

RHS Meeting Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont School Council		
Date:	Tuesday, February 8, 2022	Time:	7:05 – 8:21 p.m.
Location:	Virtual; Zoom	Facilitator Chair:	Nancy Dean and Cindy Jadayel

Attendance:	Lindsey Barr, Nancy Buttera, Marty Carr, Allison Cowan, Stephanie Glover, Dave Langner, Lynn Langner, Katie Lee, Nancy Dean, Cindy Jadayel and Mariam Isac
Staff:	Principal Rachelle Sintic, Vice Principal Nancy Henry, teachers Kim Guite and Bev Melymick

Agenda Items & Call to Order
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome2. Minutes Approval for (month of January)3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)4. Guest Teacher and Teacher's Report (Kim Guite and Bev Melymick)5. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)6. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean)7. Comments / Concerns8. Next Meeting (Tues, March 8)

1. Welcome

Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Minutes Approval

Approval of Minutes (month of January) Moved: Marty Carr Second: Katie Lee

3. Principal's Report

Principal Rachelle Sentic

- **Homework club** is Monday to Thursday online. It's busy and will likely go back to in person at some point but will also be available online to reach everyone.
- There are 4 sports now allowed.
- **Orchestra** hasn't officially started yet – figuring out details
- **Semester 2** is back to 4 classes – everyone seems a bit more settled
- **Updates and message to families** includes helpful information – be sure to look at bottom where there included is information the kids are getting.
- **Report cards** will be available on Wednesday
- There are some **new office staff** and still have 2 people that speak Arabic in office. Great team.
- In terms of **COVID-19**, school has been safe, and things are going well. RHS is in the top 5 for good attendance. **Rapid tests** will be coming home later this week and more available soon. There will be messaging.
- **Lockers** are coming soon – should be ready after family day weekend. Currently organizing locks. Don't have to have one, but anyone who wants one will have it.
- There is a **PD Day** on the Friday going into family day weekend.
- Moving forward with Culturally relevant pedagogy.

Question: Life Touch school photos. Will there be retakes? There should be another date, but don't have it yet. It will be shared.

Vice Principal Nancy Henry

- Teachers have been working hard, getting **marks** in from first semester.
- Everyone has been offering **opportunities** to kids where they can, knowing how hard the disruptions have been.
- Have finished **staffing** for semester 2 and have some fantastic LTO teachers in place.
- **Co-op** is up and running with placements in the neighbourhood for kids.
- We are working on **student ID cards**, there was a mix-up with photos and information.

4. Guest Teacher and Teacher's Report

Kim Guite (Guest teacher ECL Program)

- Program is formally called the DDP – developmentally delayed program, but often referred to as ECL – education for community living as the term is preferred. ELD – English Language Development.
- **Jobs for students**
 - Started an RHS Instagram page focused on jobs in the community.

- Want to connect with local employers (e.g., Home Depot, Costco, etc.).
- Trying to include government, City of Ottawa, camping type jobs as well as typical jobs for teens. City of Ottawa has just started posting summer jobs.
- Good to have connections in the community and have kids involved and working in the community.
- Also started **Drama club** – looking to open up things as soon as we can.
- Keeping an eye out on opportunities for students to help with movies filmed in Ottawa
- Want way more inclusion and find creative ways to include. Once we can open up a bit more students will be included into mainstream classes more (e.g., couple times a week).
- **Experiential program** is tough during COVID but hoping to open things up soon. Working on literacy and counting.
- Created a **reading area for ECL students**.
- Have 4 teachers on team and 20 ECL students
- **Lexia literacy** program will be launching soon. Reading program geared to individual students and very appropriate for teenagers. <https://www.lexialearning.com/>
- Students in ECL stay in program until 21 years old. Help parents plan for next steps when they graduate from program.
- Fai (RHS social worker) and Suhad and are running resumes and job interview skills, currently monthly, but soon will be every second Wednesday at lunch. Kim Guite posts jobs on Instagram for the kids. Looking into putting together a Job Fair in the fall or spring.
- **Best Buddies**. is starting as RHS is now a Best Buddies chapter. There are bracelets, posters etc. and originally it was involving ECL students, but it has been suggested to open to the whole school so many can benefit. Will have events as soon as able to meet and will be held at lunch.

Comments:

- Marty Carr – connect with employment office on Walkley. Contact there is interested. And talk to Tasso at Hometown. His wife is an elementary school principal.
- Stephanie Glover – Owl Rafting is hiring.
- Lindsey Barr – look at Family Harmonies a day programming for people of all abilities. <https://www.familyharmoniesfamiliales.ca/>

Bev Melymick (Teacher's report)

- **Sports** can start now – Badminton has begun.
- **Orchestra** started today.
- **Student council** can start meeting in person again. A shoutout to student council. They have done a great job on the morning announcements, assembly, ***
- Students are coming at 8:45 now, school starts at 9. Off at 3. There is no hanging around.
- We have **extra help available** at lunch in FST rooms.
- **Homework club** is still virtual right now.
- Laura Wheeler, Librarian and head of physical education does so much for school.
- Custodians are amazing.

5. Chair's Report

Cindy Jadayel

- Just a friendly reminder that all families who **borrowed devices** to support remote learning are asked to please return them (Chromebooks) to the RHS office as soon as possible; they were requested to be returned last month. We have handed out close to 100 Chromebooks to Ridgmont students and 40 to our feeder schools.
- Some Dates of Significance for February: It's now Eating Disorders Awareness Week and World Interfaith Harmony Week (February 1st to 7th) and February 11th is International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- **Prom.** Marty and Stephanie have been fundraising for the graduates and already have collected quite a bit of funds, collecting over \$1,000 from just bottles. With the hope there is something we can do to support the kids that are graduating this year, by providing them the opportunity to celebrate, I'm proposing to have any of you parents on our council join us online soon for a meeting to discuss this matter. If you're parents of kids graduating HS this year, please let us know if you are interested to join. The prom is typically something organized solely by the student council or grade 12 kids, not by the administration, but it would be great if we can get together with them virtually to see how we can help.
- For next month, we are hoping that someone from the **RHS Student Council** will join us (Nancy Henry- please reach out to invite them). Mellissa Holterman is set to join us in March (thanks to Bev) which will be great for any questions related to the Science Department.

Prom discussion (Marty Carr and Stephanie Glover)

- RHS grads have Instagram account
- When dates and venue confirmed more info to come.
- Have connected with student council.
- Have fundraised and have down payment on a venue for an unsanctioned, non-school run prom.
- Want to see if can host a pop-up shop for kids who don't have means to buy a new dress. "Fairy Godmother" offers suits and dresses for affordable rates.

6. OCASC Report

Nancy Dean

- Parent Reaching Out grant will be a speakers series. District is putting together presenters list. Believe that we can also host our own (like last year).
- Arts advisory committee - CFO Mike Carson
- There isn't a targeted, direct budget for arts, comes from multiple directions.

- There is \$3000 available for repairs or purchases for instruments. Schools must ask for the money.
- There is a \$375,000 for program and learning specific to arts. Can have people come and help teachers in areas where they need support.

7. Comments/Concerns

Lindsey Barr What is happening with exams?

Rachelle Sintic and Nancy Henry

- There will be no exams next semester either.
- Exams are a test of what you can memorize, not learn. Covid has changed the way we teach. The way we expect them to meet expectations, makes things more equitable. Have not lowered expectations.
- Changes in assessment and evaluation. Good to be aligned with equity and inclusion.
- Student grades have to be 100% term work during COVID period.
- Department heads make sure things are aligned.
- The focus of assessment now is to improve students learning.

Nancy Dean Mr. LeBel's approach was so good.

8. Next Meeting

Tues March 8, 2022, at 7PM on Zoom