

Rousseau School Council & Home and School Meeting
Monday November 20, 2017
6:30pm – 8:00 pm

School Council Attendees: Kim Strecker (Co-Chair); Danielle Curry (Co-Chair); Helene Monzon (Co-Secretary); Limor (Helpman) Bek (Co-Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal); Jazmine & Nathan (Student Representatives),

School Community Attendees: Kaley Connelly, Baja Potkingak, Laura Manzine

****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. Approval of October School Council Minutes – Motioned by Kim Strecker, seconded by Danielle Curry
3. Student Council Update – Nathan and Jazmine
  - Student Requests for (possible H&S considerations):
    - New equipment – soccer nets for the new posts
    - New 4 square with a real 4 square – utility ball (basketball size – squishy)
    - More Basketball nets for jr. end
  - Halloween – kids really enjoyed dressing up and parade. Jelly fish costume was a hit! Decorations and dance were great. Liked that teachers dressed up and liked that all classes got to dance on stage.
  - For 2018 – would be great if all the classes could make art for Halloween
  - Remembrance Day – loved the art work – glad that all classes participated
    - Great that all classes got to participate and sing for assembly
  - Student Idea – making cards for any occasion to raise money for charity. Work on this before and after assemblies (4 volunteers before assembly, and 4 after). Should cards be “free” or we can give back to a charity – cards for a donation (e.g. women’s shelter for specific items such as toiletries)
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Kim asking for Student Council to come back to School Council with various ideas and a plan for working thru the year on ideas.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Could we have student council initiate a “thank-you” card or poster for Fortinos (“fuel for kids”)
- Can we offer something for the student council kids such as a snack or fruit tray since the student meetings are done over a lunch break? Kim posed to John – also request to remind students that are participating on council that they can bring their lunches for the meetings

4. Busing/Security/Safety at School (standing item on the meeting)

- Buses are “on-time” now – much more stable timing

5. Teacher Report

- Indigo Night – 6:30pm start
- Upcoming Dates –
  - Groove-a-thon – thank you to Melissa for leading this
  - Volley Ball team in playoffs –Gr. 6 playing at Ryerson tomorrow
  - Swim Team
  - Choir
  - Dance/Remembrance Day update given by Students
- 2 Bomb Scares in local high-school
- ASPSP – Equality in kids making teams – need to consider # of days missed by kids participating in sports. How can we ensure we give “equal” opportunity for kids trying out for the team? Can we have kids that don’t ‘make’ the team, but giving kids exposure to the sport?

6. Principal’s Report

- Math & EQAO updates – focus of Dec. 1 PA day will be on math – different approaches on how Math is taught and strategies used.
- Family Math night in February is being planned – kids attitudes to math need to be looked at.
- Why are Rousseau students behind – ASPSP comments from parents that there is a belief that “Rousseau” students are behind in Math (Teachers/Staff at ASPSP commenting that “kids” coming from Rousseau are expected to be below from a Math level – this is coming from students)
- Kids coming with “A’s” and “B’s” but should not be A’s and B’s. Grading needs to be consistent and defined/understood
  - How many Rousseau students are requiring tutoring?

- Are there other types of Academic competition – such as Spelling “B”? Science Fair/Theatre
  - Do activities engage kids across the board – academic challenges
  - Math Club
  - Checkers Club/Chess Club
  - Debate Club
- Curriculum Mapping
  - What should they be coming in with and what should they be going out with in a given classroom
  - Is there monitoring with the Staff – Report cards
  - Student based strategies – teachers look at it student x student
  - JK – are the opportunities – outside Kumon – could you have “peer to peer” type system/buddy system for Math.
  - Student teachers/Co-ops (can we have some students from the high-school that could be tutoring)
    - **ACTION ITEM:** John to reach out to Ancaster High Principal to get in touch with co-op teacher at AH
  - Could we have some Gr.6’s that are stronger in subjects that could be “buddies”
  - There are resources/enrichment resources to help with teacher resources to help facilitate
    - Curriculum Consultants – expertise can be used – providing support for kindergarten team
    - Staff Meetings are focused on area where teachers have challenges and discuss options with other staff members for suggestions, etc.
    - Math Manipulatives still not out – will be bringing them out and focusing for Dec. PA meeting – some classes have but still not a good process

## 7. Physical Education & DPA (Designated Physical Activity)

- Days w/out Physical Ed need DPA
- Can we provide instruction aligned with team tryouts (are we following a curriculum?)
- Imbalance of time spent for “instruction” and actual physical activity
- Dec date – can Phys Ed. Teacher focus on curriculum – dodge ball and capture the flag is all they play.
- **ACTION ITEM:** John to follow up with DPA and ensuring all classes meet DPA requirements

8. INDIGO night – Literacy awareness.

- Each teacher can send a list of books for classroom – families can purchase book for class. Portion of the purchases will be redirected back in the form of a gift card for Rousseau.

9. General

- Lisa is not here to do Treasury Report (no time to sit with Cathy Todd); target next meeting for update
- On-Break Activity (e.g. Choir) – how can they eat? For Choir – just reminder to have teachers say to kids it’s okay to eat at their desks if needed.