

Rousseau School Council Meeting
November 17, 2015 – 6:30-8:15pm

School Council Member Attendees: Mr. John Gris (Principal), Kim Strecker (Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Mrs. Janet Raymond (Teachers' Representative), Carson M. (Student Representative), Dea M. (Student Representative)

School Community Attendees: Laura H., Melissa J., Gint M., Honor H., Agnieska M., Lara H., Bridget S., Alisa F.

Guests: Sandra Binns & Angela Murchie, Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations

Regrets: Danielle Curry (Vice Chair), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), Tara Hamilton (Treasurer)

1. Welcome

2. Approval of October's Minutes: Approval of last month's minutes was *motioned* by Laura H. and *seconded* by Gint M.

3. Reports:

Student Report – Carson & Dea:

- *Special Events:* The Halloween dance was a success. It was suggested that the event be longer in duration next year.
- *Spirit Days:* on November 26 students are encouraged to wear red, white or Canadian themed clothing; students would like to have water day this year and more spirit days.
- *Pay it Forward Events:* For the month of November a donation was made to the Veterans; In December gifts will be collected and given to Rousseau's sister schools; in February a food drive will take place. Classes will continue to brainstorm ideas for spirit days.

Teacher Report – Mrs. Raymond:

- *Teachers have a deal:* As much as possible there is a return to business as usual, with immediate attention to report cards and parent observations in ELP. Thank you to Mr. Gris for his support throughout these few months, handling paperwork and funds so that things like volleyball have happened to the extent that they could, and orders could be placed for pitas, milk and pizza. Thank you to our parent community for help getting those initiatives launched when teachers could not.
- *Halloween Dance:* was successful from teacher perspective, buddy dancing was very sweet and 2 songs was enough for our younger students; great suggestion. Junior teachers felt (as did their students) that either having food earlier in the day or providing a longer time for the dance after younger students leave would be helpful for future Halloween Dances.
- *Bullying Awareness:* this coming week buddies will work together to identify what peace means to them, record on a dove and display. We may use doves on the Giving Tree to celebrate acts of acceptance and tolerance.
- *Chapter's Night:* teachers have populated the wish lists, thank you in advance!
- Thank you to Ms. Fawcett for organizing our Remembrance Day Ceremony, with many musical contributions prepared by both choirs and classes taught by Ms. Fawcett and Mrs. Stinson, as well as input, (musical, artistic, poetic etc.) from all classes.
- Thank you to Mr. Peters who has been single handedly coaching all 3 of our volleyball teams; gr. 6 girls, gr. 6 boys and 5% coed. He is holding practices almost daily, and attending 2-4 games per week. Students love it!
- *Junior Choir:* Rehearsing 2x/wk to get ready for Chapters Night; Same songs will be performed at Ancaster Light Up Night, Thurs. Dec. 3, 5:45 - 6:45; Drop off and pick up at Town Hall, but parents can't stay in Town Hall, no room
- *Primary Choir:* Lovely performance at Remembrance day, and preparing next for Chapter's Night.
- *Holiday Card Project:* Sandra Mallett was inquiring about charities teachers would like to support this year. We are happy to have funds go once again to Clty Kidz and Ancaster Community Services.
- *Musical:* The labour situation this fall interfered with the launch of our musical to the extent that our proposed dates (with licensing and sound/lighting tech booked) now need to be changed. The goal of staging the musical before March Break is no longer realistic, and holidays such as Easter and Victoria day, combined with the personal lives (how dare they?!) of the teachers involved, and coordinating with sound

tech, make rescheduling to a later date difficult. If we are to go ahead with the musical this year, there are many variables that need to be sorted out before we can announce that. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

Principal Report – Mr. Gris:

- *Vendor's Evening:* The cost of a permit for a non-profit event is \$53. Kim S. stated there is not enough time now to prepare for a November sale; will put this off until next year.
- *School Bus Delays:* Parents are to call HWSTS; synervoice will be used as a backup.
- *School Cash On-Line:* the school website has been updated to provide parents with access to support for school cash online through a Quick Link; families can call the school if they need a PIN number
- *RAZ kids:* cost is \$899.95 US; school council will pay ½ of this cost. Parents will be provided with a home log-in.
- *Gym Mats (2 year plan):* in 2015/2016 requesting \$4923.07 for permanent padding under basketball nets; in 2016/2017 requesting \$3354.19 for 29 removable mats on length of gym walls.
- *Technology Roll-out:* Grade 4 and 5 students have received 6 pack of iPads and Apple TV; all teachers have recently been given an iPad to begin training and to use with their classes.
- *Labour Update:* Parent Teacher interviews are happening on November 26-27. Teachers will only conduct interviews related to Progress Reports if they have concerns about a student's progress. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher with questions or concerns about their child's progress. Teachers will continue to communicate with parents and guardians about student progress & development.
 - CUPE (caretakers) ratified agreement – job action over.
 - OCTU (through OSSTF) – office administrators – still negotiation and in a job action – as a result office administrators cannot release the front door for visitors, assist with fundraising, assist with trip forms etc., print school council reports or financial statements, call students to the office, assist with scheduling parent/teacher interviews.

Upcoming Dates:

November 16-20: Bullying Prevention & Awareness Week
November 19: Hamilton Police Services present bullying awareness presentations
November 24: Chapter's Night
November 26: Awards Assembly; Parent Teacher Interviews
November 27: PA Day; Parent Teacher Interviews
December 2: School Bus Safety Assemblies
December 3-4: Volleyball Tournaments
December 11: Progress Reports go home
December 18: Winter Holiday Special Event Day/Awards Assembly
December 21 – January 1: Winter Holiday Break

4. **Learning Style Strategies (Video):** Kim S. shared the following video that emphasizes that different children have different learning styles: <https://www.facebook.com/Upworthy/videos/1125589414148582/>

5. Funds Update:

- \$500 has been provided to each classroom teacher
- \$250 has been provided for French and a total of \$500 was provided for drama, arts, phys-ed
- \$20/class for a total of \$200 has been provided for next spring's art auction
- \$30/student for a total of \$7170 has been provided for enrichment (ie. school trips)
- \$75 for staff room curtains
- \$156.98 for Homesense staff room purchase
- ½ of the funds will be provided for the RAZ kids program
- Funds are being allotted for piano tuning
- \$1970 is being set aside for either gym mats or lego robotics
- \$3500 is being set aside for fun fair

Kim S. stated that school council would like to have updates from teachers on how they spend their funds.

6. **Principal Direction for Rousseau:** Kim S. asked on behalf of parents that Mr. Gris provide his direction for Rousseau. To be provided at next meeting.
7. **Classroom Reassignments in the Future:** This is a huge worry for parents and students. Laura H. asked if this is something that can happen sooner in the school year before students are settled in their classrooms. This will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.
8. **Other Business**
- *Home and School Associations*
 - Sandra Binns & Angela Murchie from the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations (OFHSA) provided an overview of home and school associations and the differences between these associations and school councils.
 - Home and School Associations are about advocacy and provide feedback on policies and support to school level associations with a focus on education and student health & safety. OFHSA has a voice at the government level and is invited to participate in consultations and working groups. OFHSA has a seat on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the school calendar committee.
 - More details can be found on the OFHSA website: www.ofhsa.on.ca
 - *Teacher Alignment:* Gint M. inquired about policies related to teacher alignment in terms of strategies and consistencies between teachers that are teaching the same grade level (ie. grade 1 class vs. grade 1/2 split class). Mr. Gris stated that teacher learning affects how students will learn in class. There is collaboration between teachers but there are also individual teaching styles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Gasko.
Next meeting will take place January 19, 2016 from 6:30-8pm.

List of Action Items – School Council Meeting November 17, 2015

Item Number	Action Item	Responsible Person(s)	Complete? (Y/N)
September-1	Follow up regarding the Hub's availability/use in the future.	Mr. Gris	Y
September-2	Mark the nutrition free days on the school calendar(s).	Mr. Gris	Y
September-3	Clean up the current version of the Council budget report and provide all with a simpler version of the most recent expenditures/incoming funds in October.	Mr. Gris	Y
September-4	Confirm teacher participation in Chapters Night.	Mrs. Raymond	Y
September-5	Organize Rousseau Family fundraiser night in October or November at Buffalo Wild Wings.	Tammy Mansfield	Y
September-6	Follow up regarding the possibility of a Groove-a-thon occurring near Halloween.	Mr. Gris	Y, Tabled
September-7	Organize a vendors' evening.	Kim Strecker, Honor Hughes, Danielle Curry	Y, Tabled
September-8	Look into a school that would benefit from Coat Drive fundraiser items.	Mr. Gris	Y
September-9	Lead Coat Drive.	Amy Wolfe, with Melissa Jeffrey	Underway
September-10	Organize Book Drive.	Kim Strecker	N
September-11	Providing a learning night or how-to sheet/UTube video to help families use School Cash Online.	Mr. Gris	Y
September-12	Organize Milk distribution in interim, collaboratively with other volunteers.	Leah Maskell, with Kim Strecker, Kaitryn Campbell	Underway
September-13	Look into the availability of playground equipment available from decommissioned schools.	Mr. Gris	Y
September-14	Look into the possibility of providing an alert to "bus families" or recommend an alternative, viable course of action, to prevent students and their caregivers from waiting outside in inclement weather for an unreasonable amount of time, or caregivers from being late to work/additional responsibilities.	Mr. Gris	Y
October-1	Talk to teachers about getting "buddy classes" together to discuss including the elementary students in some way to generate ideas for school activities.	Mrs. Raymond	
October-2	Make a post regarding how to get School Cash Online registration numbers if parents have already registered in the past but misplaced access number.	Mr. Gris	Y
October-3	Look into the possibility of a partnership with Ancaster High to build additional playground equipment.	Gint Murphy	
October-4	Arrange to set up Synervoice messages to families re: bussing issues, for use should there be a need.	Mr. Gris	Y
October-5	Follow up with staff to discuss the feasibility of using Raz-Kids in classes, and the final cost.	Mr. Gris	Y
November-1	Updates from teachers to be provided in regard to how \$500/\$250 allotments are spent	Teachers/Mr. Gris	
November-2	Principal Direction for Rousseau	Mr. Gris	
November-3	Discussion regarding Classroom Reassignments	All	