

RHS Meeting Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont School Council		
Date:	Tuesday, November 10, 2020	Time:	7:00 – 8:15 pm
Location:	Virtual; Google Meets	Facilitator Chair:	Cindy Jadayel

Attendance:	Cindy Jadayel, Marty Carr, Nancy Dean Solange, Claire Fisher, Dave Langner, Lynn Langner, Elizabeth Bryce, Paul Dilman, Katie Lee, Mark Fisher, Allison Cowan, Susan Lambert, Salma Haslam, Wendy Luciani, Shahla Khan Salter, Stephanie Glover
Staff:	Rachelle Sintic, Nancy Henry, Beverly Melymick, Jessie Lavallee

Agenda Items & Call to Order
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome2. Minutes Approval for October 20203. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)4. Teachers Report (Bev Melymick)5. OCASC Report (Nancy Deans)6. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)7. Guest Speaker (Mark Fisher)8. Comments / Concerns9. Next Meeting (Tuesday, December 8)

1. Welcome

Call to Order at 7:08pm. Minutes taken by Allison Cowan.

Brief introductions

Participants asked to please share up to date email addresses to allow for broader and accurate communication and distribution of meeting link.

Discussion to use of Zoom instead of Google Meets. Zoom needs to be authorized for use by OCDSB– Nancy Henry

2. Minutes Approval

Approval of Minutes (October 2020)

Moved: Nancy Solange Deans

Second: Elizabeth Bryce

3. Principal's Report

Rachelle Sintic

The Remembrance Day Assembly (a board-wide live stream) will take place tomorrow. Nancy and Greg worked with three students to make a video to share which should also become available online with permission from students and families. Stories include why being in Canada is important to them.

The new quadmester will begin November 16. The 1st week will be a bit strange. The cohorts reverse days the first week.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fjApfly6YqT95xUdyUezF4dwha77Ynfg1mDaRy58oF8/edit?usp=sharing>

Homework Club is up and running and 300 students have signed up. It runs from 3:45-7:30, Monday to Thursday with pretty much every subject available. It is primarily available to OCDSB grade 7 plus and eventually other boards will be welcome as well. Students register online and are automatically emailed a link. Breakout rooms provide options.

Commencement is being prepared and will be virtual for students that graduated June 2020. Greg Wysynski and Ryan Smith have been working hard to make seamless and flawless

Report cards will be available November 25 through online portal. Parents can sign up and can access everything (marks, courses, etc.). Report cards are also available to pick up at school. The kids are amazing. They have been sanitizing, working hard, and really taking everything seriously. The honeymoon period is over, and they are still forging ahead. We have updated PPE for staff once a month. Students are given masks if needed and we still have cotton masks available. The staff are also amazing, and the community has pulled together fantastically. The student council has just elected 2 co-presidents, a Grade 9 representative and student senator.

4. Teacher's Report

Beverly Melymick

The Student Council is up and running. We have RHS student chat – Thursdays at 1:10. Also, Nurse practitioner, Sarah, is around and available in person and online to answer questions re nutrition, testing etc. Katie Lalonde is providing a virtual Cross-fit training group. Laura Wheeler is doing several initiatives in the library (e.g. a book called “Stamped” in which teachers are putting in chapters). It will go online. We have Mindful drawing with student chat. Remembrance Day ceremony will include a 12 min Ridgemont Remembers video. Art class – Mme Brennan has showcases in the front of school. Students are incredible, coming in very few go by and don’t sanitize their hands. We’ve had a smooth first quadmester in terms of safety, coming in through 3 doors etc. Halloween was fun and students dressed up.

Nancy Henry

We didn’t think we would be allowed to make Bev’s Breakfast Program work, but we are able and allowed. Bev provides nutritious and fantastic food and greets the kids with enthusiasm. She does it all smoothly – “you make the school a better place Bev!”

Request from Beverly Melymick

The foods program could use funds (for a few knives and other things needed). Don’t have a specific number but small amount (e.g. \$200).

- Cindy Jadayel - Not doing fundraising right now but can look at approval with amount.
- MartyCarr- Can we approve an amount now to avoid the wait?
- Cindy Jadayel –can definitely afford \$200
- Motion approved by Nancy D, Seconded by Marty and all others present

5. OCASC Report

Nancy Dean Solange

OCASC is hosting an informal meeting on school fundraising. The direction is not clear yet and there are still ongoing discussions on what we can do. We can look at this as a council and determine what the school and student needs are. Conversation will be this coming Thursday and the general meeting is next week on Thursday as well. We are discussing what’s happening with board and the school resource officer (SRO) and continuing the consulting.

The Board is dealing with equity and racism and has an Indigenous, equity and Human rights roadmap to dismantle racism in the board over next 3 years. It was presented in September and recommend looking at it as a parent. It can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17vhRsEwQZSDi6obUkLL38WXgD4pxJcVh/view?usp=sharing>

Please consider putting in an application to be a member of the Parent involvement committee (PIC). Parent communications is a big focus this year.

Arts Advisory Committee: Looking at proposing to the board to have arts prioritized for health and well-being, especially in terms of mental health

6. Chair's Report

Cindy Jadayel

We would like to have better communication with our Student Reps, can we see if Student Council can join us for next meeting?

Nancy Henry – maybe next meeting they can join all together. Students are doing virtual meetings with other school board student councils, student senate etc.

For future meetings, will try and get Zoom (even though Google meets is preferred by board). Many parents were unable to join us tonight due to complications with our Google Meets link.

What info do you need to access the portal (for report cards)?

Rachelle Sintic - It is straightforward, not a lot of info needed. Can always get them from the school at the pick-up window (can access a window to the office to pick things up from the outside). Not going to print all 600 (in person students) but will print as needed/requested

- Should we consider discussing Fundsript as a council to fundraise?
- Rachelle Sintic– we can accrue a list and get back to you on needs
- Already a priority school (receiving extra funds)

7. Guest Speaker

Mark Fisher, School Trustee for zone 11 was invited to join our meeting to share some updates.

Thank you for the invitation – while not the official trustee for RHS. Fisher is the Trustee from “next door” as many residents in his zone go to RHS. Has a son who just started at RHS as well. It’s difficult for everyone adjusting to new realities such as cohorts, quadesters, and virtual learning. Chris Ellis is RHS Trustee, but Mark is also available to answer questions and concerns and would like feedback from the council and parents. Back to school is not a static thing and wants to understand how students are feeling with regards to well-being and education. As the pandemic continues, we don’t know when it will stop and how it will impact the long-term success, achievement and wellbeing of students. Kids could go 1-2 years with a mixed education. As we evaluate approaches – they aren’t static – we need to adjust as needed. Normally in October and November, the province takes stock of enrolment numbers and adjusts. In this unusual year, advocating to Ministry for stability and keeping things static where possible (e.g. seeing fewer students in elementary which could mean fewer classrooms). What does that mean on a school by school basis? If we have to reduce classrooms it impacts what we can deliver.

There is a new high school coming in south Ottawa (Riverside South) and this could have implications for RHS, which has a large catchment area there. The discussion of accommodation review – Brookfield, Canterbury, RHS - has been put on hold. If this is lifted, there are some enrolment challenges, so we will look at over next few years.

There is ongoing discussion around the SRO program with feedback from this school and other schools. People have had both positive and negative experiences with SRO's. We need to listen to the review and see what can make things better and stronger. As a son of police officer, they have an important role to play in the community. There's a lot that needs to change and the nature of policing will continue to change. Fundamentally I believe the school board can have a positive relationship with policing in Ottawa. We are making sure everyone that needs to have a voice has a voice in the process. Thank you to RHS for raising the conversation on this and stepping out to raise the issue.

8. Comments/Concerns

Rachelle Sintic - Thank you, Mark. It's good to get feedback and understanding around how things are going with parents and kids. Staff are ready and willing to support students.

Marty Carr - There were difficult decisions to make leading up to school. The school and board have done a terrific job of managing all of this. Have given feedback on some messaging

Mark Fisher - Thank you, Marty, this is obviously new to everyone and every emergency is different. As a learning organization, we need to hear what we can do better and appreciate the feedback. Would love feedback on how things are going – reach out anytime. I want to be as supportive as possible, as a parent and trustee for kids that live in my zone that attend RHS. I have confidence in the schools; that the senior teams have the ability to run schools well and always encourage people to contact school administration first when issues arise.

Rachelle Sintic - Grateful for a great community. Please share what's going on and let us know where things aren't working well. Couldn't do it without all of you in the community

Local land updates (Marty Carr)

There are land updates of interest to the school population. St Patrick's Intermediate is now a COVID testing centre and will all be redeveloped. Land is being transferred to Canada Lands. Consultations are ongoing as to what the land will be used for. There is a push for a community

centre. At the existing Heron community centre, Phase 2 restrictions did not allow for basketball etc. A Homeless shelter is now going in there for lower risk, single men looking for work (similar to how Jim Durrell Centre was used recently). Redevelopment of Herongate area has been put on hold and new units are at 30% capacity.

Drama program

JessieLavallee - Drama program includes great initiatives presented by grade 12s. Lots of creativity and excited about the originality of their skits.

Music program

Nancy Deans Solange - Music programs? What is the status and how many students are interested?

Elizabeth Bryce - Will students be surveyed e.g. to see if some already have instruments?

Rachelle Sintic - Don't have music yet. The Board is trying to plan something for schools without enough instruments. Typically we have four classes and hoping for decision by third quadmester. Once we know what parameters are from the Board, we can see what's available and figure it out. We may survey to gain an understanding. As long as we can do it with a lens of equity we can move forward with some options.

Nancy Henry - We don't have a music teacher at the moment as she is currently with online school.

Timetable Changes

Nancy Deans - What is the status of people changing classes?

Rachelle Sintic - We will look at timetables and are trying to make as few changes as possible. Urgent changes are being made (e.g. prerequisites).

Parent Volunteers and Clubs

Nancy Deans - How are parents able to support the school in terms of volunteering?

Rachelle Sintic - As for clubs – not much going on right now. Because quadmester has been so different, teachers have had to focus on meeting the needs in class during the day and spending all their time with that. Don't doubt we will see clubs coming up once we know people are okay first. We have the staff support to start things and they will be coming but, it will be slow

Book sale fundraising

Marty Carr - Collected 3000 books (originally for last spring's Books & Bikes Sale cancelled due to Covid) and will try and sell them on Facebook marketplace, keeping track of funds to provide to school.

Whole Foods donations

Bev Melymick - At 1:10 pm every Friday – food is dropped off and picked up by any student to take home. It is great for many families.

Food drive

Marty Carr - Can we conduct a food drive? No – can't

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7PM

Wendy Luciani – will take minutes next month