

Rousseau School Council Meeting

Tuesday November 17, 2020

6:30pm-8:00 pm

School Council Attendees: Kim Strecker (Co-Chair); Allison Assaf (Co-Chair); Harmony Maiuk-Conti (Treasurer); April Burk (Secretary); Mr. John Gris (Principal); Ms. Beth Bennett (Teacher Representative)

School Community Attendees: Bridget Scime; Michelle Rankin

Meeting Summary

1. *Student Report* – Reece Traver
 - Spirit Day: Jersey Day Thursday November 26, 2020
 - Rousseau News with Ms. Bennett and the Grade 6's
 - Joke of the week to be expanded to include Fact of the Week
2. Welcome – Kim Strecker and Allison Assaf including the Land Acknowledgement by Mr. Gris
3. *Teacher Report* – Ms. Bennett
 - Grateful things are going so well
 - Purchases from wish list were well received by staff (ie. Bluetooth Speakers and Headsets)
 - Morale of teachers is consistent with the feeling that things are going well
 - No Extracurriculars to report
4. *Principal's Report*
 - Staffing Update:
 - Mrs. Fernandez moved to JSB with Ms. Carte Combs
 - Mrs. Stinson moved to grade four on days 2 and 5 and Music, Physical-Education and Library on days 1, 3 and 4
 - Mrs. Bishop moved to remote learning at Rousseau
 - Mrs. Muschalla moved to remote learning at Rousseau
 - Ms. Makhdoomi now teaching Grade 3/4A for the remainder of the year
 - Facilities Update:
 - Desks have been ordered and are expected to arrive before the end of November to reduce the tables with Plexiglass. Tables will be attempted to be stored onsite. Anything sent offsite will be clearly labeled and photographed prior to its removal.
 - Looking into if hooks are able to be utilized this year as winter approaches.
 - Large Pine Tree on the Junior Playground has been removed.
 - No Changes to the Kindergarten classroom setup unless facilities department deemed the setup unsafe when the new desks arrive.

- Purchasing Update:
 - “Wish List” item spreadsheet was presented for approval from the student council for at total of \$3,836.61. Harmony Maiuk-Conti makes the motion to approve this expense and Allison Assaf seconds the motion to approve. This purchase was voted on and approved unanimously by the voting members of School Council.
 - Michelle Fawcett presented an invitation from the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra regarding an opportunity for an unlimited number of students from grades 1-6 to participate in learnings based around Vivaldi’s four seasons and the poetry and writings that inspired it. This will take place February 24, 2020 and cost \$250.00. Harmony Maiuk-Conti makes the motion to approve this expense and Allison Assaf seconds the motion to approve. This purchase was voted on and approved unanimously by the voting members of School Council.
 - Technology requirements includes additional I-Pads. 10 units at \$500.00 per unit. School will purchase accessory cases and keyboards for each unit. Harmony Maiuk-Conti makes the motion to approve this expense and Michelle Rankin seconds the motion to approve. This purchase was voted on and approved unanimously by the voting members of School Council.

- 5. Financial Update – Current bank balance \$12,275 (Approximately \$3,188.39 remaining after approved expenditures). The bank account summary was received and approved by the School Council.

- 6. Remembrance Day
 - Members expressed that the Remembrance Day activities/moment of silence should be prioritized at the traditional 11:00am. It was acknowledged that the schedule would be rearranged in 2021 to accommodate this meaningful request.

- 7. Board School Council Meeting Update – Alison Assaf – November 4, 2020
 - Centered around Covid-19
 - Board Covid-19 come directly from Public Health
 - 5 Key Pillars of strategy:
 - ✓ Daily Screening
 - ✓ Hand Hygiene
 - ✓ Two Metre Distancing
 - ✓ Respiratory Etiquette
 - ✓ Mask Wearing
 - As of November 4, 2020 there was no Student-Student, Student-Teacher, Teacher-Student transmissions documented within the HDWSB at the time of the meeting. Most schools with multiple cases occurred by people failing to self-isolating while waiting for test results, or students within the same household.
 - Mask exemption – 100% acceptance to mask wearing is not required to be effective but a general critical mass. Only one part in the 5-part strategy.
 - School Council are legislated by the Provincial Legislation.

- Voting Members Rule clarification required. The official documentation requires the voting members to be present on the first council of the school year and return an official nomination form to be an eligible voting member.
- Remote School Parents are eligible to participate in their home base school council but many parents were not aware the meetings were occurring or that they were eligible.

8. Parent Involvement Committee – Harmony Maiuk-Conti – November 10, 2020

- Focus was on remote learning including the current challenges and status of reorganization.
- There are currently 9050 students in K-8.
- Next transition date is January and hoping a full reorganization will not be necessary.
- 2020 Priorities included:
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder training for Trustees and Educators
 - Experiential Food Learning – Growing gardens etc.
- Facility Update will occur in January as opposed to normal May/June as delayed due to Covid-19.
- Equity and Diversity training for Trustees.
- Mental Health of students and educations.
- Loss of learning from the lockdown to now.
- Survey sent to assess the tech requirements if another shutdown to occur as not all devices were returned.

9. Other Items

- Book drive to expand the school library. Box will be placed by the front door.
- Talk with primary teachers regarding system to have students access additional reading material without compromising safety protocols.
- Extra support will be provided to assist with the utilization of the library resources by cataloguing the current inventory of material.
- MS Teams and The Hub would be the platforms if there was another remote situation and some teachers are utilizing in class but it is not the board direction to require this be used in class at this time.
- Net Change in enrollment from first transition date will be reported at next meeting.
- Email to be sent out to remind parents to sign-up for the Rousseau School updates.

10. Next MS Teams Virtual Meeting: Tuesday January 19, 2020

Meeting Closed at 8:15pm