

## RHS Meeting Minutes

<b>Title:</b>	Ridgemont School Council		
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, February 9, 2021	<b>Time:</b>	7:03 – 8:06 pm
<b>Location:</b>	Virtual; Zoom	<b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Minutes:</b>	Cindy Jadayel Allison Cowan

<b>Attendance:</b>	Stephanie Glover, Marty Carr, Paul Dillman, Janet Dill, Claire Fisher, Allison Cowan, Dave and Lynn Langner, Eleanor Fast, Nancy Dean Solange, Shahla Khan Salter, Shaniah, Sophia
<b>Staff:</b>	Rachelle Sintic, Greg Wysynski, Bev Melymick, Danny Leeson, Fairouz Kermalli

Agenda Items & Call to Order
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome</li><li>2. Minutes Approval for month of January</li><li>3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)</li><li>4. Student Council (Shaniah and Sophia)</li><li>5. Guest Teacher (Danny Leeson)</li><li>6. Teachers Report (Bev Melymick)</li><li>7. Guest RHS Staff (Fairouz Kermalli)</li><li>8. OCASC Report (Nancy Deans)</li><li>9. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)</li><li>10. Comments / Concerns</li><li>11. Next Meeting (Tues March 9th)</li></ol>

### 1. Welcome

Call to Order at 7:03pm. Brief introductions and question of the month, "what connects you to Ridgemont (RHS)"

- Paul Dillman – son in grade 12
- Cindy Jadayel – son in grade 11

- Danny Leeson – athletic director at RHS
- Dave and Lynn Langner – daughter in grade 10
- Marty Carr – daughter in grade 11 and son in grade 9
- Greg Wysynski – one of VPs at RHS
- Janet Dill – son in grade 10 and daughter in grade 11
- Rachelle Sintic - Principal
- Claire Fisher – son in grade 9
- Nancy Dean Solange – daughters in grades 9 and 11
- Bev – teacher and had 2 kids attend previously.
- Fairouz Kermalli (Fai) – Social worker at RHS
- Stephanie Glover – daughter in grade 11
- Sophia – student council co president
- Shaniah – student council co president
- Shahla Salter – son in grade 11 and RHS alumni
- Allison Cowan – daughter in grade 9

Special note: Nancy Dean mentioned meeting a doctor recently who attended Ridgemont in 1965 and could still sing the school song. Bev sang it for us, everyone pleased and requested that we always start our meetings this way!

## 2. Minutes Approval

Approval of Minutes (month of January)

Moved: Nancy Deans      Seconded: Paul Dillman

## 3. Principal's Report

Rachelle Sintac Report cards are coming – should be able to do signing tomorrow and they will be available within the next couple of days. There have been some technical glitches.

RHS held a rapid test clinic Ottawa Public Health (OPH) was held at RHS last weekend. There was low turnout, as we just found out on Wednesday and sent the news out on Thursday. They want more people and want regular testing while people are asymptomatic. They were organized and fantastic at the testing clinic but there is room for improvement in planning and providing adequate notice and communications to families.

Greg Wysynski VP We have restructured what was supposed to be our Welcome to High School Night. The main reason we chose digital call was due to equity. We were going to use zoom to do this and decided to go a different route. It will not be live, but instead recorded for everyone to watch. We are currently in the process of recording it in English, Somali and Arabic.

English and Somali videos are now available on the website at

[https://ridgemoonths.ocdsb.ca/news/what\\_s\\_new/welcome\\_to\\_high\\_school\\_2021](https://ridgemoonths.ocdsb.ca/news/what_s_new/welcome_to_high_school_2021)

You may have received an email from the School Board about Toonies Tuesday. Families have been so generous and helpful. RHS families have been beneficiaries this year of some of this fund.

Parents/Guardians? You can donate easily through your School Cash Online Account or send your child to school with \$2 (or more) anytime between now and Toonie Tuesday.

Click here to donate. <https://ocdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/40388/178/False/True>

(Cindy) Can we offer the link on our School Website to encourage families to donate? Many want to support it, but they do not know how. (Greg) Yes, good idea, we can definitely do that.

(Marty) The outreach about the clinic was disorganized and people were confused. Feedback to OPH is to be more organized. Rachelle followed up with OPH and discussed challenges (e.g., short-notice, broader reach). OPH is likely to do something every few weeks and people may be more comfortable once they get used to it. They are likely going to do another one at St Pat's and talking about getting it out earlier. On advice of Mark Fisher and Rachelle, attempts were made to include other schools (e.g., feeder school list) but there was not enough notice to do this. The issue is also that notices were only sent out to postal codes starting with K1V, which does not even include families just on the other side of Heron Rd.

(Rachelle) Lots of work on equity going on in the building. Three staff members presented to staff. The presentations were phenomenal.

Leadership camp was last week, and Nancy and Rachelle shared the night. The kids worked hard and had so much fun. It was super cute and fun, kids worked on videos and all kinds of stuff.

Teachers are going to be asking students daily if they did the COVID symptom self assessment. If they forgot they can do the assessment in class. If they do not pass – will be sent home. The screening tool is included in kids school email every morning.

<https://secureforms.ottawapublichealth.ca/School-Health-Sante-scolaire/COVID-19-Screening-Tool-for-High-School-Students>

Yes, the Board is asking the students to physically do the assessment every day before they enter school.

#### 4. Student Council

Shaniah- Valentines meme contest is coming up. Classes will come up with memes and send it to the student council Instagram page. The prize is a movie night to watch as a class.

Black student union has some things coming up: Dance class involved, hoodies. Trying to get performers to hopefully participate for a video to share. The assembly will be held on Feb 26.

Sophia

Among us games for the student community coming soon. The night before the game, the student council will send out a confirmation email and access code a few minutes before it starts. Be sure to let your kids know about the event.

## 5. Guest Teacher

Danny Leeson

Nice to see a lot of parents here. It is interesting and fun to be a part of children's lives and their educational journey. He has taught many of the children of parents attending the meeting, or worked with them in clubs. Danny is the Athletic Director and Gym instructor; usually runs a very full schedule. The lack of sports is a struggle for students and teachers. It took some time in September—along with Ms. Lalonde—to figure out how to teach classes. Danny still believes they are enjoying the classes. Breaking up the time into 4 blocks: Fitness Wakeup – gym in person or at home, a modified Game (95% of games cannot do without modifications and teachers must do all the set up without help from kids), Health session, and a Fitness session (there are 15 fitness stations among other activities). There are snack breaks in between the 4 blocks. Several cleaning protocols and use of different exits and staircases, so no crossing of classes.

(Nancy D) Is there any planning going ahead for events coming back?

(Danny) He is part of the Athletic Board group that is meeting later this month. He has not heard any news so far, but also does not often hear the news until the last minute. Danny has a feeling it will be individual sports first. When the weather was nice – outside was an easy solution. We are fortunate to have space with two gyms. Trying to do some winter sports too (e.g., snowshoeing), we would do Cross-country but our skis/equipment were cleared out due to age.

(Marty) Appreciated how well they coordinated workout sessions. It was great to see how much they did at home.

(Nancy D) Are you getting what you need in terms of equipment?

(Danny) Things are okay right now. Have not asked for much and have not needed anything. This year is an anomaly. Next year, if more typical, will need some new things.

## 6. Teacher's Report

Bev Melymick

SPIRIT is a pilot project focused on building knowledge, capacity, and understanding to increase accessibility and engagement for LGBTQ2S+ students in physical activity and sports programs at school. This is a project that will be led by students, for students, to try to make all students feel safe, included, and welcome in all physical opportunities at school. We are still looking for LGBTQ2S+ students and allies to become agents of change with us in this project. We'll be receiving approximately \$2,500 initially from a grant to get it started and another \$5000 possibility. If interested, please contact: Katherine.Lalonde@ocdsb.ca

Drama Club will be starting next week on Tuesday, Feb 16 at 3:30pm.

Google Link is RHSDramaClub

Gardening group - Gather and Grow: Will be working on this for volunteer hours – I'll be working with Ryan Smith in woodshop hopefully to build with the Foods class. When spring arrives - gardens start.

We are in Black History Month and students/staff are involved with that. Student Council meetings are happening every Tuesday. Our Homework Club is still running very well.

## 7. Guest RHS Staff

Fairooz Kermalli

So glad to make it to the meeting. Has been at RHS for 4 years. 1<sup>st</sup> year full time as the role was previously shared. Looking at moving beyond crisis intervention to crisis prevention. This year there is such a need for mental health prevention and support. Co created a presentation – Wellness Matters – which is interactive and hands on, presented to all grade 9 students. This year it is delivered virtually in physical education classes. RHS students got to benefit from it first, Now the Board is also sharing what they have done more broadly with other schools. There is a student chat every Thursday at 1:15 RHSstudentchat2021 – Google meet. Also, Mindful drawing. Usually, we do stuff in person with snacks and it's easier to help people get comfortable, but we have had some participation and are committed to showing up every week. It is a pleasure to work with you and your kids. The school has a great admin team and teachers to work with. Fay actually moved from Stittsville to live closer to RHS.

(Cindy) Thanks for all you are doing!

(Bev) It is incredible, and students have latched on. So many initiatives around mental wellness – incredible and different.

## 8. OCASC Report

Nancy Dean Solange

Meeting was held on February 4<sup>th</sup> and included a presentation from science in the schools – for grade 8. The discussion included how school councils can support each other financially. Speaker series is going ahead due to PRO grant. There has not been a formal pathway to go about this.

The Arts Advisory Committee meeting was on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to look at a roadmap of how recommendations for post COVID arts can be improved and how to incorporate virtual pieces into classrooms. Would be great to speak with Bev and Arts and Music teachers to discuss what's working, what's not and gather ideas to submit.

The School Board is starting the financing and budgeting process. The deficit is larger than anticipated and they are looking for ways to recoup including reaching out to the province. Consultations being held up until March on Human rights policy. We can invite Carolyn Tanner – our human rights advisor – if we want to discuss this at one of our council meetings. Our OCASC meeting runs on the third Thursday of every month, everyone is welcome to join us.

## 9. Chair's Report

Cindy Jadayel We have received the annual \$500 Parent's Involvement Funding. It's good to know that we can also cash our \$500 and save it until in-person gatherings are allowed (should our community prefer in-person over virtual events, as this money can be used in the following school year). This decision has to be made with approval of our school council members.

The province changed the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant program. There is no longer a grant application program that school councils apply for, instead, the province provides a direct transfer to the school district. The OCDSB has received \$40,000 in 2020-2021 PRO grant funding and has been working with the Parent Involvement Committee to consider the best way to use these funds and support all school communities. The funds will be used to facilitate school council speaker nights where school councils will choose a speaker from a centrally-consolidated speakers list and the District procures the chosen speakers and facilitates hosting a virtual night under the school councils' leadership. School councils will be responsible for the promotion of the speaker night and the provision of a simple report back to the District. To my recollection, we decided that a speaker addressing mental health issues was our priority, from parents' feedback and student council in our Jan meeting.

A big thank you to Nancy Deans Solange for always updating our School Council portal on the RHS website with our latest meeting minutes and anything else relevant and thank you to Allison Cowan for taking tonight's minutes.

As you know, we are reaching out to Department Heads to join us each month to talk a little about what's happening in their section of teaching and answer any questions for parents. Are there any specific departments that you would like to hear from? (Bev) We have the Math & Science Dept head; Ron Watkins coming soon, as well as we can ask Mr. Duprey who is involved with Co-Op.

#### 10. Comments/Concerns

(Shahla) Find out when course selection is taking place. (Rachelle) Not out yet and will be on direction from the Board – likely a week or two. Will be out at the same time as every high school - the Board is using a new program for this. Everyone will be choosing at the same time. (Nancy D) is there a possibility of helping parents understand what minimum requirements are to avoid problems (i.e., being short a specific credit). All of this is in the slideshow available on the website tomorrow. Pathways are in there. – sent to all families will be helpful. Students can reach out to guidance counselors for help and virtual meetings. (Cindy) It is good for parents to know kids can book sessions with guidance anytime and they should feel welcome to do so.

#### 11. Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 9 at 7pm