

Rousseau School Council Meeting

Tuesday March 23, 2021

6:30pm-7:20 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)

Student Council Attendees: Violet and Reece

School Community Attendees: Bridget Downing-Scime; Michelle Rankin; Lara Hyde

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome – By Mr. Gris and Allison Assaf including the Land Acknowledgement.
2. *Student Report* – Violet and Reece
 - For Earth Day the students are interested in organizing maintenance to the Rousseau gardens that have been left unattended since last March. The students have offered to pull weeds that have overtaken the gardens. Mr. Strecker is available to discuss composting with the students as part of this outdoor learning.
 - Spirit Day on Friday has been revised due to weather forecast and is now Hat Day.
3. *Teacher Report* – Ms. Bennett
 - Ms. Fawcett is working on the March slideshow, families participating in Remote learning are encouraged to submit photos as well. Photos should be submitted by Friday March 26, 2021.
 - Grade 5/6 students enjoyed viewing a live online event with Ndaba Mandela hosted by Hillfield Strathallan College black student leaders. Ndaba was inspiring, and the students expressed it was their first experience seeing a presentation by black student leaders.
 - Students in class 5/6A shared their portraits of influential Canadians who are black on the class Instagram and tagged one of the subjects, Matthew Green. Matthew Green has responded by inviting the students on live virtual tour of the parliament buildings next month.
 - Grade 6 graduation
 - Grad wear forms have been sent home from company School Tees Inc. and were sent to Remote Learning Students as well. Last day to submit orders is March 31, 2021.
 - Brainstorming is still occurring with the students to come up with a plan to celebrate the grade 6's transition to grade 7.
 - Next step is to reach out with parents to assemble a team to organize these plans.

4. *Principal's Report*

- Student Achievement Update
 - HWDSB Annual Goal was changed from focusing on Grade 1 students to all cohorts of students reading at grade level (at or above 75%). At Rousseau, the number of students that are reading at or above a B- grade are:
 - Grade 1 – 56%
 - Grade 2 – 76%
 - Grade 3 – 86%
 - Grade 4 – 94%
 - Grade 5 – 75%
 - Grade 6 – 94%
 - Mr. Peters is working with different groups of students to support students requiring extra help in this area.
 - Grade 2 Empower reading program is ahead of schedule and when it wraps up there will be extra time to include Grade 1 and SK students as well.
 - Due to the inability of in-person parent volunteers, is there an ability to use MS Teams to allow parent volunteer to read to children remotely? Mr. Gris to inquire with the staff.
 - HWDSB is starting a new program using SPARK reading. It has given two classes free licenses to its website, and therefore is short seven licenses to have this program available to all nine classes at Rousseau. The licenses are \$157 per year. Mr. Gris is meeting with the representative to verify specifics of the program and School council will confirm the funding after the additional information is provided.
 - Also available, Lexia Core 5. This is an App based reading program that can be looked into as well to assess whether this could be added to the available resources.
- Facilities Update:
 - Outdoor Kindergarten equipment is a bit dated, and the teachers have been asked to submit a list of requested additional equipment.
 - Some ideas included plexiglass on the fences for painting, PVC pipe or pool noodles for a water wall. Must be easily cleaned and maintained. Once confirmed, a google doc will be created for families who wish to assist with donating items to sign up for specific items.
 - Open to ideas for other grades.
 - The tree in the Junior area has been removed, and the tables are now in broad sunlight. There is an outdoor learning project to install a chalkboard to allow classes to work outside by the pine trees and the basketball court, and the picnic tables will likely be moved down to this area.
 - Davy Tree and Beswick had offered in 2020 to drop off mulch and logs to the school if they were required. Mr. Gris will call the contacts to confirm if this would be available in 2021 for the kindergarten playground.

- Protocols Update
 - Continue to remind students about wearing masks.
 - Announcements for daily reminders of masks, handwashing, and distancing.
 - Helping students play safe games that adhere to social distancing requirements.
- 5. Financial Update – Outstanding expense of 10 iPad's totalling approximately \$5,000 have been received and are in the hands of our students.
- 6. Grade 7 and 8 at Rousseau
 - There is no truth to the rumour that Grade 7 and 8 will be at Rousseau for the 2021/2022 school year.
- 7. Other Items
 - Ms. Fawcett is reaching out to her contacts to organize speakers for the diversity presentation discussed last month. Ideally it would occur as three separate presentations for Primary, Grades 4-6, and an Evening presentation for families. Parent engagement funding may be able to be used for this purpose.
 - Teacher appreciation: Although the traditional teacher appreciation lunch is not able to occur, are there alternative options available such as delivery of individual meals? Parents are grateful for the wonderful job the teachers are doing at keeping our kids safe during this challenging time.
- 8. Next MS Teams Virtual Meeting: Tuesday April 20, 2021.

Meeting Closed at 7:20 pm