection likely to take place the last week of March.	Laura H./Kim S.	N
March-1	Obtain quotes for a Rousseau tent to be used for fun fair, track & field, cross country, etc.	Laura H.	
March-2	Post Ministry of Education policy for School Councils on the Rousseau website.	Susan B.	
March-3	Contact parent representatives for each classroom. Send these representatives specific information to start a discussion with their child's classmates parents.	Laura H.	
March-4	Review parent engagement surveys to see if any barriers were identified that may prevent parents from participating in school council or school council meetings.	Kaitryn C.	
March-5	Brainstorm ideas for School Council mandate. Bring these ideas to the April meeting.	All	
March-6	Brainstorm ideas for 2015/2016 fundraising initiatives. Bring these ideas to the April meeting.	All	
March-7	Set up an online survey to obtain feedback regarding the frequency of the milk program.	Laura H./Susan B.	
March-8	Obtain feedback from teachers regarding logistic concerns and their preferences should the milk program change to 3 days per week from the current 5 days per week; allowing parents a revised ordering schedule (ie. monthly); etc.	Janet R.	
March-9	Set up an online survey to obtain feedback regarding School Council meeting times.	Laura H./others	
March-10	Confirm date for the teacher appreciation lunch.	Laura H.	
March-11	Continue to seek donations for the fun fair silent auction. Contact Natalie Booth at <a href="mailto:natalietombooth@yahoo.ca">natalietombooth@yahoo.ca</a> with a list of any available donations.	All	