

RHS School Council Committee Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont School Council Meeting		
Date:	Tuesday, January 11, 2022	Time:	7:03 – 8:09 p.m.
Location:	Virtual; Zoom	Minutes:	Allison Cowan

Attendance:	Rod Breau, Allison Cowan, Marty Carr, Eleanor Fast, Claire Fisher, Stephanie Glover, Dave and Lynn Langner, Principal Rachelle Sentic, Vice Principal Greg Wyszynski, Marianne Alexander, Meagan Dargavel, and Bev Melymick
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Agenda Items & Call to Order

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Minutes Approval for (month of December)**
- 3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sentic)**
- 4. Teachers Report and Guest Teacher (Marianne Dawson Alexander, Meagan Dargavel, and Bev Melymick)**
- 5. Chair's Report (Nancy Dean and Cindy Jadayel)**
- 6. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean)**
- 7. Comments / Concerns**
- 8. Next Meeting (Tues, February 8)**

1. and 2. Welcome & Approval of Minutes for Dec, 2021

Called to Order at 7:03 p.m. Moved: Dave Langer Second: Nancy Dean

3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic and VP Greg Wysynski)

Staff meeting today. We have the same knowledge as everyone else in terms of information regarding in person learning. Lots of questions but don't have new information to share.

Special education classes are back and they were all offered to return with transportation. Families had option to send child or not.

Everyone is being careful. N95s arrived last Friday – not mandatory, but available for staff. They can also use medical masks. We also have 3-layer masks for kids – with adjustable straps. Good quality and much better than provided last year.

(Greg Wysynski)

Have a new screening tool – province of Ontario screening tool for schools
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Students will complete it before coming to school each day. It is a lot more comprehensive than previous. There are very detailed instructions along with the screening tool. We are waiting on guidance from Board on how to roll out into classrooms when we return to school as anticipated. Ontario Ministry of Health has said parents will not be contacted about cases in the classroom. They will not be reported in phone calls or otherwise.

Board is meeting with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) to determine what things will look like operationally. Until we get the guidance, we don't want to speculate.

(Rachelle) As soon as we have more information, it will be shared quickly on messenger etc. At this point, we can't speculate what it's going to look like. Greg works closely with OPH nurse.

We have handed out close to 100 Chromebooks to Ridgemont students and 40 to feeder schools.

As part of our commitment to equity, we have hired The Unlearn Team
<https://unlearn.com/> for staff. There are two staff sessions booked, the first on February 15. They are an equity-based team, work with staff and trying to stretch thinking. After first session, department

heads will meet to set goals etc. based on learnings. Second meeting in April where all staff comes together again. It is held virtually for now.

(Greg Wysynski)

Semester turnaround is February 2. It is not a school day for students. An opportunity for students to catch up etc. February 3 is the first day back.
Question Will second semester be continuing with 4 classes as planned?

Yes, that is currently the plan.

4. Teachers Report and Guest Teacher (Marianne Alexander, Meagan Dargavel, and E

Marianne Alexander (Guidance)

Grade 8 high school information night will be held on Feb 16.

Have been reaching out and doing presentations to feeder schools already – collaborating with Hillcrest and Canterbury.

What is high school like, what to expect and how to transition from elementary to high school. There will be more kids coming from Fielding Public School - 14 kids coming next year.

Lots of positive feedback. We often bring students and graduates to answer questions as well. There is typically a lot of questions about timetable, guidance counselors, extra curriculars.

The Board just sent out Feb 16 slide deck which will personalize for RHS. Looking at schools with English Language Learner (ELL) programs. ELL students participate in presentations as well.

Student representatives are helpful. Have had a lot of success. A lot of parents reaching out to ask questions. Translations will be provided: Arabic, Somali and English.

(Greg) We are the only school that won't be live because broadcasting in different languages. It's the most effective way to get message across to everyone in the community and more convenient. Questionnaire will come out. Graduates and University applications

Right now, kids are applying to university. We do our best to get them to apply early. They can only access applications from email account. Have sent individual emails with their PINs and additional info and highlighted things missing for them – e.g. classes, volunteer hours. Have also

sent an email in late October to all potential grads with credit counselling summary that is marked up with information and what's needed. There is also a Google classroom for potential grads specifically. Also have a student services Google classroom. University applications are

due this Friday. Lots of kids applied early and have been accepted. Algonquin College is also providing early acceptance this year – first time ever. Virtual meetings with representative at Algonquin College have been great.

Another great thing for grads this year is several senior English teachers are making an assignment to apply for a scholarship. It's been a great experience.

Course selection

Grade 8s will complete first. Timing will depend on Xello program – the program used for students to choose their courses. It doesn't work well with kids transferring from out of province or out of country with carry over credits which takes some extra help from guidance.

Last year we had to override about 80% of course selections from students. We are doing our best to learn and make improvements, focused on equity. We will be recording grade presentations – in student inboxes but will also go to parents from Rachelle. Waiting for guidance – on de-streaming etc. Hoping to get everything done before March Break. Will be working closely with kids with credit counselling summary and will sort out what they need, pathways, etc.

Student Services

Currently during this shutdown, we went to Google forms to set up appointments. The link is on the website. Have worked with some students not passing to provide extra support and encourage final assignment completion.

Ran a pilot project in fall to send out information for all students to share how to access services in guidance and more broadly. For example, Nurse or Rideauwood Addiction Counselling, there

is a form. For Rideauwood, kids just put in a self referral – 16 and under need a parent sign. Over 16 can go without parent permission. To access social worker and psychologist, it is a tiered intervention that starts in the classroom. OCDSB tiered intervention is explained on website. We do our best to work as a team and support the student.

(Nancy) Thank you for all that you are doing! Is it possible to add parents to Google classroom for grads? It can be helpful for parents to be in the loop.

(Marianne) Yes, and we are always open to feedback and new ideas.

(Cindy) We have a wonderful guidance department. We know you are supporting them, staying on top of things and it's comforting for parents.

Meagan Dargavel (Learning Support Teacher)

Any student that has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or might need an IEP fall under my grouping. Run room 202. Students are assigned to class for learning strategies and also space where we accommodate students (e.g. extra time for a test). If a student is struggling academically, can help understand what's going on and supports needed.

Have had a few parents reach out through email with questions e.g. what is learning support? It is important to realize that problems can crop up later in high school. It's not just for kids with existing IEPs. We have had great success with transitions from elementary school. It's good to connect early and helpful to know what high school looks like – it's very different. The LST roles are different in high school as compared to elementary, so it is helpful to get the connections

early and happy to do transitional supports in the spring.

Spartan's camp, Dave and I have been running it together. We are trying to run one more camp this year. Cancelled fall virtual camp – not enough students. It is tough when held virtually.

There are still a lovely group of committed students who want to plan for their peers.

We had one wrestling practice before the holiday break. Hopefully will get some athletics back soon.

Bev Melymick

Teachers report from staff meeting. Ms. Granum wanted to share - Arts and culture SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) has momentum this year and we have students officially registered and this translates to funds coming to enrich art program. We will have enrichment opportunities coming such as guest speakers and workshops. Any student in an art class can participate in sessions. There were promo sweaters, pens, etc. Students can join in grade 11 and interested students and parents should reach out to Ms. Granum. Ms. Granum also working with ECL students on art.

We started the badminton team and were able to get in a few practices, but now shut down. There were 50 kids.

Will be starting breakfast club again on Monday.

5. Chair's Report (Nancy Dean and Cindy Jadayel)

A big thank you to Allison Cowan for usually doing the School Council minutes for us (it's a lot of work putting it all together). Thanks to Bev Melymick for setting up the guest teachers that join us monthly. For February, Bev has organized teacher Kim Guite to join us (Special Needs Classes and she helps organize a student Instagram page highlighting job opportunities for them and she helps students with resumes). In March, Bev has scheduled - Mellissa Holterman to join us - so if any of you have questions specifically related to the Science Dept, this will be a great opportunity to ask. Cindy was listening to AM 580 News Talk Radio this morning and they interviewed school trustee for zone 11 (and father on our school council) Mark Fisher (Claire is his wife here with us now). With the return of students to on-site school this Monday, there are a lot of concerns, he reassured that OCDSB are in constant connection with OPH and they are doing the best they can under the circumstances.

Thank you to Nancy Henry for guiding us to set up a land acknowledgement statement on the emails that go out from our school council (the signature block). Nancy suggested that we add the word 'learn' to the school council one. For example: We acknowledge that we live, learn and work on unceded Algonquin Anishinabe territory. I think this makes sense, since we are a learning institution. If any of you have any other suggestions, please let us know.

6. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean)

Meeting is next week for OCASC – will be trying to advocate for school councils and support for schools. Tomorrow Jan 12 is the Parent Involvement Committee meeting – can watch via livestream. Will be discussing the PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grant: received \$70,000 this year and still figuring out what to do with it.

Looking at options: dividing money up by council, putting speaker series together, or do a virtual version of parent conference. Time is running out. It is supposed to be spent by June and they don't have anything decided at this point. Also putting forth something from the Arts Advisory Committee perhaps putting in a school wide art based project.

What are your thoughts as parents? Some people are saying don't even bother. (Marty Carr) For this year that would be my vote. Not sure what kind of support the parent community needs right now during this unusual time.

(Nancy) Would be good to understand how our own council reaching out to more parents? For example, meet and greets. How can we reach more people and make connections?

7. Comments/Concerns

Prom - Marty and Stephanie have continued fundraising. They have collected bottles on Sunday nights and have made \$1,200. (Rachelle) It is on the list along with commencement, but we are not there yet in terms of what can and cannot do with Prom. We hope there is something we can do that supports the kids and provides an opportunity to celebrate. More discussions to happen to understand what can happen, what might be school sanctioned or not. Rachelle – please reach out if anyone needs anything or you know any families in need.

8. Next Meeting

Tues February 8, 2022, at 7PM on Zoom