

**Rousseau School Council Meeting**  
**November 18, 2014 - 6:30-8:00pm**

**School Council Member Attendees:** Mrs. Susan Bosher (Principal), Laura Hustler (Chair), Kim Strecker (Vice Chair), Mrs. Raymond (Teachers' Representative), Tara Hamilton (Treasurer), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary)

**School Community Attendees:** Amy W., Leah M., Melissa J., Hozanna J., Honor H.

1. **Welcome:** Kim (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Approval of last month's minutes (October 2014) was *motioned* by Amy W. and *seconded* by Leah M.

**3. Reports:**

Students:

- *Spirit Days:* For November, on Thurs. 27, all students who wish can wear blue to support prostate cancer (for Movember) and make a donation of any amount, which will be collected to be donated to prostate cancer research. Last month the Students' Council hosted an Orange & Black day and accepted food donations. For December, the Students' Council will host a Toy Drive, with each classroom being asked to support a family. For January, a Pajama Day will be sponsored, and gently used items will be accepted to keep people warm (e.g. blankets, towels, pajamas, etc.). February's event may be in support of McMaster Children's Hospital or Ronald McDonald House. For March, classes will be asked to create Birthday Boxes (1-2 per class) to donate to a shelter (e.g. Micha House) to help moms or kids who can't afford to celebrate their birthdays—students could dress like they would to celebrate their birthdays. For April, the Students' Council would like to host a Book Drive, with donated books going to the school library. For May, it was proposed that a toiletry donation could be hosted. For June, a Soccer Day was proposed, with Freezies to be sold, and donated funds will go to support children who cannot afford to play sports (Owen volunteered to run this event).

Teachers:

- *Swim Team:* First place for boys and girls! We will hold an assembly to distribute ribbons. Thanks to parent volunteers, drivers, and to Mrs. Laws for overseeing.
- *Volleyball:* all teams have playoffs, but will be wrapping up soon. V-ball tournament @ Dofasco for Gr. 6's, Dec. 3 Girls and Dec. 5 Boys. Thanks to parent drivers, to Miss Rankin for taking Gr. 6 girls to games, and to Mr. Peters for running practices just about every day, and taking Gr. 6 Boys and Gr. 6 co-ed to games.
- *Remembrance Day:* So many contributions from classes. Students were great. Thanks to Ms. Fawcett for organizing and managing all performances and transitions, providing accompaniment etc.
- *Chapters Night:* We have a few teachers who have signed up to be at the Welcome Table, others who will attend with their own small children, and other staff members who are already involved in choir performances. Tara H. volunteered to take bucket of Rousseau T-shirts, to distribute to students on upper level at Chapters & collect after both performances are done by 7:30. Junior and Primary choirs will perform. Both Choirs arrive by 6:15 p.m. to get settled, put on Rousseau t-shirts. Primary Choir sings 6:30-6:50, Junior joins for 2 songs, and Junior choir sings alone @ 7pm.  
Primary Choir: Mrs. Stinson & Mr. Lees  
Junior Choir: Ms. Fawcett
- *School Council Classroom Funds:* Thank you for the school funds. The support is greatly appreciated by teachers and we all enjoyed reflecting on what would benefit our students and choosing the items that were of greatest relevance to our own students. Ordering is underway.
- *Light up Night:* Tree lighting will happen Dec. 4 at Old Town Hall and the Junior choir will be performing. Time TBA.
- *Field Trips:* Juniors enjoyed their outing to see the Bulldogs on Nov. 4. Gr. 1-6 are going to see The Nutcracker on Dec. 18. ELP 1&2 are going to The Little Mermaid on Dec. 10 at Brantford Collegiate Institute
- *Holiday Card Project:* Teachers are happy to see funds donated to Ancaster Community Services and City Kidz once again. Thank you Sandra M. for organizing.

Principal:

- *Student Safety:* Visibility vests have been provided to playground supervisors, and are working well. Additional fencing has been investigated for the west wing (near the pine tree), and may happen next week if weather

permits. Foliage near the perimeter has been trimmed and students are not permitted to go in there during school hours, and additional foliage is being trimmed for visibility.

- *School Council Fund Spending:* Mrs. Todd has been working hard to get the orders in. There will be a slight delay to get all equipment set up/mounted, etc. but work orders have been submitted. Mrs. Bosher will put together a list to provide a spending update.
  - *Write-a-Cheque:* The 2014 campaign will end Fri. Dec. 12, but will be re-opened in 2015 for those who are able to donate in the New Year.
4. **New Business:** It was decided last month that Kim would be the Chair and Laura will be the Vice Chair, but Kim and Laura have decided to switch roles. So Laura will now be Chair and Kim will be Vice Chair.
  5. **Hamilton Bulldogs Military Appreciation Night Fundraising:** Dec. 5 the Bulldogs will be hosting a Military Appreciation Night against the Toronto Marlies, with donated funds going to the Marcus Cirillo Trust. \$2 for every individual and group ticket sold for the night will go to the Trust. HWDSB has a discounted ticket offer to staff and students. A \$12 group ticket for a blue section ticket and a red section ticket for \$15. On the day of a game, the blue ticket retails for \$24 and the red ticket for \$28. The School Council wants to organize to buy tickets for Rousseau families as a group, but need a volunteer (a Council attendee tentatively volunteered). There will also be an option for families to buy tickets on their own. A Rousseau Ramblings post will go out with more details.
  6. **Ministry of Education Survey for Health Education:** Only 1 person is able to fill out a survey to provide feedback on changes that have already been made. Laura H. has offered to co-ordinate filling it out, with Tara H. to assist.
  7. **Bylaws and Constitutions:** We are supposed to have School Council Bylaws and Constitutions and we need to formulate/update them.  
**Action Item:** Kaitryn will read the materials passed on by the former secretary and if there is anything relevant, will pass it on (this was done and nothing of relevance was found). A sub-committee will be formed to meet in January 2015 to begin the process of writing the Rousseau School Council bylaws/constitutions.
  8. **21<sup>st</sup> Century Team (HWDSB Technology) Invite to Next Meeting:** They would be happy to come and speak to Council about technology. Council agreed to invite them in January. An afternoon coffee meeting/webinar was proposed, with the event recorded so parents who can't attend could still watch afterwards (or remotely log in live).
  9. **Fundraising Ideas:** New ideas were proposed and are being considered, including a Canadian Tire Money fundraising event, where families could donate Canadian Tire \$ or other change, on a classroom basis (as a contest). A Holiday House Tours idea was also suggested. It was suggested that more community oriented events might be popular, such as bringing in parenting book authors to speak with tickets offered for sale to the entire community. This is in response to the fact that the Write-a-Cheque Campaign has not been as successful in recent years. Implementing some of these ideas (or others) was tabled and will be discussed again at a later date.
  10. **Popcorn Card Money:** Note to all—popcorn cards are available for \$20.
  11. **Moms' Night Out:** Will be Monday, December 1 @ 8pm Second Cup in Ancaster, Meadowlands. All welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Kaitryn Campbell.  
Next meeting will take place Tuesday, January 20, 2015 from 6:30-8pm.