



Rousseau School Council Meeting – March 5th, 2025

Location – School Library and MS Teams

ITEM	NOTES
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Call to order 6:30 pm Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
Attendees	<div>M. Seo (Principal) K. Strecker (Chair) L. Rossman-Bhatia (Member-at-large)</div> <div>A. Longboat (Member-at-large) A. Burke (Member-at-large). L. Speziale (Member-at-large)</div> <div>P. Welsh (Member-at-large). A. Assaf (Attendee). H. Conti (Member-at-Large)</div> <div>M. Thompson (Member-at-large) K. Royds (Member-at-large). K. Beavers (member-at-large)</div> <div>B. Bennett (Teacher Rep). S. Wellman-Earl (Secretary)</div> <div>I. Moffatt (Attendee) R. MacLean (Attendee)</div>
Approval of minutes	<p>December meeting minutes: We were awaiting further details from Facilities regarding the school accommodation review plan (the current link on the Board's website is dead).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Superintendent Snell is supposed to follow up to Mrs. Seo to advise where we can access this information
Teacher's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSB and 2/3A will take part in tapping trees (for maple syrup) • 2/3A will be raising chicks this Spring • The kindergarten, 1, and 1/2A will be raising butterflies this Spring. • 1A & 1/2A will be going on a field trip on March 21st to Mountsberg (for the Maple Syrup festival) • Grades 2's & 3's field trip will be to Westfield in May • Grade 3s will participate in Swim to Survive in May • Mr. Berg & Mrs. Fernandez have been running a Checkers Club. The hope is to take Rousseau teams to the HWDSB checkers tournament (April 2nd) • Mrs. Stead and 6A: the Art Show was a great success! • Classes 5/6 & 6A will be going to see Glee at the Ancaster Memorial Theatre on Fri, May 16 • The Great Big Crunch (led by Ms. Kostandoff) taking place on Thurs, Mar 6 - every student gets an apple to bite into at the same time with the goal to discuss and reinforce healthy eating. • Choir/Music: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Choir – day 2, break 1 Junior Choir – day 5 break 2 Mon, May 5 is Music Monday - Annual Celebration Concert. Mrs. Fawcett will lead the school's preparation to celebrate this day. • Grade 6 Leadership team: Ms. Seo/Mrs. Bennett to follow up with Mrs. Stead to inquire whether the grade 6 leadership team would like to join a School Council meeting to send updates and take part in School Council's meetings. • Library: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In February: Mrs. Fawcett attended a library book-buying event. New purchases still to be organized (52 books for ~\$800). Half of what was purchased was Indigenous Voices, as well as filling in some other gaps (such as sports, financial literacy, culture, religions)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Junior classes are using Sora to access graphic novels. - Board staff have indicated that Rousseau's library is quite understocked <p>Q: Are classes able to make regular trips to the library?</p> <p>As the library is currently teaching space, the access to the library has been limited.</p> <p>The goal could be to set a time that primary students (priority) come to library to access and sign out books i.e. during drama, Mrs. Fawcett could try to carve the time out to sign out books.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility for the grade 5s and 6s to lead the task of re-shelving the books - Planning for Scholastic book fair: during Education week (the first week of May). Parent volunteers can be recruited to support the running of the book fair. <p>Q: Could we find volunteers who could come and staff the library to sign out books? They could be trained to scan books in/out></p> <p>Q: If parent volunteers don't work out, could we see about reaching out to the City of Hamilton's librarians who could possibly help to facilitate the support for signing in/out books?</p> <p>Mrs. Seo and Kim to possibly draft a schedule for library support (for parent volunteers)</p> <p>Creative Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Led by Ms. Coburn and Mrs. Bennett. This is the first time being run so all are learning from the students and how to make it a purposeful experience. - To start, interested students were asked to bring their own materials. - Mrs. Bennett and Ms. Coburn will be taking the March Break to re-evaluate and re-consider how it could be hosted. <p>Q: Would the Creative Club take donations? Yes</p> <p>Lego club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has ended for now, but will restart.
Principal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQAO: Results from the 2023-2024 administration available for review here: https://www.eqao.com/results/?orgType=S&mident=493163&yearnum=2024 - Students do well in number sense, but problem-solving is where the students are lacking (critical thinking processes): this is a focus for staff moving forward. - The participation in the test is optional: students are not mandated to take part in it. <p>Pre-post COVID EQAO administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The test administration has changed: it is now digitally-administered – multiple choice, no opportunity to 'show' their work - There is no longer any historical data on the EQAO website beyond the past 2-3 years (when it changed to digital) so it is challenging to make historical comparisons. <p>School plan: for those students who are under the provincial average</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Development (PD) Math for grade 3 and 6s teachers - Grade 1 teachers, and grade 4, 5 teachers have also had PD sessions

- Increasing teacher understanding of new math curriculum: there are different components that teachers aren't aware of, concepts and ways to help students.
- The opportunity and availability of teacher in-services have been increased this year.

Literacy:

- Rousseau currently has a Reading Specialist focused on the K-2 reading strategy (1 day/week)
- Fall and mid-year assessments were completed.
- There are plans in place for those students who are still struggling to meet the benchmark by the end of year.
- For Junior grades, the reading specialist supports the grades 3-6 staff.
- There have been some grades 4-6 sessions that staff have attended, and have brought that information back to fellow staff.

Q: is it Acadience that is being used for these assessments? Is it being used for Fall, mid-year, end of year? Or monthly?

There is progress monitoring happening, but up to the teacher whether they are logging this officially or monitoring self.

For the students who are struggling, the progress monitoring is occurring more often.

- Snow removal: there was snow blocking parking lot – contractors did come and remove snowbanks from the parking lot to create more space.
- Playground repair: no date provided; once the snow is gone, the repairs will be finished.
- Junior yard: concern that no snow clearing has been done this year for the junior yard black top
 - Ms. Seo has inquired about whether this can change for future years
- Playground painting: once the snow melts, Mrs. Seo has appointments with vendors to come and provide a quote.
- School council funds (\$250 from Council given to each teacher/classroom):
 - 5 staff haven't yet used their funds (some have a plan in place, Mrs. Seo to follow up with those who don't)
 - The classes who have spent their funds include: both kindergarten classes, Grade 2/3, Learning Resource Teacher, both grade 3/4 classes, Grade 6, French, Music

Question from school staff: Are there other areas that Council could support?

List of requests

Sport + Phys Ed equipment:

- Floor hockey equipment for the Juniors (Primary grades have already)
Quote: \$800-\$1,000
If we can get equipment for ~\$500, is Council okay to vote on this purchase?
Motion: Supported and passed

Q: How about other schools with leftover equipment? Mrs. Seo can look into this.

- 3-pitch team: request for new equipment (~\$600) to update equipment

Q: Are learning opportunities being provided to students to learn the skills needed to join these teams?

Teachers can be encouraged to teach these skills (sport-specific skills education begin in grade 3).
The HWDSB Phys Ed consultant has come to the school and shared their expertise with the homeroom teachers (i.e. those who are teaching phys ed themselves).

Kindergarten:

- Butterflies growing kits: kindergarten classes and grade 1 classes for ~\$150
Motion: Supported and passed
- Kindergarten was requesting a new sandbox. Mrs. Seo to inquire about what they are looking for it.
- Kindergarten: provide \$\$ for kindergarten books for their classroom libraries

Library:

- More books in the library (~\$1,000)

Music:

- Recorders (\$500 for 65 recorders from Long & McQuade) with the plan for the primary grades to be asked to purchase their own, and keep those with them until grade 6.
- Primary music: xylophones (currently only 3 working) - \$600

Other:

- Checkers club: to attend the tournament, the school needs to bring their own checker boards.
A. Longboat hoping to donate checkboards

Other possible expense requests:

- Lexia:
 - Follow up regarding costs. It was ~\$2,000 for 20 licenses
 - Mrs. Seo can ask staff if there are (more) students in need
- Smart Boards in classrooms:
 - The Smart Boards are aging (some staff are using them and some are not).
 - Whiteboards and Projectors are being used
 - Some classrooms only have chalkboards. The school would like to move toward whiteboards in all classrooms

Goal for school council: to look at the requests and see how many students are served (in one department vs. the grades overall)

Q: Does the school board not fund these types of expenses (i.e. white boards, projectors)?

- Schools are provided with a budget and certain expenses can be allocated from certain budgets (i.e. technology)

Q: What is the process for sport/extra-curricular activities?

It requires a teacher to volunteer to supervise; parent volunteers are welcome to coach.

	<p>Notable dates: Tuesday, June 24th: Grade 6 celebration Wednesday, June 25th: Talent show</p>
Fundraising initiatives	<p>Run for Rousseau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents/adults run and each of the classes set up an obstacle course, music, activities for parents to do at each station. - Each participant would have a registration fee (no overhead) - Kids would support their adults; students are the spectators - Grade 6 leadership team could help lead and organize. <p>*Reagan M. to lead organization</p> <p>Groove-a-thon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers would be needed to i) Print out and hand out the pledge sheets ii) Come in to collect and count the funds - R. MacLean happy to DJ events, pending his schedule - April date: Reagan to send availability for DJ-ing and date to be decided upon. <p>Fun Fair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Propose last Friday in May (30th) or first Thursday in June (5th) (though some concern that if held before the PA day, some families go away and will miss out on attending) - This event requires significant volunteer support from the school community. - In previous years: council has purchased items/games that could be used during the Fun Fair event e.g. Inflatable rules: maze, car track <p>*all of these events require volunteer support and subcommittees.</p>
New Business	<p>→ In the past, students had been recognized at assemblies as a way to build students up and fill their buckets! Is this something we could look at for the future? The tree at the front has been used in the past (i.e. to recognize acts of kindness). Is this something we could re-ignite? → Request to update the plaques on the wall: Mrs. Fawcett to follow-up</p> <p>Q: PA day content (February 28th)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teachers and staff had a half day focused on responding to antisemitism - Teachers and staff had a half day spent on school improvement <p>Q: What supports were provided to staff during these sessions? The Board has a similar model for all hate related incidents: Stop-interrupt-respond to the student through teachings. If not resolved, progressive discipline becomes the recourse: Progressive discipline: help the student to understand the harm that was done (through teaching), moving progressively to increased disciplinary actions (i.e. depending on the severity - it could be suspension for grades 4+; for K-grade 3: teachings and learnings)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of Parent PRO grant: seek funding for anti-racism education for parents and students • Reorganization call: Sarah joining call with the Superintendent from the Board who oversees elementary school staffing and the reorganization process. Any interested parents are welcomed to attend.
Action items	<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Kim to make a post in parent Facebook group to ask for volunteers who could come during the available times (i.e. Mrs. Fawcett's prep periods) → Book drive (targeting kindergarten books) → Kim/Reagan to draft dates for Groove-a-thon and Run → Call for volunteers for fundraising events. → Put out a call-out for craft supply donations → A. Longboat to check about checkboard donations → Review expense requests <p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Updated treasurers report → Mrs. Seo to survey staff re: whiteboard and projector quotes, for school council to vote on → Mrs. Fawcett to look into updating plaques on the wall → Mrs. Seo can ask staff if there are (more) students who would benefit from having a Lexia license → Needs assessment for white boards and projectors for classrooms → Consult with staff: Student recognition during assemblies
Adjournment	