

Rousseau School Council Meeting
May 19, 2015 – 6:30-8:05pm

School Council Member Attendees:

Mrs. Susan Boshier (Principal), Laura Hustler (Chair), Kim Strecker (Vice-Chair), Stephanie Gasko (Co-Secretary), Mrs. Janet Raymond (Teachers' Representative)

School Council Regrets:

Tara Hamilton (Treasurer), Kaitryn Campbell (Co-Secretary)

School Community Attendees:

Danielle C., Honor H., Melissa J., Jennifer M., Mark B., Lara H.; Mr. John Gris (Rousseau's new Principal)

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome**
Laura H. welcomed all to the meeting. Susan B. introduced Rousseau's new principal, Mr. John Gris.
2. **Last Month's Minutes**
Approval of last month's minutes (April 2015) was *motioned* by Danielle C. and *seconded* by Honor H.
3. **Review of Action Items**
To be covered throughout meeting.
4. **Reports**

Student Report

The Spirit Day in May is "twin day" which will take place on May 28th to coincide with the school assembly. Students are to dress up the same as their twin and money will be raised through donations to support Cystic Fibrosis research. Each classroom has a box for donations. Loonies and Toonies will be collected on twin day to support the effort.

In June there will be a soccer tournament and money will be raised for the "send a kid to camp" program through Tim Hortons. This will be a parents vs. kids tournament. Freezies will be sold as a fundraiser.

Teacher Report

- Staff Appreciation- Much appreciated by teachers! It was delicious and we appreciated our duties being covered so we could all partake. Thank you for the basket of goodies for the staff room, and for our personalized acrostic poems in frames... lovely
- ELP \$250.00 for Outdoor Play Improvement Project, approved by School Council and matched by Rousseau: plans are underway, parents have signed up to 'sponsor' projects... our backyard is going to be rich and varied in experiences.
- Idea for Fun Fair- auction off an event with a teacher! I sounded out a few teachers on this and received mixed reactions.

After speaking with teachers about potential concerns, Melissa Jeffrey ran a few specific ideas past me and has created a sign-up sheet for some fairly innocuous ideas that provide a variety of options. We hope to see teachers signing up in the next 2 weeks.

- On May 6 schools were asked to send a teacher with up to 10 representative students to partake in the HWDSB Together We Create Change conference. Our students, including our Student Council, as well as some grade 5 students, represented us well and returned to school with some ideas of how to branch out into a few more directions next year, including some global initiatives.

Principal

- New Principal - Susan B. introduced Rousseau's new principal, Mr. John Gris.
- EQAO - A letter went home today with Grade 3 and 6 students regarding the EQAO. As of this time, the EQAO will not be happening this year due to the Teacher's Union Work to Rule.
- Reimagine - HWDSB - parent feedback West Cluster Wednesday June 3rd 7-9PM Westdale Secondary School in the Auditorium
- Thank you - Susan B. thanked the Rousseau community for the last five and a half years. Together we made change!

5. Results/Recommendations from Survey

Honor H., Laura H. and Leah M. met to review the survey findings and to discuss recommendations for moving forward. 27 out of 180 Rousseau families completed the survey. Highlights are as follows:

- School Council meetings: An evening time slot was the most popular for school council meetings. Many parents would not be able to make daytime meetings due to work commitments and/or small child care requirements. Laura H. motioned to keep the school council meetings on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00pm. The motion was seconded by Kim S. Child care during these meetings continues to be identified as a requirement.
- Communication between school council and the school community should continue to be through the school blog.
- Volunteer opportunities. Many parents indicated they were not aware of opportunities. The volunteer sheet will be updated and sent out in September. A google form was suggested over a google doc.
- Food programs: The pizza program is considered to be working well with two payments required throughout the school year. Overall parents are happy with the milk program but have suggested to break milk payments up into three payment periods during the school year. Leah M. has volunteered to help with the milk program.

6. Touch a Truck Update

At this time, nobody has signed up to volunteer at the Touch a Truck event. We need 10 volunteers from 10 am to 3 pm on the day of the event in order for Rousseau to benefit from the funds raised. This initiative started ~7 years ago by a group of principals in the area. A group of parents took over and there is no cost should the event not turn out. We need 10 volunteers in order to receive our share. There is a potential for 20,000 people to come through the Ancaster fair grounds on that day. If there are no volunteers from Rousseau then consideration will be given to redirect the funds raised. Volunteers are required for Insurance policy purposes. The organizers are asking that all Rousseau teachers forward on the request for parent volunteers via their students.

Melissa J. will volunteer from 12:30 - 3 pm at the event and will also approach parents on the playground to volunteer their time.

7. Kindergarten and Meet the Teacher Welcome

Kindergarten orientation will take place on June 17th from 4-5 pm. Laura H., Kim S., and Danielle C. will attend the orientation on behalf of school council. School council will be given an opportunity to speak at the orientation and will also be available to answer any parent questions related to school council.

Meet the Teacher will be held on September 17th. School council will have a presence at this. Laura H. will contact the group in late August to discuss what this event should entail.

8. **Ancaster Fair**

Free admission is being offered to class groups on Friday September 25; only busing fees will be required. A spelling bee for grades 3-6 will be held.

The paperwork related to school category submissions is due in June. All brochures and labels for this purpose are in the office. Currently parents drop off entries at the school and parent volunteers take these items to the fair grounds. Parents feel that each teacher should be given the list of entry categories and decide which items should be submitted. Parents would like Rousseau to be represented at the fair. Jane to lead this and Janet R. to discuss with teachers.

9. **Fundraising Ideas**

Based on survey feedback, parents are not interested in door to door sales of chocolate bars or similar.

Other ideas raised at the meeting included:

- Groove- a-Thon: It is suggested that this would take place in October. A DJ is hired and each child is given a pledge form to collect pledges to complete a 1 hour groove-a-thon. Pledge forms would be handed out just prior to Thanksgiving weekend and students would be able to collect pledges for a period of 2 weeks.

There are incentives built in to try to inspire the children to get pledges:

- for participating, each participant gets 1 ticket
 - for each additional \$20 raised, the participant gets another ticket.
 - the child then chooses which prizes they would like to put their ticket toward (ie. like a silent auction but no \$ involved). At the end of the event, the tickets for each prize are drawn. We would have to put some money up front to purchase these incentive prizes.
 - there is a grand prize for child who raises the most \$ in pledges (ie. like an ipod?)
 - there is a grand prize for the child who raises the greatest # of pledges
 - runner up prizes?
 - the class who raises the most pledges gets a pizza party
 - prizes for runner up classes??
- Arts & Crafts Sale - vendors purchase a table to sell their products/wares; it was suggested that such an event be held close to Christmas.
 - Christmas Gift Wrap Party - volunteers wrap gifts for a fee.
 - March Madness - parents donate old toys etc. and it is run like a large garage sale. A candy room; rooms with toys.
 - Perennial Sale - sell plants.
 - Chapters Event - the latest the event can be held is November 24; a final date will be confirmed in the fall.
 - Lonestar & Buffalo Wild Wings Nights - These will be re-initiated in the fall; it was suggested that one night out be held in each of September, February and April.

Melissa J. suggested that we have a visual representation of the items that have purchased from fundraising

money. Melissa J. offered to put something together for this.

Laura H. requested that Stephanie G. begin planning for a Groove-a-Thon event to be held in October.

10. **Fun Fair Report**

Due to insufficient time, Kim S. will set up a separate meeting to discuss fun fair. A Fun Fair meeting will be held on May 27th at 2 pm.

11. **Dave Hounsell Memorial Fund**

Honor H. suggested that school council make a donation to the Ancaster Heights community fund which is being collected to purchase a park bench, tree or similar in honour of Dave Hounsell, a Rousseau parent. Another suggestion was made to direct this donation to the Education Trust Fund that has been set up for Dave's two children, one who is a student in ELP2 at Rousseau and one who will be attending the ELP program at Rousseau in the fall. Trust fund information for the children is as follows; Transit 00102; Account 5138532. A website www.daveinthepark.com has been set up.

A final decision in this regard will be made after more information is provided regarding the community project.

12. **Mom's Lunch Out**

The last "Mom's Lunch Out" will be at the Coach & Lantern in Ancaster on June 19th at 12:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Gasko.

List of Action Items – School Council Meeting May 19, 2015

Action Item	Responsible Person(s)
Create a list of all volunteer positions required for Fun Fair activities.	Kim S.
Post list of volunteer positions needed for Fun Fair on School Blog.	Susan B.
Put together a visual representation of items purchased through fundraising efforts.	Melissa J.
Begin early planning efforts for a Groove-a-Thon fundraiser to be held in October.	Stephanie G.