



Rousseau School Council Meeting – December 4th, 2024

Location – School Library and MS Teams

ITEM	NOTES
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Call to order 6:30 pm Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
Meeting minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be circulated to all members and then posted on school website
Attendees	<div> M. Seo (Principal) A. Longboat (Member-at-large) Melissa Craig (Treasurer) L. McKinnon (Parent) K. Lou (Parent) J. Burns (Member-at-large) B. Randell P. Welsh (Member-at-large) </div> <div> K. Strecker (Chair) M. Thompson H. Conti (Member-at-large) K. Royds (Member-at-large) K. Beavers (Member-at-large) L. Rossman-Bhatia (Member-at-large) L. Speziale (Member-at-large) B. Bennett (Teacher rep) </div> <div> S. Wellman-Earl (Secretary) </div>
Principal Report	<p>Washroom update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privacy screen request has been sent to Facilities. They are in talks with the vendor to discuss the addition of privacy screens to the doors. New sinks will be installed at winter break (as the water supply to the school needs to be turned off) <p>Playground update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is rust on various areas of the structures. The platforms affected have been removed and new platforms to be fabricated. There will also be a new slide put in. Timeline for completion: Spring 2025 <p>Q: (For the future) could timeline for playground repair be coordinated to align when students are not in school (i.e. summer)? <i>Yes, that would make sense.</i></p> <p>Q: Who is paying for the repairs – the school board, or the school? <i>The school board is paying for the repair</i></p> <p>Accommodation review process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information available on the Board website is currently not available. M. Seo directed the request for more information to Superintendent Snell and we are awaiting that information. <p>Movie day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 6 leadership will initiate and help lead a movie day for Friday, December 20th (during the day) Movie nights also being planned for the new year

	<p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trimming of walkway bush: Facilities had asked landscaping company to trim, and it has been completed - Mrs. Seo has connected with two companies for playground paintings. This will be revisited in the Spring (after the snow). - Facilities and landscaping have filled in holes in the fields with dirt to reduce the divots. - Hallway hooks: Caretaking has been checking for rusted hooks and they will be replaced as identified. - Bicycle racks: Two council members attempted to reach out to the City of Hamilton. There is a free bike rack program of which Rousseau has not previously taken part. Rousseau has been added to the list for bicycle rack and hardware delivery in Spring 2025. They do not install so we will need to confirm whether this is something parents can do (i.e. parent volunteers) or whether it has to be completed by Facilities. <p>Staff attending system Professional Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. Fawcett attending during the first week of December focused on student mental health. - The Grade 6 team will be attending a Math Professional Development day - Mr. Peters has been invited to take part in an Outdoor Learning Professional Development day - The January Professional Development day will be to support teachers with report card writing. <p>EQAO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current Grade 4 families were emailed their results from the EQAO testing that was completed in Spring 2024. <p>Q: How were scores compared to last year? And other schools in the area?</p> <p>Q: Where and how can we support development and further enrichment opportunities for students?</p> <p>Q: Is that information reviewed with school staff?</p> <p>More detailed information to be provided at next Council meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We continue to see that Math is a struggle for grade 3s and grade 6s - The Board is focusing their efforts on grade 3 and grade 6 Math Professional Development opportunities for teachers <p>Funding provided to classroom teachers (\$250 per class):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some teachers have spent their \$250 (there are still some classes who haven't spent the money, or the full amount): <p>Kindergarten: art supplies, tiles, washable markers, erasable boards, magnetic letters</p> <p>Grade 2/3: map of Canada poster, math workbooks, headphones</p> <p>Learning Resource: Whiteboards, sensory room items</p> <p>Grade 3/4A: In class workshop for the arts</p> <p>Grade 3/4B: Math</p> <p>Grade 6: novel study books, technology</p>
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	<p>French: French dictionary</p> <p>Music: Updating some of the music equipment</p> <p>Q: Do the classes get a budget from the school each year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes, they receive some: some choose to spend the money in the middle of the year, and then another chunk at the end of the school year.
Teacher's report	<p>Gift Drive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grade 6 leadership team is helping with gift drive (for sister school families). - The sister school provided information for 15 children of the sister school. Gift cards have also been requested. <p>Q: Could teachers share what has already been collected and provide Rousseau families with an update as to what has been collected thus far? <i>Yes, we can look into this.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there is a surplus of gifts, Mrs. Bennett will discuss with the school if/where the surplus could go. <p>Q: In the future, could there be a Google Doc to sign up? Consider a process so that we can know which gifts have been accounted for? <i>Yes, we can certainly look at improving the process.</i></p> <p>Rocks & Rings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Booked for January 21st: on-site at Rousseau, for kindergarten to grade 6 <p>Letter box for student concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The intention to get feedback from staff at staff meeting last week. The staff meeting didn't end up happening in November, but this will be presented to teachers at December's staff meeting. <p>Robotics club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. McFadden is hoping to run a robotics club in the Spring - Is there a possibility for funding? Anything purchased would be available for students of classes to use towards curriculum (especially math/coding). <p>Lego club:</p> <p>Q: Can students join at any time? <i>Groups needed to be made (because of high student interest), but there is flexibility in when students can/want to join.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lego club still looking for Lego pieces. <p>Choir:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary and junior choir have been preparing for the winter concert <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volleyball just finished - Ms. Coburn and Mrs. Bennett are planning to start a craft club in the new year - The Grade 6 Leadership team will be hosting a hot chocolate/apple cider day on December 13th and a Movie Day on December 20th.
Questions from Parents	<p>Meeting agenda for school council meeting(s):</p> <p>Q: Why were there some items taken off the agenda (i.e. French curriculum, Library)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school council meeting agenda is decided collaboratively between council executive and the principal, prior to being posted.

- If there are specific questions, they can be addressed with the classroom teacher, and if not sufficiently answered, follow HWDSB's process (Classroom Teacher→Principal→Superintendent)

Q: How are parents supposed to express their concerns? If they are not addressed through the HWDSB process, school council is the forum for those issues to be raised. For this meeting, the concerns being raised are French and Library.

French:

- Grade 4-6 students receive instruction for French
- The grade 3s (from classes 3/4A and 3/4B) attend a class that is taught by the French teacher. The grade 3s receive drama instruction.

Library:

Q: How come students are not allowed to take out books from the library?

- Mrs. Fawcett is new to the library program.
- Staff will talk about how students can access the books and take them out from the library.
- Lots of classes are using Sora which is a virtual program students have access to in their classrooms.
- Communication to both students *and* staff to update on the status: added to the staff meeting for December

Q: November's PA Day curriculum content (follow-up from November's school council meeting)

- Topic: Challenging islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism (more information available on the HWDSB website: (<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-year-calendar/pa-days/>))
- What language was used? How was this information delivered? Parent concerns about what the content was and how it was delivered.
- The school board has advised that because of their agreement with the 3rd party company who delivered the training, they cannot share the material from the training.
- Parental concern: why is this information being kept 'hidden'? It is impossible to find any information about the company who developed and delivered this training (KR Consulting, as per the school board's website).
- Parents just want to know that their child(ren) will be kept safe, and all of that relates to the training and lens of the content that is shared with teachers.
- The learning was shared online/virtually with staff across the Board.
- Staff training: there is transparency needed for any type of training. Other PD content is available.
- There is a department at the Board who is responsible for seeking out these PD opportunities: they have advised that this information cannot be shared with parents.
- There is a concern about *why* this information cannot be shared. Parents noting it is alarming and concerning.
- Broadly, the content that was shared was responding to hate and bias.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. Seo can bring the concern back to Superintendent Snell to express that there is shared concern from the school community. It is not just a single parent who is concerned about this. Q: Would the superintendent be able to come to a school council meeting to speak to this? Mrs. Seo to bring forward that request, and if not from her, then from who? - Other avenues for parents to express concerns: there are monthly Board meetings and they are accessible to the public (Parent Involvement Committee, Board meetings) - Barriers such as these further perpetuates institutional racism when it is these families who are searching for this information and continue to be met with barriers. <p>Lexia licenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school board had asked schools to submit applications for students in need, however there were limits to the number of licenses available from the board and Rousseau was not granted any. As such, Rousseau has purchased a 20 license package. Q: Are there options to purchase other programs to be available to all students? <i>In the past, school council has paid for programs so that they are accessible to all students.</i> Q: is this is something they are doing during literacy? <i>Can be available for at-home and in-school use.</i> - IXL is another program provided as a suggestion Q: Is this something that we want to fundraise for specifically? What would the cost be? <i>K. Strecker contacting company for pricing.</i> This would be a widely beneficial program for <i>all</i> students Is there a grant available that we could apply for?
Safe Routes to School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduling of crossing guard at the Golf Links – he is not there some of the time, and at the correct times. Crossing guards are hired and managed through the City of Hamilton (not school board) Q: what actually is the safe route to school when coming from each area? <i>Sarah to look into available services (from the city) to do a safe routes to school assessment</i> Also related – placement and location of new bike rack installation in the Spring. The current location is likely the safest as it does not require students to bike through/near the parking lot.
Leadership (Grade 6) update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 16th-20th: Sprit week - different activities for the last week of school before the break: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit week: sweater day, friendship bracelet day, light up sparkle day, cozy day
Fundraising plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K. Strecker still to be submitted (based on what was discussed in the last meeting).
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of dumpster lids: Mrs. Seo to follow up with company/caretaker to ensure they are closed • Field trip \$ for parent volunteers: a thank you for the reimbursement (though that money came from the Rousseau school funds)
Adjournment	