

RHS Meeting Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont School Council		
Date:	Tuesday, Jan 12, 2021	Time:	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Location:	Virtual; Zoom	Facilitator Chair:	Cindy Jadayel

Attendance:	Eleanor Fast, Paul Dillman, Elizabeth Bryce, Claire Fisher, Katie Lee, Nancy Dean Solange, Beth Haslam, Brie Barker, Lynn Lagner, Dave Lagner, Hind Adi Gebara, Iman bin Hamad, Shaniah & Sofia (Student Council)
Staff:	Rachelle Sintic, VP Nancy Henry, Bev Melymick, Marianne Dawson
Regrets:	Stephanie Glover, Marty Carr, Wendy Luciani, Allison McIlwaine

Agenda Items & Call to Order

1. Welcome
2. Minutes Approval for month of December
3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)
4. Teachers Report (Bev Melymick)
5. Guest Dept Head (Marianne Dawson Alexander; Guidance)
6. Student Council (Shaniah & Sofia)
7. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean Solange)
8. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)
9. Comments / Concerns
10. Next Meeting determination

1. Welcome

Call to Order at 7:02pm.

2. Minutes Approval

Approval of Minutes for month of December Moved: Paul Seconded: Nancy D

3. Principal's Report

There were a number of Emails I sent out during the holidays, there was an outbreak and we don't know all the details, but someone attended school that didn't have symptoms, which caused the outbreak. I'm always in touch with OPH and made sure that there is always transparency with the families, it was thankfully during the holiday break at that time, in order to stop the spread. Numbers have now improved. All students are now studying at home, with the exception of the Special Education classes; 2 DDP classes, as they generally cannot learn from home and they are few in numbers. ELS ESL students do need extra support and the Board just approved for that; 2 full time occasional teachers to come in and give us support with that starting tomorrow. When everything is reviewed on Jan 20th, hopefully the extra support will be extended past the Jan 25th deadline.

We are sending messages out to our grade 8 feeder schools tomorrow (translated into Arabic and Somali); Information Night for RHS is on Feb 10th. Homework Club reminder will also be going out with the link to join; we offer a free tutoring service, supported by qualified teachers. LST and SST are offering tons of support, so if any of the kids are having issues, please reach out to Meagan D or Kelly Livingston and of course, the classroom teachers for support.

(Nancy Henry) Kudos to the staff that have had to basically reinvent the curriculum planning and figure out how to engage the kids. On Dec 23rd, we got the Email about the changes and the staff had to put in extra time to switch their plans and teach the curriculum virtually to the students.

4. Teacher's Report

I have been working in the school with the Special Education classes and things are going great. As for Business Dept, they have received donations from businesses for 2 websites built by grade 9's for local Ottawa entrepreneurs (one being an Indigenous singer) it will be posted on the school webpage.

CPA; Chartered Professional Accountants will be partnering with RHS in 2021 to deliver online lessons on Financial Literacy, open to all Business students, and will benefit anyone pursuing a career in that field as well. They are thinking to put all the money raised towards creating a business scholarship for kids. Katie Coleman is still offering her 3 day/week Spartan Strong high intensity training for teachers and students or anyone that wants to join on Mon/Wed/Fri after

school. LST are doing all kinds of special things to keep students on task with learning and supporting them.

(Cindy) Can parents join the high intensity training, as we all need to get more exercise? (Bev) Katie would accept anyone. (Rachelle) We will double check that Katie is ok with having anyone join.

(Nancy D) How are extra programs being offered communicated? (Cindy) It would be great to advertise more RHS's Homework Club (Rachelle) I will send it out by Messenger. It's on Facebook as well. Mon – Thurs, 3:45 – 7:30, Amal, Nadine and Abdi are a part of running the HC and lots of staff and students, including Travis Raycroft. (Nancy H) The HC is run by the Board; Continuing Education, made up of principals, teachers.

(Nancy D) Regarding Financial Literacy Workshops, is there any way to expand it beyond Business students? (Bev) I will send that request

5. Guest Dept Head of Guidance

First, I'll just comment on the Financial Literacy workshop through Durwin Mok, I have the Email from the organization and it looks like we can request from them to give a workshop outside of his classes, for example, maybe during Homework Club and then offer it to anyone (we can look in to it).

I'm pleased to be here and answer any questions that any of you may have. Our website is entirely revamped and now anyone can make an appointment in our online calendar, we welcome parents and guardians to book appointments that way as well. Parents are welcome to contact us with any of their questions or concerns, including pathways and Covid issues, as we are here to support all the families. University applications are coming due soon (Jan 15) and Colleges (Feb 1). There are different variations with the applications that students may need help with. Our bookings coming up are quite full as the kids are trying to get their applications in right now. We cover all students studying virtually as well. I have reached out to our social worker who will be sending out a Covid Support 2 page info sheet; which includes things people can apply for to receive financial and bereaving support. I will be speaking with Rachelle to see how we can share it with our families. Our team are still working well together, even though from a distance. We have a new Grad coach, Suad Moussa, that is helping with breaking down barriers for some students.

(Nancy D) In February, I guess students will be doing course selection, can guidance councillors help them figure out what courses they should take according to what they are interested in.

(Marianne) Yes, our councillors have been great assisting students and outlining what courses are available to suit their interests. We have already done a grade by grade presentation. We are transitioning from Career Cruising to XPELLO, but students cannot actually have access it right now. We are still working on it; not quite finished. We have a separate google classroom for grads and have done Open Houses for Algonquin, University of O and Carleton, world Colleges and University tours and Email all the info there. We sent all of our info for course selection to all the grades and the links for resources. We have given our presentations for all grade 8 feeder schools and registered them. Ridgemont is collaborating with Canterbury and

Brookfield for our feeder schools presentations (so people can see the courses that are available and where all at once). The presentations involve experiential learning, including knowing about credits and schisms. I am working on finding a way to teach our students to understand what the course codes mean and what they need to get to where they want to go. (Rachelle) just to add about the Course selection, the Board is taking into consideration the fact that, due to our current situation and that people have different levels of access to technology, they want to make sure there is equity for everyone – there is a part of the Info Night created by the Board- to make sure that all info is shared at the same time.

6. Student Council

(Sofia) We had a Student Council meeting today. We were hoping to do “Among Us” a before the winter holidays, but delayed until this week as we were busy with other things, like Ugly Sweater Competition (all prizes were sent out btw!). We are working ongoing with the planning and supervision of the teachers. We have a meeting next week and hoping to do something for Valentine’s Day. (Cindy) What is this “Among Us” game? (Sofia) It’s a really popular game right now, it involves a group of 10 people and there’s an imposter trying to sabotage the ship and the team mates have to figure out who the imposter is! We are hoping to do it on Fri Jan 22. (Shaniah) we are also teaming up with the Black State Union Committee with Mr. Wysynski and Mrs. Gusta and some other teachers to figure out how we can virtually do Black History month; looking into past students and guest speakers. We are trying to juggle events to not interfere with the school schedule due-dates, so we are not offering a lot right now, but still trying to keep the kids engaged.

(Bev) Just an idea, do you have some kind of forum or group chat to find out the struggles that students may be having right now? ..that way we, the admin, can know what kind of support they need; what are the key things that the students are having trouble with?

We are thinking to add a mental health component to our communication with other students, for example, anonymous notes that are uplifting or even maybe do an anonymous fundraiser for students in need. (Rachelle) The mental health piece is really important, and we do have a lot of resources and offer a lot of support here – let’s have a meeting with Mr. Wysynski and then discuss how we can assist, taking in consideration your feedback from other students.

(Sofia) Maybe we can assign student mentors? (Bev) Great idea

(Bev) Can you also send out reminder messages to the students, for example, university application deadlines and anything else? (Sofia) Yes, great idea.

(Bev) If you could reach out to kids in the older grades and see if they would be willing to mentor the younger ones.

7. OCASC (Nancy D)

We had a meeting in Dec but everything has changed again. Indigenous and Human Rights Consultation process is starting, so parent updates will be coming to give your voice. Tomorrow

we have a parent involvement meeting and Caroline Tanner is putting forth consultation for that committee. Anyone welcome to log in. Arts Advisory Committee met yesterday and are looking into an Arts Rep in each School Council and looking at a post-Covid Arts Program with community, students, people from teachers college involved. At tomorrow's meeting, the PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grant are being put forth for School Council Speakers (worth about \$40,000 overall) and they would do all the arranging and payments directly through the board. The aim is to address issues for parents, but can be for both parents and students. Topic examples that have been shared are Technology, Mental Health, Equity, Special Education, and Teaching and Learning. Approval for this will take place this (Cindy) From our discussions, it is apparent that we need speakers on the topic of Mental Wellness. (Paul) When would this take place? Is it for this or next year? (Nancy D) It is for this year. We would love to hear from Sofia and Shaniah. (Nancy D) I recommend My life online. It would be good to put out some surveys. (Nancy H) It would be nice to allow parents to send in their thoughts. (Rachelle) I can help support that through School Messenger and get that info out with translations as well.

8. Chair's Report

Thanks to Nancy D for working on our School Council portal in the RHS website, its finally up-to-date and it's great to be able to check the Emails sent in from parents (as we haven't been able to for the last 7 years).

Wendy has to step back from her offer to help with Secretarial duties, so we now have Stephanie and Allison (neither one could attend today, so I'm doing the minutes) Marty also sent her regrets for tonight.

Just a reminder for families that we can still borrow from OPL, just put a hold online and once confirmation is sent back, pick up is easy; any time in their regular hours – (service hasn't stopped).

Question: For in-person learning students (chose option to physically attend school), and are set to return Jan 25th, are they allowed to switch to the online learning? (asking for another parent and myself as well). (Nancy H) Unfortunately we cannot just let anyone switch without a very valid reason; extraordinary situation and superintendant approval (tumbles into staffing issues).

9. Comments/Concerns

(Paul) Suggestion for us to offer the Speaker through PRO grant in other languages that are in demand. (Rachelle) That's a great point – we have been advocating this for some time. We have translation services available.

(Bev) Durwin Mok texted back with more info: The Financial literacy presentation is 30 minutes, so he can likely arrange for it to be shared with different audiences. Also, just to let you know the Christmas cards sent out by our students to the local Senior home was very well received.

(Eleanor) I hope that the Board is planning ahead of how they can reintegrate the kids once again into what was our regular system, as it's been really tough for them, plus losing responsibility of getting work done. (Rachelle) Please reach out to the teachers with any of your concerns and questions and I know hard virtual learning is as a parent.

(Nancy D) I know a parent from OHL that hasn't been receiving any Emails from RHS, can you look into this? (Rachelle) I have not been given access to any of the Emails, but I will look into this matter.

(Nancy D) Is there still a Girls Chat going on? (Bev) I'll text Meagan and find out.

(Nancy D) Does the Website have a Student Council area for kids to find out what's going on?

(Sofia) We use Instagram to share all of our info. (Rachelle) We have Fay (social worker) and Marilla (student council) help run the Instagram.

10. Next Meeting

Tuesday February 9th at 7PM on Zoom