



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – September 13th, 2022 - 7:02PM

Attendance: Chetna Robinson, Christina Vannelli, Christine Platt, Emily Scheffel (Secretary), Erin Pole, Jennifer Fender, Jill Carlyle, Krystal Nicholson (Chair), Milishia Chreif, Roni Ruparelia, Sarah Pettipiere (Secretary Team), Shauna Calder (Treasurer), Stephanie Andovski, Varsha Pasel, Gillian Muir (Principal), Jill Tutty (Vice Principal), Kelly Murray (Teacher Representative)

BUSINESS ARISING FROM May 2022 MINUTES:

- None at this time.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL MINUTES: Jennifer Fender first, Jill Carlyle second

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Emily Scheffel first, Jill Carlyle second

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

Next meeting is on September 26th at 7:00pm. This meeting will be a blended format with attendees joining in-person at the Guelph Board office (500 Victoria Road North) or virtually using MS Teams. For more information, agendas & confirmed minutes see: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/pic/>

2022-2023 PILLARS:

The following is a breakdown of the Pillars we have used for the last few years to guide how donations will be used. Our pre-Covid fundraising goal was \$18 000.

- 40% School Needs (tech, gym equipment, music, arts, library needs)
- 40% In-School Experiences (Scientists in School, theater groups, etc)
- 15% Family Engagement
- 5% Contingency

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Shauna)

- **Bank Balance: \$10,059.42**
 - There may still be an HST return to be added to this balance.
 - We set aside \$3000 of this money each year to use if needed for playground repair.
 - We usually also set aside \$2000 for startup so there was some extra money leftover from last year.
 - When fundraising we legally must pre-determine what we are fundraising for - that is why we have the pillars.
 - There is a crack in the slide which will need to be repaired. The climber is currently closed. Mrs. Muir has obtained the first quote. She is required by the board to get 2 more.
 - Christina V. suggested contacting the original climber company to possibly get a better rate for replacement installation. She also suggested checking the warranty as it may last longer than expected and that she can assist if needed.

COUNCIL POSITIONS:

This year all council executive positions were available:

- The Chair makes the agenda and runs meetings. This can be a shared role.
- The Secretary takes the minutes at meetings and sends them to parents.
- The Treasurer keeps track of the finances for council as well as doing the treasurer's report.

Jill Carlyle, Roni Ruperelia and Chetna Robinson were all interested in the position of Chair. We decided to have 2 co-chairs and did an email vote.

UPDATE: Jill Carlyle and Roni Ruparelia were voted in as Co-Chairs.

Jennifer Fender and Christine Platt volunteered to share the position of secretary. They will take over the role for the next meeting.

There was no one interested in taking on the position of treasurer so Shauna Calder has agreed to continue in this position for another year. Thank you Shauna!

Milishia Chreif is also interested in being a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) rep for the school. She will attend PIC meetings and update the council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lunch Programs

- We need volunteers to run lunch programs. Last year we ran Montana's on Monday and a cookie snack on Thursday. We are open to new ideas!

Spirit Wear (Jill)

- A new vendor was recommended to use for Spirit Wear this year with better options.
- Chetna also discussed selling some smaller/cheaper "swag" options to be inclusive of all price points. One suggestion was a Rickson themed key chain coin for grocery carts that need deposits. She will send the vendor information she has to Jill.
- Krystal also suggested that Mike MacKinnon (a Rickson parent) has arranged for Rickson "swag" in the past (we ordered water bottles through the company he works for).

Mabel's Labels Fundraising (Stacie)

- <http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com/> & search for Rickson Ridge Public School.
- A percentage comes to the school from online orders.

Montana's (Krystal)

- Krystal had already reserved Montana's for Mondays this year as spots fill up for school lunch programs.
- She is willing to organize the initial run of this program (6-8 weeks). We have tried to not make the intervals too long in the past to keep the upfront cost for parents from being too high.
- After that we can decide if we want to stick with this program or change vendors. Options are more limited since Covid.
- She suggested we start on October 17th and run until Christmas - that is 10 weeks however so we may want to break it up into 2 intervals.
- Council voted to go ahead with this program.

Terra Cotta Cookies (Roni)

- Terra Cotta cookies makes boxes of frozen cookie dough for schools to use in fundraising sales. They also have pre-packaged healthier snack cookies that schools can sell individually at lunch as a fun treat.
- Roni has tentatively booked a Terra Cotta frozen cookie dough sale with the fundraising campaign happening in November and delivery of the cookies in the first week of December.

UPDATE: Roni is also looking for a volunteer to arrange the lunch snack cookie program if we are interested in running it again. We currently have a coupon for 2 free cases of cookies that Terra Cotta gave us last year when they were having ingredient supply issues and couldn't complete our order.

Family Fun Night Carnival (Roni)

- Roni has tentatively booked 4 food trucks for June 1st. A lot of schools are trying to book food trucks for this time of year so it has to be done early. There are less food trucks in operation than there were pre-covid.
- She also booked Kiddies Fun Trak again for activities.
- Face painting has also been booked.
- We will also be able to use a pegboard for a lollipop pull game.

Dance-a-thon (Roni)

- Roni was able to book February 14th with Professor Jamz for the Dance-a-thon fundraiser (with a Valentines theme).
- We still have the leftover prizes from the 2020 Dance-a-thon that had to be canceled due to Covid. We hope to use them this year.
- Some of the gift card prizes had expired - Roni was able to call around to vendors and get some of them reinstated.
- She is also working on getting a 2nd bike donated for the event.
- Roni bought freezies for the event on clearance for \$55 (5 boxes with 70 each).

TEACHER UPDATES & STAFF NEWS HIGHLIGHTS: (Gillian Muir, Jill Tutti and Kelly Murray)

Mrs. Muir:

- It was a busy start to the new school year.
- There were a lot of new registrations and there are now over 600 kids and 60 staff members.
- Classes are full and there was an extra class added.
- There were a small amount of classroom reorganizations, a few grade 1 and 2 kids were moved. Classes are now set for the year.
- There are now 6 portables
- The government is having each school board do a census asking for parents' input. There will also be a questionnaire for students later.
- There was an incident of vandalism over the summer involving tires being burned in the Gaga ball pit. Although the area was checked and supposed to be okay to use, kids were coming out of it with black soot all over their clothes and shoes and the pit had to be closed. Mrs. Muir will be asking the board to fix it.
- The school board has a Plan For Improvement Student Achievement. The plan has four pillars;
 - To inspire a lifelong love of learning
 - To champion health and wellbeing

- Ensure equity of access and outcomes
- To lead through sustainability
- Rickson as a school does focus a lot on equity and being inclusive. We have a lot of international students.
- Parents have been asking about the Covid screening tool as the link is no longer on the board website. Daily Covid screening is no longer required, but it is suggested.
- Please don't send children to school sick. If they become sick during the school day they will be sent home (as was the rule prior to Covid).
- Masks are always available to kids and good hand hygiene is encouraged. With masking no longer required some kids continue to mask and some do not.

Mrs. Murray

- The start of the school year was busy. It was nice to see the kids!
- Last year's "Boogie for the Bank" was successful with the school collecting 4500 items for the Food Bank. Many teachers were either sprayed with silly string or received a pie in the face as prizes for classes collecting a certain number of food items.
- The grade 7's last year did a great job of helping organize and run the event and Mrs. Murray would love to do it again (and recruit some of the grade 8's who helped run it last year!)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVENT IDEAS:

Discussed ideas for Family Engagement events:

- Free Movie Night
 - Could collect food bank donations.
 - In the past we did a not for profit pizza order for parents who are short on time.
 - In the past we have also had a movie for younger kids in the gym and older kids in the library.
 - Mrs. Patrick can help with getting/choosing movies.
 - Mrs. Muir suggested kids could bring blankets/lawn chairs, we could bring a couch in and have a draw for who gets to sit on it.
- Math night is another event we've done in the past.
- Cuddle up and Read Night was also done in the past.
 - We had an author reading, writing contests and other fun activities.
- We also brought in a Social Media speaker in the past.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- This year's Open House is on Thursday September 22nd from 5:30 to 7:00pm. The library will be open for a Book Fair.
- The Terry Fox run will be on Friday September 23rd with a "Terry's Sock" theme. Kids will try to fill the sock with toonies or make online donations.
- Rowan's Law Day (Concussion Awareness) is on Wednesday September 28th. Kids can wear purple.
- Orange Shirt Day is on Friday September 30th. Classes will be discussing topics for the month of September leading up to the event (Calls to Action, focus on environment, Water Keepers). Kids can wear orange shirts, or other orange items of clothing or orange shirt pins. There will also be artwork displayed on bulletin boards for that day.
- Agendas are only being ordered for primary grades this year. They are expensive and not all parents can donate to cover the cost. Older kids tend to use Google Classroom to stay organized

and some older classes are just using exercise books.

- The school will continue to do pizza and sub fundraisers separate from the parent council. This money goes straight to purchasing new Chromebooks for the school. Many are old/damaged and need replacing.
- Chetna suggested that we could use Whatsapp for easier discussion among council members (not for decision making).

See Calendar for other dates: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/ricksonridge/calendar/monthly-view/>

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 11th at 6:30pm - Virtual using Google Meet.

- There was some discussion around setting the dates for the 2022/2023 School year and we will set future dates during the October meeting.
- Shauna requested that we move to the 2nd Tuesday of the month as she will have access to the financial reports she needs to do the Treasurer's Report.
- Council members were not sure about making the meetings in person vs on Google Meet and perhaps we can have some meetings online and some in person to accommodate the most people.
- Krystal suggested that we try to alternate between two days of the week (such as Monday/Tuesday) as some parents have expressed an interest in attending but can't ever make it to Tuesday meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm – THANK YOU!