

Rousseau School Council & Home and School Meeting
Wednesday October 18, 2017
7:00pm – 8:30 pm

School Council Attendees: Kim Strecker (Co-Chair); Danielle Curry (Co-Chair); Helene Monzon (Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal); Lauren (Student Representative), Chantal Fernandez (Teacher Representative); Lisa Popowich (Treasurer)

School Community Attendees: Stephanie Gasko, Melissa Jeffreys; Amy Wolfe; Maeve Grady; Carol Day, Steph Howells (Shipton); Scott Shipton; Tatjana Zdravkovic

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

Also a reminder that child care is provided for families attending the School Council Meetings.

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**Meeting Summary (School Council Updates followed by Home & School)**

1. Welcome (Kim Strecker)
2. Approval of September School Council Minutes – Motioned by Kim Strecker, seconded by Danielle Curry
3. Principal Report – EQAO Scores
  - Google EQAO at Rousseau to access the report
  - Gr. 3 (Against Provincial Results): Above average Reading (78%), Below average for Writing, Below average for Math
  - Gr. 6 (Against Provincial Results): Above average Reading (84%), Above average Writing (87%), Mathematics above 52% (slightly)
  - Cohort data – Reading has seen an increase in reading ability from gr. 3 to gr. 6 whereas # of students achieving in gr. 3 in math actually saw a drop in gr. 6 (specific focus on geometry)

**Question/Comment:** Trending data – thoughts/correlation to changes in teaching strategy? Math scores 50% in last 2 years (some concern here) > school is lagging math

**Question/Comment:** New in the last few years – “5 different ways to answer a question” – perhaps this is an issue as it presents the children with too many options? This is done partly as a process of developing communications skills – but is this adding more challenge?

- School is actively exploring “how” are we teaching math

**Question/Comment:** Has the school explored how math is presented to the children and what is the “energy” of how the teacher is teaching – what energy is the teacher conveying – how are the children interacting (e.g. voice, tone, exasperation, etc.) – what strategies are we using to measure the children’s experience in the class when math is being taught

**Question/Comment:** Fesseden did a Family Numeracy night, where they brought in an outside consultant. Great response, could we consider for Rousseau?

**ACTION:** John to explore with the staff as to whether this is something we can do in the Spring – try to have Student led. Perhaps an external resource was brought in (paid for by H&S)? (Ideal would be to offer in January/February 2018)

**Question/Comment:** Are we able to see which children answered the question incorrectly – can we determine which “classes” had children that struggled with the correct answer. Data is not organized by classes – could we consider going through the data to determine.

- Math Manipulatives “Hands On Learning Resources” that are available for students to use – e.g. blocks in kindergarten to learn tactile learning opportunities. John indicates that the school did an inventory of the Math Manipulatives today – to indicate what we have available – pull out of cupboards and bring into the classroom – stored centrally as there was not enough available in each class

#### 4. School Annual Plan (Principals Report)

- Goal for board 75% for school on Reading (primary 78%, jr. 84%) Mathematics (pr. 52%, jr. 52%) – goal for board in math was 65%
- Target will be 80% for all students achieving B or higher in reading and math
- John welcomes comments/feedback from parents, families

**Question/Comment:** How do we ensure that now we are focusing on Math, that we don’t now drop in reading? John indicates that they structure the Staff Meeting planning for focus Math on one month, Reading on the next

- PA Days in December and March are focused on
- School day has a 100minute literacy block, 60 minute math block
- Board has a new board revision? In 2016/2017 there was a new board strategy applied – the board has indicated that this will continue (no new revision per John)
- John is seeing a combined approach for different ways of learning math – problem solving

- Goal is to have as many gr.1 students reading by the end of G.1 – John to take away a follow up to determine our % success rate to this goal. > DRA data (john to obtain and present for next meeting)
  - “Board definition” of ALL children reading – what exactly does that mean – John indicates Rousseau is 89% for Gr.1 Reading (not sure if the new primary program is successful)
  - Math scores in EQAO – how much are we focusing on what we did the year before? How do we know we are successful – teachers share in Staff meetings (teacher observation)
  - New data tool to be used (Report Card Scores and EQAO scores)
  - Children need to be involved – ask them for their feedback on a particular lesson
5. Student Report (Lauren) - Congratulations Lauren!
- Student Council has had first meeting with Mr. Gris
  - Spirit Day October 27th – where students would wear red & white to celebrate Rousseau
  - Halloween Dance ideas – Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>
  - New Sporting Equipment – classes were delivered new sports equipment 2 soccer balls, 1 basket ball, 3 tennis balls for each class
6. Student Safety – Letter sent home today with regards to the current CBC articles regarding an K student that was able to leave the school premises undetected
- John and entire staff take this incident extremely seriously
- ACTION:** Next Staff Meeting will be focused on discussing processes and procedures for monitoring student’s attendance/presence in class throughout the day. Protocols to be presented at November School Council Meeting
- Current Policy re. JK/SK – JK/SK classroom – buddy systems in the primary class where student left (student was not with a buddy)
- COMMENTS/CONSIDERATIONS:**
- General sentiment is that a communication should have gone out to the school community/families when this type of incident occurs – and before a “news” story makes it public.

- Communication would better enable families to communicate with their children to help reinforce processes/procedures for leaving the classroom/school premises
- Install a doorbell/alarm that will go off during “non-recess” timeframes that will identify when a door is opened during an unexpected time.
- Does there have to be a bathroom in all ELP classrooms? Board response is no.

#### 7. Busing (Principals Report)

- John completed a survey re. issues and delays of Busing
- Incident regarding Bus accident (thankfully no injuries); bus in the ditch - Rousseau children/students were on the bus

**COMMENT:** RE. Communication – Synervoice went home at 5pm. Some families only learned of the incident after speaking with their children. Request made that calls to parents should go out earlier than 5pm

#### 8. Teacher Report (Chantal Fernandez)

- Gr. 6 girls vb team – Mr. Peters is coach, Mrs. Muschalla is helping
- FDK – parents will receive “initial Observations” report – goes home with progress reports – Oct. 30 (all parents are available to have interview Thurs. 2 (evening), Thurs3
- Pizza leadership, Mr. Bergs class is taking the leadership for managing the Milk order,
- Mr. Berg & Mr. Oberyemeyer are back
- Mrs. Bennett – going to book trip for gr. 3-6 to go see “Wonder”
- Class trips to Annie
- Jr. Choir & Primary Choir underway – rehearsing weekly for Indigo Night
- Playground equipment – Thank you to H&S
- \$500 raised for Toonies for Terry (Terry Fox Run)
- Gr. 5 student invited to come various 6 nutrition breaks to help in Library
- Book Swap – Ms. Bottrell organized – went really well, kids were excited about this (staff has talked about doing this type of an event again) – parent feedback – lower books – books were in great shape

#### 9. School Council Executive Appointments

- Lisa Popwich has kindly accepted the position of Treasurer – Thank You Lisa!
  - Danielle Curry has kindly accepted the position of Co-Chair – Thank You Danielle!
10. Coat, Scarves, Mitts, Snow Pants & Shoe Drive – will be happening next week! Please donate CLEAN coats, scarves, mitts, snow pants, shoes and boots that will be donated to a HWDSB school in need.

### Home & School

1. Holiday fundraiser (Holly Davis)
    - Consider it again for this year – sub-committee to be identified? EMAIL discussion – last year is wreaths, perhaps this year consider centre pieces? Have families order and commit in advance.
  
  2. Parent Engagement Night (Rhea Lalla)
    - Ideas for promotion of the event – Email, Kids,
    - Teachers Blog – share the flyer, reminders
    - Board flyers section
    - Rousseau H&S Facebook page – consider paying to promote function (small fee thru FB)
    - Ancaster Events Website/Ancaster News

**ACTION:** John will facilitate sharing/posting details with other schools, post to school website – Rhea to provide details to John
  
  3. ASPS Event – Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> Paul Davis is going to talk about internet social media/safety
  4. Sporting Equipment Thank you
  5. Tables & Outdoor equipment – are classes using? YES!
  6. Outdoor learning space? Staff would be interested in participating
  7. Clean Up – re-painting lines and four squares, weeding, do we want to do this again this year? Some paint is available, volunteers?
- ACTION:** Holly to propose some dates
8. Fuel for Kids – Kim, great event! Good turn out at BBQ great success and great staff support so thank you to all! Thank you to Staff that participated and turned out \$1500 was raised.

MEETING CONCLUSION: Thank you for coming. – 8:25p