

Rousseau School Council Meeting
September 22, 2015 – 6:30-8:00pm

School Council Member Attendees: Mr. John Gris (Principal), Laura Hustler (Chair), Kim Strecker (Vice Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), Mrs. Janet Raymond (Teachers' Representative)

School Community Attendees: Gint M., Helene M., Leah M., Lara H., Tammy M., Danielle C., Charlie C., Amy W., Melissa J., Honor H.

1. **Welcome & Introduction:** Laura Hustler and Mr. Gris welcomed us all, and attendees introduced themselves.
2. **School Council Paperwork:** Attendees were asked to fill out the paperwork on the tables to indicate their interest in Council activities.
3. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes:** Approval of last month's minutes (May 2015) was *motioned* by Danielle C. and *seconded* by Kim S.

4. Reports:

Principal Report – Mr. Gris:

- *Introduction:* Mr. Gris introduced himself and provided some information regarding his personal/professional history.
- *Website Orientation:* Mr. Gris hasn't been using the previously used "Ramblings" blog but has migrated most communications to the Rousseau School website to provide one central location for all school information. Please subscribe for updates. He highlighted some recent additions and welcomes your feedback regarding the idea of providing centralized information like this—whether you feel it works for you or not, etc.
- *Questions for Mr. Gris from attendees:* 1. There's no current access to "The Hub". There are links on the school website to the Ontario Elementary curriculum; 2. Primary students have school agendas to communicate information between school and home during the period of time that blogs are unavailable. Junior grades can choose to use a paper or electronic agenda. There are some extra agendas available to purchase at the school office. Please ask your child regarding his/her preferred communication tool that he/she will use during the interim. Electronic devices can be brought to school for students to use at your discretion and risk (especially encouraged in the Junior grades), and every teacher has a place where these can be locked up for safety, and devices are not to be used on the playground or during nutrition breaks

Action Item: Mr. Gris will follow up regarding the Hub's availability/use in the future.

- *Special Event Days:* HWDSB has a policy to provide nutritious treats to students, but each school gets 10 nutrition free days.

Action Item: Mr. Gris will mark the nutrition free days on the school calendar(s).

- *Budget:* The Council budget was discussed. There is a balance showing currently. We will know a more specific number in October.

Action Item: Mr. Gris will clean up the current version to provide all with a simpler version of the most recent expenditures/incoming funds in October.

- *Budget Request:* School teachers/coaches would like Council to pay \$200 towards recent purchases for 3 pitch equipment (**purchase approved** by Council). \$900 was requested to pay for Elementary agendas—this request will be considered for approval.
- *Upcoming Dates:* October 1 (Picture Day), October 6 (Cool Little Kids), October 12 (Thanksgiving), October 13 (HWDSB Grade 3-6 Cross-Country, October 16 (Rousseau Votes!), October 19 (Gym in use for federal election)

Teacher Report – Mrs. Raymond:

- *Student Council Elections:* Did not happen last June for Grade 6 students to elect representatives. Ms. Fawcett is organizing the election and campaigns. She is asking for \$100 for art materials for students to create posters, etc. (**purchase approved** by Council).
- *Watercolour Paper:* \$80 was requested for Mr. Obermeyer to purchase paper for this school year for 2 Junior art classes (**purchase approved** by Council).
- *Teacher Wish Lists:* Teachers are working on lists currently. Council is asking for a total wish list with no monetary limit, tentatively to be completed for the October Council meeting.
- *Mrs. Raymond:* Is asking for \$318 to reimburse her for her personal money spent on a storage shed/tricycle garage for the ELP play area (**purchase approved** by Council).

- *New Stage Curtains*: Look lovely! Thank you.
5. **Proposed Mission Statement**: Was presented and accepted as the new Council mission.
6. **2014/2015 Financials**: As mentioned above, will be presented in October by Mr. Gris.
7. **Teachers' Wish List**: Danielle Curry, Kim Strecker, Honor Hughes, Leah Maskell, Laura Hustler, and Gint Murphy volunteered to be on the wish list subcommittee. The wish list will come to the subcommittee first for consideration, then to the full Council, hopefully in time for the next Council meeting.
8. **Fall Fundraising**:
- *Chapters Night*: Tues. Nov. 24 will be Chapters Night. The Teachers' Union representative will be consulted regarding teacher participation. This was done by Mrs. Raymond during the meeting and the initial thought is that the teachers could participate.
- Action Item**: Mrs. Raymond will confirm teacher participation.
- *Buffalo Wild Wing Night*: The restaurant has offered to host a Rousseau night where a portion of funds from Rousseau families who eat there on a special night will come back to the school.
- Action Item**: Tammy Mansfield volunteered to organize a night in October or November.
- *Groove-a-thon*: Is on hold for now and the decision will be deferred to Oct. 1. Communications will go home prior to Thanksgiving if it will occur.
- Action Item**: Mr. Gris will follow up regarding the possibility of this event occurring.
- *Vendors/"Shopping" Evening (for Winter 2015)*: Those who have at-home businesses, handmade/self-produced goods, etc. would be offered a chance to purchase a table to sell their goods. Permit costs were discussed and are approximately \$25 for a weeknight.
- Action Item**: Kim Strecker, Honor Hughes, and Danielle Curry offered to organize.
- *Business Card Directory*: Was proposed as a school-wide directory for services to be provided to the school community at no cost. It would be called something like the Rousseau School Directory, and the cost would be around \$40 to participate. A digital copy was also proposed.
9. **School Initiatives**:
- *Coat Drive*: This is an annual event previously led by Laura Hustler, gathering warm clothing for students in need in our area.
- Action Items**: Mr. Gris will look into a school that would benefit from this fundraiser. Amy Wolfe volunteered to lead this event, with the assistance of Melissa Jeffrey.
- *Book Drive*: Proposed as a donation opportunity for families who have gently used books.
- Action Item**: Kim Strecker volunteered to organize.
10. **Food Offerings**:
- *Popcorn Wednesdays (Lara Hyde)*: Will start Wed. Oct. 7. Popcorn punch cards for \$20/10 bags of popcorn will be offered for sale again this year to cut down on the need to search for toonies every week. It will be in the gym for now, but the location may change when intramurals start.
 - *Pita Pit (Tammy Mansfield)*: A new volunteer for next year is being sought—please speak to Tammy if you're interested. This year, a pita & drink will be offered for \$5 every Monday, 8 weeks at a time, choices the same as last year. Forms will go home later this week. School Cash Online will be a payment option.
 - **ADDENDUM**: Mr. Gris has asked that we defer startup of Pita Pit until October 19. By this time, parents will have received information about registering for SchoolCash Online and support materials where needed. Kim Strecker and Tammy Mansfield have agreed to this approach. Thank you for your patience!
- Action Item**: Mr. Gris will consider providing a learning night or how-to sheet/UTube video to help families use School Cash Online.
- *Pizza*: Families will be asked to pay for pizza with School Cash Online, partly because teachers cannot currently collect money, but partly because it's very convenient. Ms. Bennett's class will still be responsible for this.
 - *Milk*: Council can take this over temporarily if there are volunteers.
- Action Item**: Leah Maskell will organize collaboratively with other volunteers (Kim Strecker, Kaitryn Campbell (others??) indicated their availability to help).
11. **Other Business**:
- *Spirit Wear*: Boya Trifunski-Potkonjak will be coordinating again this year.
 - *Political Climate*: Rotating strikes may happen in October. Notice will be given but it's unclear how much. The remainder of this issue was tabled until next month's meeting.
 - *Playground Equipment Safety*: Equipment is inspected annually and is currently deemed safe, but Mr.

Gris inspected it and it is beginning to show signs of fatigue. This is a potential opportunity for School Council to fund new equipment in the next few years, or to get equipment from a closing school.

Action Item: Mr. Gris will look into the availability of such equipment.

- *Text Alerts for Buses Running Late 2015/2016:* Mrs. Boshier (previous principal) sent out text messages to “bus” families to alert them of bussing problems.

Action Item: Mr. Gris will look into the possibility of providing some sort similar alert or recommending 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.

12. Elect/Appoint 2015/2016 School Council (chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer): A new Council was elected, as follows: Kim Strecker (Chair), Danielle Curry (Vice Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), and Tara Hamilton (Treasurer). Thank you to Laura Hustler (not returning on Council) for her dedication in her role as Chair last school year.

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

List of Action Items – School Council Meeting September 22, 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	
September-2	Mark the nutrition free days on the school calendar(s).	Mr. Gris	
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	
September-4	Confirm teacher participation in Chapters Night.	Mrs. Raymond	
September-5	Organize Rousseau Family fundraiser night in October or November at Buffalo Wild Wings.	Tammy Mansfield	
September-6	Follow up regarding the possibility of a Groove-a-thon occurring near Halloween.	Mr. Gris	
September-7	Organize a vendors’ evening.	Kim Strecker, Honor Hughes, Danielle Curry	
September-8	Look into a school that would benefit from Coat Drive fundraiser items.	Mr. Gris	
September-9	Lead Coat Drive.	Amy Wolfe, with Melissa Jeffrey	
September-10	Organize Book Drive.	Kim Strecker	
September-11	Providing a learning night or how-to sheet/UTube video to help families use School Cash Online.	Mr. Gris	
September-12	Organize Milk distribution in interim, collaboratively with other volunteers.	Leah Maskell, with Kim Strecker, Kaitryn Campbell (others??)	
September-13	Look into the availability of playground equipment available from decommissioned schools.	Mr. Gris	
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	