

Rousseau School Council Meeting
September 20, 2016– 6:30-8:10pm

School Council Member Attendees: Mr. John Gris (Principal), Kim Strecker (Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Ms Michelle Fawcett (Teachers' Representative)

Regrets: Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary), Danielle Curry

School Community Attendees: Laura Hustler, Leah Maskell, Honor Hughes, Gint Murphy, Cat MacInnes, Catherine Crawford, Rhea Lalla, Maeve Grady, Lara Hyde, Charlie Coull, Boja Potkonjak, Katrin Conen, Paul Gasko, Rebecca Nicolas

1. **Welcome & Introduction:** Kim S. and Mr. Gris welcomed all to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Reports:**

Student Report - no report

Teacher Report - Ms Fawcett:

Student Council

- By the October Assembly we'll announce this years four-Grade-6 Student Council Executive & Grade 3,4,5 classroom reps
- Currently the Grade 6 students are coming together with me to deepen our understanding of leadership ---- There has been a significant paradigm shift in Teachers in the classroom being facilitators of student learning and student leadership...a shift in Principals in schools being facilitators of teacher leaders....a shift in superintendents & directors of education as facilitators....
- OUR STUDENT COUNCIL ALSO NEEDS TO REFLECT THIS SHIFT
- Many students still have the idea that a leader has all the ideas, makes all the decisions & issues directions
- AMAZINGLY a lot of students seem to know intuitively & thru experiences with their parents & teachers & outside-of-school coaches what makes a good leader
 -helps build self esteem of others
 -loves the people they are helping
 -bringing people together
 -helping people
 -building community
 -inspire others with words & actions
 -help others bring ideas forward
 -know everyone's bought a count
- We'll still have a hierarchy & in terms of safety & school & board policy some rules & routines are non-negotiable at every level
- Working towards student council executive leaders who will facilitate younger leaders & help all students' voices be heard

Extracurricular Activities

- Junior Choir and Primary Choir have begun
- 3 pitch practices have begun
- Cross Country has begun

Other:

- The Terry Fox run takes place on Tuesday September 27 at 2 pm. Parents are welcome to run with the students. Students are able to make a donation; twonies for Terry are suggested but not required.
- Milk and Pizza orders will not be requested until all school cash online accounts are established - PIN #s are still being distributed to some families
- Wednesday September 21st is the first popcorn day. Popcorn is \$2 per bag and punch cards for 10 bags (\$20) can be purchased

Communication

- C. Coull asked about communications with teachers and the use of blogs to convey classroom information; not all teachers use blogs for communication. Mr. Gris directed that if parents are not getting the level of communication that is needed then they should first discuss with their teacher.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1. Welcome and Thank you - please subscribe to the school website
2. Introduction
3. Website orientation
4. Special Event Days

See below.

5. Budget update

Attached separately.

6. Heat Event Procedures

Board Policy No. 3.15 *Inclement Weather and Board Cancellations* includes extreme hot weather with high humidex when referring to extreme temperatures. At Rousseau, on extreme hot weather days with or without high humidex, students are encouraged to stay in the shade, blinds are lowered, and fans are in use in classrooms.

An Air Quality check has been requested by Rousseau School from the Board Office.

ACTION: Mr. Gris to advise K. Strecker when Air Quality check will take place.

ACTION: Mr. Gris to seek input from Board as to what is considered an unsafe temperature on extreme hot weather days (ie. what temperature would trigger a school closure).

7. Reorganization procedures and communication

Reorganizations, if necessary, happen each year at the end of September. The decision to re-organize is made at a Board level and is implemented by the school. Due to limited timelines, there is not an opportunity for parental input during reorganization. Consideration is given, however, to any parental concerns that were raised at the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Due to the possibility of a large number of students being effected, families of the students, that are affected by a classroom reorganization will be notified on Wednesday September 28, 2016 by a Snyrevoice message. On September 29, all students will receive a letter indicating that Rousseau is being reorganized. These letters will identify the student's teacher and including any possible change. As per HWDSB direction, classroom reorganizations will occur on Friday September 30, 2016.

Classroom sizes at Rousseau this year are large. Rousseau is currently at 258 students. Last year 239 students were enroled.

Rebecca N. suggested that Meet the Teacher night be moved until after re-organizations, if any, occur. Mr. Gris indicated this is not possible for this year, but this will be given consideration for next year.

Upcoming Dates:

September 20: Boys 3-Pitch

September 22: Girls 3-Pitch

September 22: Meet the Teacher

September 23: PA Day

September 27: Terry Fox Run/Walk

September 28: Awards Assembly

September 29: Rousseau Cross-Country Team at Sir Allan MacNab competition

October 3: Picture Day

October 10: Thanksgiving

October 11: Cross Country Team at HWDSB Competition

October 13: HWDSB Grade 3-6 Cross-Country

4. School Council Nominations/Elections

Kim S. explained that Rousseau has both a School Council and a Home and School Association. Danielle Curry is currently the Chair of the Home and School Association; Kaitryn Campbell is Treasurer; and Lara Hyde is Secretary. Home and School Association discussions were not held at this time as Danielle Curry was not able to attend this meeting. Home and School Association will decide at a later time when their meetings will be held.

School Council Chair

- the chair acts as the official representative of the school council and leads the meetings. Responsibilities of the chair include; chairing council meetings; encouraging consensus among School Council members and facilitating the resolution of conflict; establishing sub-committees when deemed advisable; and communicating with the principal on behalf of the council.
- only Kim S. expressed interest in the chair position. Kim S. will remain as Chair for the 2016/2017 school year.

School Council Secretary

- the secretary records and distributes meeting minutes. Responsibilities of the secretary include: attending council meetings; taking minutes of meetings; make note of action items and identify responsible person; create an electronic copy of the minutes; distribute the meeting minutes to the principal, teacher representative; and school council executive
- no one in attendance expressed an interest in the Secretary position. The Secretary position for the 2016/2017 is currently vacant.

ACTION: Mr. Gris to send out announcement advertising Secretary position (to be drafted by Stephanie G.).

School Council Treasurer

- the treasurer keeps proper records of a monies that are collected and spent by the school council. Responsibilities include: recording all financial transactions; present quarterly and year-end financial statements to the council; follow standard reporting and accounting procedures.
- only Laura H. expressed interest in the Treasurer position. Laura H. will be Treasurer for the 2016/2017

school year.

5. Lunch/Snack Choices for this Year

- Pizza Day will continue to be offered.
- Popcorn Day will continue to be offered.
- Overall parents have expressed an interest in offering Subway over Pita Pit although some concerns were raised over the nutritional value of Subway subs. Laura H. will look into alternate sub options. Danielle C. has offered to assist with a Subway lunch program.

ACTION: Laura H. and Danielle C. to follow up on a submarine sandwich lunch program.

- Other lunch programs were discussed such as the Lunch Lady program. Rebecca N. offered to look into other available lunch programs.

ACTION: Rebecca N. to look into available lunch programs.

6. Financial Update (Spending Sub-Committee)

- A sub-committee will be put together to discuss spending of school council funds
- Approximately \$6000 is available for spending.
- Staff will be asked to provide a wish list of items they would like to have purchased for their classrooms
- Mr. Gris suggested the following as a start to the wish list of items:
 - the remainder of mats for the school gymnasium
 - carts to move the new laptops between classrooms
 - Jump Math books (there was a shortfall in the subsidy last year)

ACTION: Mr. Gris to send K. Strecker suggested dates for Spending Sub-Committee meeting

7. Class Sizes and Reconfiguration

Discussed under Principal's Report.

8. Fundraising Opportunities

Agenda item postponed until the next meeting.

9. Home and School Association Meeting and Updates

Postponed until a later time.

Other Business

1. Accommodation Review

An accommodation review of Ancaster Schools will take place this year. Board, school staff, and community members are involved in the review process. More information will be provided once available.

2. Spiritwear

Boja P. will be organizing the ordering of spiritwear again this year. Order forms with pricing information will be provided shortly.

ACTION: Boja P. to provide order forms and organize the ordering of spiritwear.

3. JK/SK Pick Up Procedures

Parents are concerned with the current requirement to wait outside the gate before the JK/SK students are dismissed. They feel there is a health and safety concern when they are required to wait in the parking lot with

their toddlers and infants. It was requested that these parents be allowed to wait inside the gate until their children are dismissed.

ACTION: Mr. Gris to discuss with ELP staff the request from JK/SK parents to wait inside the playground gate.

4. Chapters Night

Chapters night will be held on November 15, 2016. More details to follow at a later time.

5. Raz Kids

Raz kids was briefly discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Gasko.
Next meeting will take place October 18, 2016 from 6:30-8pm.

List of Action Items – School Council Meeting September 20, 2016

Item Number	Action	Responsible Person(s)	Complete? (Y/N)
September-1	Mr. Gris to send out announcement advertising School Council Secretary position (announcement to be drafted by Stephanie G.).	John G.; Stephanie G.	
September-2	Laura H. and Danielle C. to follow up on a submarine sandwich lunch program.	Laura H.; Danielle C.	
September-3	Rebecca N. to look into available lunch programs.	Rebecca N.	
September-4	Mr. Gris to send K. Strecker suggested dates for Spending Sub-Committee meeting	John G.	
September-5	Mr. Gris to advise K. Strecker when Air Quality check will take place.	John G.	
September-6	Mr. Gris to seek input from Board as to what is considered an unsafe temperature on extreme hot weather days (ie. what temperature would trigger a school closure).	John G.	
September-7	Boja P. to provide order forms and organize the ordering of spiritwear.	Boja P.	
September-8	Mr. Gris to discuss with ELP staff the request from JK/SK parents to wait inside the playground gate.	John G.	