

Rousseau School Council Meeting
September 16, 2014 - 6:30-8:00pm

School Council Member Attendees: Mrs. Susan Boshier (Principal), Kim Strecker (Outgoing Chair/Current Co-Chair), Laura Hustler (Current Co-Chair), Kaitryn Campbell (Outgoing Secretary/Current Co-Secretary), Stephanie Gasko (Current Co-Secretary), Tara Hamilton (Treasurer), Mrs. Raymond (Teachers' Representative)

School Community Attendees: Boya P., Sachi T., Amy W., Laura M., Danielle C., Tammy M., Natalie V., Jane S., Melissa J., Honor H.

1. **Welcome:** Kim (Outgoing Chair) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2014-2015.
2. **Last Month's Minutes:** Approval of last month's minutes (May 2014) was *motioned* by Laura H. and *seconded* by Kim S.
3. **School Council Elections:** Laura Hustler and Kim Strecker were voted in as the new Council Co-Chairs, Tara Hamilton was voted in as Treasurer, and Kaitryn Campbell and Stephanie Gasko were voted in as Co-Secretaries.
4. **Idea; Parent Classroom Reps:** Laura H. mentioned the idea of trying to get better parent turn-out to Council meetings by having a parent representative for each class to attend most meetings. Parents would be solicited to volunteer for each classroom through a nomination process similar to the Council nominations, and would liaise with other parents in the classroom, or agree to receive emails from classroom parents, to provide class-related feedback to Council. The idea was passed by council, and the following volunteers were immediately found (listed according to teacher as follows) from today's meeting attendees—please note that additional volunteers are needed/welcomed:
 - Ms. Barrow/Mrs. Crockett: Danielle Curry
 - Mrs. Raymond/Miss Fanjoy: Kim Strecker
 - Mrs. Wolf: Laura Hustler
 - Mr. Lees: *To be decided*
 - Mrs. Knight: Danielle Curry
 - Mr. Berg: Laura Manzine/Boya Trifunski-Potkonjak
 - Mrs. Bennett: Natalie Vaillancourt
 - Mrs. Laws: Jane Steinberg
 - Mr. Obermeyer: Tara Hamilton/Kaitryn Campbell
 - Ms. Fawcett: Tammy Mansfield
 - Ms. Rankin: *To be decided*

5. Reports:

Students:

- Student Representatives were not present at this meeting.

Teachers:

- *Terry Fox Run:* Ms. Rankin is overseeing the run on Wed. Sept. 24 @ 2:30pm. Students are encouraged to bring a Toonie for Terry. ELP students will also participate.
- *3-Pitch:* Mrs. Wolf & Mrs. Knight are overseeing the girls' team (Gr. 6); Mr. Peters is overseeing the boys' (Gr. 6). Events are occurring this week.
- *Volleyball:* There will be a co-ed Gr. 5-6 team, along with a Gr. 6 girls' and Gr. 6 boys' team. This will be organized within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Peters, Mrs. Raymond and Ms. Rankin are coaching, and may be looking for parent referee volunteers. Please contact any of these teachers if you are interested in volunteering.
- *Student Council Representatives:* Will attend next month's School Council meeting. Mrs. Raymond and Ms. Rankin will attempt to meet with them prior to their coming to Council meetings to prepare. Student reps will be planning monthly spirit days for the year, so students and parents will be aware of upcoming dates. These days will be held on assembly days.
- *Student Activities:* There is parent interest in seeing the available activities list for the year. It was mentioned that it is sometimes challenging for parents, new and longtime, to learn what types of activities are occurring at the school on an ongoing basis.

Action Item: Mrs. Boshier will look into the possibility of adding this information to the school web page and will share this information when available with the Rousseau community. Mrs. Raymond will communicate with teachers

regarding planning in advance for these activities so that the information could be shared with the Rousseau community.

Principal:

- *Enrollment:* It has been a very positive start to the school year. Enrollment down by 8 students since August (current number of students: 236). On Sept. 19 the Board will let Mrs. Boshier know if a school re-organization will be required based on current enrollment numbers. Classroom changes, should they need to occur, will occur at the end of September.
- *Safe Arrivals Routine:*
 - I. all exterior doors are locked at 9:15 a.m. use the intercom at the front door for admittance to building
 - II. when students arrive late they must report to the office to keep our attendance accurate
 - III. parents must report to the office and not to the classroom when admitted into the building:
 - a) if their child is arriving late from or being excused early for an appointment as there is a sign-out/sign-in book in the office to record the information
 - b) if they are bringing a forgotten article during the school day

If the bus is late, students do not need to report and need a note. A parent wanted to know why the bus company has changed, and she shared that it's because a new company won the contract (this is done at the Board level). Mrs. Boshier mentioned that every September the buses tend to be late, but Mrs. Boshier has been speaking with the new Manager of Transportation re: the bus timing issues.

- *Parent Presentation:* There will be an "Internet Safety" presentation by Officer Cronin (our community officer) on Tuesday October (7th) from 6:30-8pm. The School would like to offer school-aged child minding for this event, and asked for the Council to fund the child minding and refreshments at a cost of approximately \$100. This was voted in by Council attendees.
 - *Rousseau Ramblings:* Please subscribe.
 - *Parent-Teacher Communications:* Each family should connect with their child's teacher around a mutually agreeable method of communication.
- 6. Food Options:** Pita Pit (can be paid by cash once/week if you like, or in larger allotments if you are paying by cheque—contact Tammy Mansfield: Mansfieldonthelinks@gmail.com, and the cost is still \$5 even if your child doesn't want a drink) and pizza orders have been sent home, and milk orders are coming soon. Families are being offered the chance split their orders into half years or alternate timings, in order to split the cost into different allotments to make it easier for families. Options for milk tickets or different purchasing options were discussed, but because of the way we order our milk, it would be tricky to manage last-minute orders. The issue of milk temperature was discussed because there has been some feedback that the milk is sometimes warm. Popcorn is coming—Nathan and Lara will do it again on Wednesdays. Popcorn cards will eventually be available (10 bags/card for \$20), but likely not the first month (so you don't have to find a Toonie for each child every week).

Action Item: Mrs. Boshier will liaise with teacher responsible for milk delivery to review alternate options to keep milk cold.

7. School Photos: Will be Thurs. Oct. 2.

8. Fundraising Plans/Purpose: This topic was postponed until next meeting due to time constraints.

9. Moms' Night Out: Will be Monday, September 29 @ 8pm Kelsey's in Ancaster, Meadowlands. All welcome.

10. Other Business:

- A coat drive will be coming, the last week of October (any winter wear is welcome, for adults or children).
- Chapter's Night will be Tuesday, November 25th.
- The Teachers' Wish List for this year is already ready, and will be shared with a subcommittee (to be named, if you'd like to volunteer please notify the Co-Chairs), to be decided on.
- Police checks are still required for all volunteers at the school interacting with students. The process has become much more simple (e.g., online form) and rapid, compared to the past police process/timelines.
- Child minding for the Council meetings was requested, with more information to follow from Mrs. Boshier. Council voted in favour.
- Boya Potkonjek has volunteered to lead the Spirit Wear initiative again this year.
- Sandra Mallet has volunteered to lead the Holiday Card event again this year.
- Mrs. Boshier shared that the paperless initiative being brought forward at Rousseau is due to an initiative from a

Board level, to encourage students to use technology and have every student have a personal device in the next few years (2018?). Student workbooks were not purchased this year based on this initiative and the fact that an examination of workbooks in the past showed they weren't being used, and a focus on using non-consumables, using a variety of tools to collaborate, and changing the way that students learn. A presentation will be offered to parents in the near future regarding this topic. Stands or alternative ergonomic practices were proposed for device-related ergonomic challenges already been seen in students. Further explanation may be required for the community regarding what the paperless initiative is. A question was raised re: ELP cohort progress when they've moved to Gr. 1 at Rousseau, and the response was that last year's Gr. 1 students were reading at the same level as students graduating from the non-play-based kindergartens in the past. It was asked what the school guidelines were for recommended student screen time, and there aren't any currently. The issue of the management of apps and programs on laptops on school devices, and the management of personal devices that are brought in from home, was raised. Funds for training and devices will be available. The issue of non-compatible programs and devices was raised, and the fact that schools can only purchase certain devices. The issue of evidence-based application of learning research was raised, to be discussed in a sub-group to be formed soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by Kaitryn Campbell.
Next meeting will take place October 21, 2014 from 6:30-8pm.