

**Rousseau School Council**  
**Monday January 22, 2018**  
**6:30pm – 8:00 pm**

**School Council Attendees:** Kim Strecker (Co-Chair); Danielle Curry (Co-Chair); Helene Monzon (Co-Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal); Caroline Stinson (Teacher Representative); Lauren & Nathan (Student Representatives), Michael Prendergast (Superintendent), Alex Johnstone (Trustee)

**School Community Attendees:** Lara Hyde; Amy Wolfe; Leah Maskell; Anthony Nicholl; Yasmin Yasinian

**\*\*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. Student Update – Nathan & Lauren
  - 2018 Spirit Days & Pay-It-Forward
  - Jan25 – Team/Club Spirit Day
  - Jan23-Jan30 – Socks & Mitts for Good Shepherd
  - Feb14 – “Backwards Day”, Pay-It-Forward Ancaster Community Food Drive
  - Black History Month
  - Mar9 – Wacky Hair day – Collection of items for Women’s Shelter
  - Apr1 through 11 – Pink Day – focus on spring, acceptance understanding
  - May3 – Movie/Book Character Day - connected to Education Week (maybe consider Movie Night in May w/Home & School, and maybe a Book Drive?)
  - May18 Cystic fibrosis awareness
  - June7 Twin Day
  - June20 World Refugee day
  - Student Council and Student Reps - everyday Student Council will help Student Reps – Student Reps to have opportunity to do announcements Student Reps btw. 3-6

- Team Spirit days typically align with the Awards Assemblies or Friday – Pay-It-Forward usually align with Assemblies

### 3. Minutes

- Updates requested to November 2017 – changes to minutes are being requested to reflect changes that maybe should be taken up directly with a teacher or “beyond the mandate of council”; minutes should not include references to Teachers, naming other schools or students
- Discussed modifications made by J. Gris – Minutes were approved by K. Strecker and seconded by D. CurryNo reference to students

### 4. Principal’s Report

- Add Staffing Update – Ms. Macky started teaching for Ms. Fernandes who is on Mat Leave
- Mr. Obermeyer is going on leave – Ms. K is currently teaching and will continue
- Head Caretaker – Tony will be going to another school – Friday is his last day
- Council By-Laws/Draft Constitution for Rousseau was started “School Councils a Guide for Members” – how School Council operates – currently we don’t seem to have a set. **ACTION:** Kim suggests a sub-committee to review and make proposals – Send Kim an email if you want to participate
- Busing/Security Protocols/Safe Routes to School
  - i. Before and After School Protocol – After School Attendance taken on start of program and as students leave.
  - ii. Bus attendance list is being enforced - only children registered for the bus are allowed to get on the bus
- Basketball program – see additional discussion item
- Math & EQAO follow Up
  1. School improvement Plan & Board Targets - Board is currently below provincial standards and has put funding in to try and provide support here. Math strategy in place to currently support schools and teachers
  - ii. Kids need more time to complete the questions – not originally afforded to all kids – but now for all children (originally only children in IEP could make this available) – any subject – children can just ask for more time to complete their lessons.

- iii. EQAO – in Grade 6/Junior has it's own report card. EQAO is a “snapshot” in time – individual data is not focused on but rather divisional – “how did that cohort do?”
- iv. IEP needs to be written and provided in September – school is trying to get better
- v. EQAO is a standardized test – if tools are required for the test – these tools should be available “all” the time and in their classroom – IEP/Classroom is different to what is available when the EQAO is conducted. Comment from parent: If an IEP is in place it should not be specific to development for the EQAO – IEP should not be about getting better EQAO – amped up learning focused on readying for the EQAO

**ACTION:** John to follow up on when EQAO results get sent home (John to add synvoice in Oct. when they are sent home as some parents have indicated not receiving these)

**A. Johnstone** indicates that via the EQAO site, community/parents are welcome to send feedback on EQAO

**ACTION:** John indicates that Math Manipulatives going into classrooms tomorrow January 23, 2018

- PhsyEd & DPA Update
  - i. Cosmic Yoga and Go-Noodle is in place for DPA
  - ii. Mind-Up Curriculum
  - iii. Set Targets with Staff to incorporate this learning – evaluate against report cards in February to see if there is some success with this approach on students success and ability to focus/re-focus
- Family Math Night – February 28<sup>th</sup> student led

#### 5. Alex Johnstone Update

- Ancaster Accommodation Review – ministry announcement due next month (Feb 2018) – announcement should come for Ancaster (positive news\* but don't know what this means)
- Alex likely to be back to help facilitate discussion on any update/funding announcement (12-18 months to build an elementary school)

- Facilities staff would build timelines out and come back to school council – boundary reviews will also be included as well as French Immersion. Need to work thru planning, construction, contractors, permits, etc.
- Budget update coming (Feb. 2018)– parents to participate/survey to discuss where budget should be allocated. Ancaster families typically have quite a lot of feedback to where budget
- Board on track to meet student achievement board targets – 75% of students reading at provincial standards, improvement in math 65% of students at provincial standard. Math #'s are looking better. Graduation rates – rates are 83% of cohorts graduating – on track for these numbers

## 6. Time Tabling

- The following represents the current time table allotments and requirements
  - i. 100 Minutes of Daily Literacy (incl. French)
  - ii. 60 min math
  - iii. 4 periods of French per weekly cycle
  - iv. 1-2 periods of Social Studies
  - v. 3-4 for the Arts (dance no in Arts but in physEd)
  - vi. 2 periods for Library but could include health instruction
  - vii. DPA – 2 periods of phys Ed. Other days DPA (day where there is no PhysEd)
  - viii. 5 days cycle is 540 minutes
  - ix. Every class is getting 2 periods for Gym
- Parents should speak to Teacher if they are concerned with some instruction, if still nothing happens then speak with Principal Gris.
- DPA started in 2005 – but could be broken up per day; teachers typically will evaluate the students and class at any given time – and may determine that DPA is required (not necessarily “scheduled”)
- March discussion on sharing practice – how are balancing “mindfulness” with activity – students have to read students

## 7. Purchasing Update – John Gris

- 1 set of Forest of reading
  - 8 Laptops on order – Windows are installed but no other software other than anti-virus (computers are not supported by board tech teams)
  - 10 iPads ordered
  - Enhanced learning materials still to be purchased
  - Question re. Headphones – Suggestion is school will not purchase headphones and that children should bring in their own (if they like)
8. Other areas for consideration on extra curriculum items
- Robotics club/Lego Club
  - Coding?
9. Additional Items – Basketball Tryouts/Practice
- Skills training before tryout – was great but
  - Dates and times for practice/try-out very late which made it difficult – could there be more communication earlier to ensure families have time to plan
  - Gr.5/6 group of kids, Gr. 6 Group – Boys have only Gr. 6 so all Gr. 5 boys that tried out did not make the team
  - Parents found out that the decision was that for the Boys team – the kids were told that they only selected Gr. 6 boys (it’s a numbers game) – for the teams it was a “numbers” game – concern over: selection process as well as method of communication
- ACTION:** John to take back to the staff for a discussion point on how teacher’s should be communicating “how” kids are making the team and an approach for team selection criteria
10. Teacher Report – Mrs. Stinson
- Golf in Schools is coming on Thursday with?????
  - SNYB – Mr. Peters & Mr. Johnson and Bryan Crawford – Gr.4-6 is before school Monday 8-9, sK-3 Wed after school – SK students will be picked up from classes (3:25)
  - Kindergarten registration on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan
  - Report cards Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Tues. Mar 6 – Oral Festival

- Mary Poppins – Jan 23 full group rehearsal (Mrs. Laws ticket sales): May 3, 4, 5 @ 7pm/May 5 matinee @2pm
- May 17 new JK orientation 6pm
- Scholastic book fair – after Easter Weekend (can Scholastic bring a POS system) – Mrs. Stinson is doing book fair first time and Kim is volunteering to assist

#### 11. Michael Prendergast Update

- New builds – **at minimum** 2 years before new school will be opened. Entire process before builds can happen. New standards for space (not just classrooms but gym as an example will be significantly larger, Science room, Music room – fully equipped)
- Provincial Testing
  - i. This should be an “opportunity for kids to show off” and not something that should be causing stress
 

Parental comment: EQAO testing is causing stress for children and it seems that there is additional focus in the classroom when EQAO testing timeframes get closer.
- Timetables (300 minutes is an instructional day) – 160 minutes is dedicated to literacy and math; Teachers at times have to be “creative” on how to incorporate those other lessons and how to tie those other subjects into the literacy and math timeframes

Next School Council meeting – Thursday February 22, 2018

Adjourned 8:33pm