

RHS School Council Committee Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont High School September 2021 Meeting		
Date:	Tuesday, Sept 21st	Time:	7 PM – 8:15 PM
Location:	Virtual; Zoom	Facilitator Chair:	Cindy Jadayel

Attendance:	Rachelle Sentic, Nancy Henry, Greg Wysynski, Cindy Jadayel, Bev Melymick, Nancy Deans Solange, Katie Le, Eleanor Fast, Brian Malama, Zuhra Mir, D. Carter, Eleanore, Nicole Gibeau, Lindsey Barr, Marty Carr, Steve Hendrick, Sahand, Dhana, Zakaria Abdullahi, Nancy Buttera, Ayan Ali
Regrets:	Stephanie Glover, Dave and Lynn Langner, Allison Cowan

Agenda Items & Call to Order

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of June Minutes
2. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sentic)
3. Teacher's Report (Bev Melymick)
4. OCASC Report (Nancy Deans Solange)
5. Upcoming Book Sale (Marty Carr)
6. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)
7. Comments/Concerns
8. Next Meeting confirmation

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of June Minutes

Call to Order at 7:03 PM. Brief introductions. June Minutes approved by Eleanor and seconded by Nancy Deans Solange

2. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sentic)

Great start this year, same admin team, working with OPH with all the rules, now different rules for kids depending on 1 or 2 vaccines, teachers being very careful to be 2 metres away from students, otherwise are wearing their face shields. Kids are eating their lunch in the classroom or outside the building. Supervision by zoning “elementary model”— staff always in hallway and popping into classrooms, we are tweaking as we go, trying to social distance the kids as much as possible. Teachers are using the 150 minute model right now. Challenging for the teachers in a big chunk like this.

(Claire) What is the rationale of not letting the kids in and out of the classroom after the 40 min of lunch? (Rachelle) We have been asked to stick to not having kids in and out all the time and keep people with their groups of classes/cohorted; we are trying to be as reasonable as possible.

Transition has been tough for some students and our support staff is ready. Fay is back this year and a new addition, Kevin Emero, so we have counselling support 5 days/week available for students or their families, MLO is back, lots of supports

Sports - discussions on the go with teachers and the 2 that we are hoping to get going first are Cross country and senior volleyball. We still have to solve transportation for our kids right now. Music- guitar and the strings, just no wind instruments yet. Hillcrest have loaned us their guitars as they aren't using them this semester.

We have a new fire system, fresh paint and new roof.

We have been approved for a Sienna Designs Grant \$15,000 American to put towards technology. We are waiting on funding to renovate the classrooms as well.

Homework Club set to start Oct 4th, Monday's to Thursday's 4 PM – 7 PM on google meets for grades 7 – 12

Our school is still offering Art Schisms – a Specialized High School Major – combining Art and Tech for Post-secondary and opportunities to link it into co-op

Meet the Teacher Night will be soon and we can potentially offer a google meet with breakout rooms. Looking for feedback /suggestions. Feel free to always reach out to your child's teacher if you have any concerns or questions.

3. Teacher's Report (Bev Melymick)

We were working on the garden all summer – looks beautiful – if you have any perennials that you would like to offer, please drop them off.

“Ridgemont Eats” Breakfast Program is going strong.

Sports are starting up, we are hoping for a Band, still waiting to hear. Soon, Student Council elections will get going.

Often classes will take a break and go for walks around the school

Morning announcements are going great, Nancy Henry always reminding us about our Land Acknowledgements and speaking to classes about it. Sept 30th we will be recognizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in a variety of ways. 3 Native studies English classes will be a part of it. Reminder: Wear Orange shirts on Thurs Sept 30th in support.

4. OCASC Report (Nancy Deans Solange)

OCASC is the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils and Nancy is willing to continue as RHS rep at the monthly meetings. There are many important agenda items and it is a collaboration of schools in discussions and advocacy for our kids. Nancy is also Chair of the Arts Advisory for OCDSB. The first meeting for OCASC is Thursday Sept 30th and anyone can join us, but must register in advance. Nancy encouraging all to attend. Link shared in the chat:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAqfuytqzgjGNWP1uezO71vk46RLUU9n75G](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJAqfuytqzgjGNWP1uezO71vk46RLUU9n75G)

Arts Advisory Committee first meeting is on Mon Oct 18th 7 PM- 8:30 PM. If anyone is interested, contact is Nancysolange@practicemakingart.ca

5. Upcoming Book Sale (Marty Carr)

Just before the pandemic hit, we were preparing a Book Sale at RHS and by that point, I had already accumulated 3,000 books. Now we have collected over 10,000 books and are glad to finally have a date set. The books have all been wiped, priced, sorted and boxed – ready to go. The Book Sale will take place on Friday October 22nd 6 PM – 9 PM and Saturday October 23 from 9 AM – 4 PM. We are looking for parent and student volunteers. Please email us and let us know if you can volunteer. 3 PM move the books over to RHS we need volunteers to help bring books over, set up, sell the books and clean up. This is a chance to give back to the school by raising some cash. Request for Rachelle to advertise (front sign and email). Bev will announce in the mornings. Rachelle requesting to have Marty send out all the information for specifics for volunteers and will share with Guidance Dept.

6. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)

So nice to see some familiar faces; welcome back, and new faces of parents of grade 9's! Time of year to discuss the roles of our school council; includes the following: Chair, VC, Secretary, OCASC Rep and Treasurer. Teacher Rep has been Bev Melymick for decades now and her commitment is fantastic! We hope to have student reps join us as well. Since it's my final year (graduating with child in gr 12), encouraging other parents to take the role as Chair.

Final decisions: Co-Chairs will be Cindy J and Nancy D and VC Marty Carr

Secretary Duties: Agreed to be shared by Allison and Katie is willing to help a couple times a year. Stephanie may be able to help as well.

Dave Langner agreed to Treasurer again and is looking forward to helping with Book Sale finances!

We have been supporting the RHS Breakfast Club by annually paying the \$60 Cosco Membership fee. Verified that all in agreement to continue this and take funds from school account.

7. Comments/Concerns

Message sent from Stephanie: As her and Marty (both committed parents on our council) have an obligation each 3rd Tues of the month with the Alta Vista Community Association, request to please stick to the 2nd Tues as much as possible for RHS meetings. Agreed to do our best.

(Bev) Can someone explain about the volunteer hours for graduates? (Nancy) for students graduating this year, the requirement is only 20 hours, but that may change next year when there is less restrictions. Also, the Literacy Test Requirement is waived this year for gr 12's, the Ministry is planning to administer Literacy Test for gr 11's in the fall, gr 10's in the spring. The grade 9 EQAO math will likely be administered this year as well.

(Linsdey) Has it been difficult for students to get volunteer hours? (Nancy) Yes, it has been difficult for kids to find places to volunteer. Now it can count when they are helping their grandparents, whereby before it wasn't counted. (Lindsey) My company with World Changing Kids, I have lots of connections and ways for kids to do volunteer work online. Please let me know if you'd like my help to set this up.

(Bev) I have been organizing a guest department speaker each month and wanting to know any specific requests from our parents. (Cindy) I would suggest Marianne Dawson-Alexander to attend on behalf of Guidance as soon as possible and see when all the heads are free to join us (Math, English, Art, Science, etc)

(Nancy) How does it work if a child wants to change their class?

(Rachelle) Only If it's a necessary change, for example, graduation requirement, issue with a spare, the Board has asked us to stop this as much as possible. We are trying to stop "friend shopping" or "teacher shopping".

We have some changes in the Art Dept, Michelle Paverelli, Erin Jamieson is taking extra maternity leave this year, Jessie will be starting her maternity leave soon,

(Steve) My son is in grade 9, has a general anxiety disorder, and he was concerned for his safety. There was a fight between 2 young women, the knifing in front of St Pats, and other things, he was expressing his concern and as a parent, I reassured him that everything is ok.

(Rachelle) The incidents were not related to school and the stabbing at St Pats is something

unusual - we went in to a “secure school”, just on the side of precaution. In my 3 years at RHS, I’ve never seen anything like this go on.

8. Next Meeting confirmation

Tues October 12, 2021 at 7 PM on Zoom