

RHS School Council Committee Minutes

Title:	Ridgemont School Council Meeting		
Date:	Tuesday, June 14, 2022	Time:	7:06 – 8:22
Location:	Library and Virtual	Minutes:	Cindy Jadayel

In-person Attendance:	Rachelle Sentic, Greg Wysynski, Nancy Dean, Cindy Jadayel, Stephanie Glover, Katie Lee, Eleanor Fast, Lindsey Barr, Shahla Khan Salter, Maryam Alrawi, Heather Holmes, Bev Melymick, Laura Wheeler, Petra Alince
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Virtual Attendance:	Tom Ghadie, Dave Langner, Yasmeen Nabih, Paul Dillman, Nancy Henry, Elizabeth Bryce, Mariam Isac
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Agenda Items & Call to Order

1. Welcome & Approval of Minutes from May
2. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sentic)
3. Guest Teacher (Mr Ghadie - Auto Mechanics: Tech Dept)
4. Guest Teacher (Heather Holmes - to discuss end of year BBQ)
5. Teachers Report (Bev Melymick)
6. Student Council representatives (Yasmeen & Maryam)
7. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)
8. Special recognition of certain parents on our School Council
9. Comments / Concerns
10. Next meeting confirmation

1. Welcome & Approval of Minutes for May 2022

Called to Order at 7:06 Moved: Dave Langner. Second: Nancy Dean

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, learn and work on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabe territory.

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

The school year is almost over and the kids are tired and think it's over as they are used to exams at this time.

Leadership Camp was last week, it went really well, 2 - 8 pm.

JUNE happenings:

- June 11 - RHS School Council hosted a Giant Used Book Sale at St. Thomas the Apostle United Church, 2345 Alta Vista Drive Books for the whole family, impressive variety
- June 12 - 16 - Valedictorian Voting, there are 13 candidates, they are choosing 3 valedictorian's as there are 3 sessions for graduation and the student vote is final this Friday afternoon.
- June 15 - 10:30 - 1:30 RHS hosts Special Olympics in our back field
- June 16 - 9:30 - 2:30 - RHS hosts Grade 5/6 Basketball tournament
- June 17 - Valedictorian(s) Announced Meet with Grads at 11 in the auditorium
- June 20 - Teacher-Student Volleyball Game lunch
- June 21 - Grade 9 EQAO - Part 1
- June 22 - Grade 9 EQAO - Part 2
 - EMPLOYMENT Resource Fair - Foyer - 10:20 am - 1:50 am.
- June 23 - Locker Clean out, Pie-the-teacher/co-pres in the face event
 - Grads: Please return your Chromebooks
 - Grads: Lock return from lockers.
- June 24 - Locker Clean out
 - Student Council BBQ at Lunch! Halal Hotdogs.
 - Afternoon- year-end assemblies
- June 27 - Grade 12 Commencement in Auditorium 12:35 - 3:30 pm.
 - By last name, 45 min each session,
 - A - D starts at 12:30 PM,
 - E - M starts at 1:30 PM and
 - N - Z starts at 2:30

There's a max of 70 people and we'll be live-streaming on Youtube for those who cannot attend in person. We'll have some refreshments in the cafeteria and families can take pictures
- June 29 *PROM - unsanctioned* to let parents know that it is student run, not by teachers.

We recently purchased 3 sets of new desks and chairs for our classrooms, ordering slowly due to the high cost. We are running a new LGBTQ gym class next year.

Staffing Update: Teacher's Leaving: Durwin Mok - going to Longfields
Meagan Dargavel is going to the Board Office (supporting computers for kids with special education)
Nicole Sheffield is going to the Board Office as an instructional coach
We have a number of teachers going on maternity leave.
We are expecting Jessie Lavalee to be back from maternity leave by September

The Better with Basketball is going on Thursday's.

3. Guest Teacher (Tom Ghadie) Transportation Tech (Auto Mechanics)

It's a great pleasure teaching at RHS for 11 years now with the auto mechanics (transportation technology). We are a shop teaching students to work on all kinds of things; cars, lawnmowers, bicycles and basically anything to do with transportation. It's a great program and sometimes we work on teachers or students' cars. We are definitely open to our students working on their parents cars (brakes, tires, etc) Kids are very engaged and motivated.

4. Guest Teacher (Heather Holmes) Music and Student Council

CALL FOR ADULT VOLUNTEERS - We are looking for assistance to run the end of year BBQ at lunchtime on **Friday, June 24th, 10:15 am** looking for parent council volunteers that day and some funds from school council.

We purchased a BBQ and it was delivered today and we are borrowing one from Charles H Hulse. We need adults to help BBQ and with the trips to purchase and deliver food & drink supplies to RHS.

We are planning to get 800 halal hotdogs/buns, some kinds of drinks and condiments. They can eat on regular paper towels.

The student council raised \$ for this event (over \$1000), but we will still need some funds. All members of council voted in favor of giving \$400 towards this event. Parents that are willing to volunteer at the BBQ are: Cindy, Shahla, Nancy and Stephanie, to meet at 10:15 AM that day to set up. We will correspond via email with Heather Holmes to arrange the details.

5. Teacher's Report (Bev Melymich)

Ms Guite and ECL are hosting the Special Olympics track June 15th with other schools coming to join us.

With Covid restrictions lifted June looks like what we envision ECL to be - swimming has started again (first time in 2 years), Field Trips to Lansdowne (met the Redblacks), Brewer Park and movies with other schools to come. Bus training, safety awareness with police officers - lots of getting out in the community - first time many of them have gotten out since Covid started!!

Mangosteen's on Bank, an amazing local business has really welcomed our classes - they have them trying different fruits when we go in the store. Big smiles from owners and manager when we go

Best Buddies will start in Sept. at RHS for the whole school - not just ECL. Will be run as a safe place to come hang out as well as pairing up some ECL students with a mainstream buddy for lunch (Shaina, Jen, Jerome etc...)

Wil hit the ground running with inclusion in Sept - have already started with Loai and Shaina. Work experience will resume in Sept too.

Gardens - The raised garden beds were delivered. The plan is to put together with classes next week with mulch around

Friday June 24th Year- End assembly and Student Council Year End BBQ

Soccer, Badminton, New comers girls hockey and track & field and hoping to have hockey next year for boys

Orchestra and Scene study semester two - went well :)

6. Student Council (Yasmeen & Maryam)

(Yasmeen) We are planning an end of year BBQ for all the students and staff. We had a meeting today with the nominees for the Student Council election. We are planning a Spirit Week for the last week of school. Mon: dress as Adam Sandler, Tues: dress as a Tourist, Wed: dress as Mr Chambers, Thurs: Pie-in-the-face (safely with teachers and outside) and Fri: the big BBQ. Thank you to the School Council. (Cindy) Can you please send the message to the new student council to please attend these monthly meetings, as this is our purpose; to support the students. (Yasmeen) Yes, I'll send the message.

(Maryam) The last Multicultural week went great: Mon and Tues was Henna and Dabke dancing in the lobby, Wed was Paper Lanterns Origami (Japanese), Thurs was famous culture past and Fri was a multicultural fashion show, it was a really fun week. Right now we are working on organizing the students council for next year. I want to thank the

School Council so much for all of your support and you are like a family to me and I'll miss you all.

7. Chair's Report (Cindy Jadayel)

1. "Multicultural Day Lunch": Fri May 26 was a big success.. The experience has been great for my classes and it's had a great impact on our students, by eating healthy and the business perspective of heading this project. Durwin Mok has been the lead with this and our School Council has supported this. I hope that you will decide to continue with the financial support next school year. While running the healthy lunches program, Mr Mok's class has been raising funds for the non-for-profit Beads of Awareness (the money is going towards a tribe in Uganda to provide solar powered lights for people to see at night).

2. The Workshop that took place on May 18th was fantastic: Youth substance use and tech use: prevention and caregiver guidance. We had very good feedback, and it was recorded for those who could not make it, as well as all the information was translated in Arabic in the chat box (recorded as well). Kootos to *Nancy Solange Dean* for her great work putting this PRO grant workshop together.

3. Last Saturday June 11th our Ridgemont Book Sale Fundraiser, held in the parking lot of St Thomas' Church down the street from RHS, led by *Marty and Stephanie* was very successful – they had 10,000 books for sale and it was beautiful weather, so lots of crowds came out. A few of us parents volunteered that day as well and we thank you for your help. \$2,000 was raised. Some of the funds will be spent on supporting the students that would like financial assistance to attend the graduation prom and the majority of the funds will be sent in to our office and deposited in our School Council account tonight.

4. Just to mention, for the parents of graduating students, the prom, which is not school sanctioned, but led by students council and parents from our council, is taking place on Wed June 29th at Orchard View Event Centre (6346 Deermeadow Dr, Ottawa), the ticket cost is \$90 and includes a bus back to RHS at 11 PM.

Last, but not least, Cindy wished to express her gratitude in being involved with the RHS School Council for the last 7 years (17 years in total with school councils including elementary) and if ever this council needs any support from community members, she would be pleased to oblige (forever a Spartan!) A folder (pertinent to RHS activities in the last 7 years), handed over to Nancy Solange Dean, who plans to continue as Chair of RHS council. Cindy advocated for World Changing Kids, in the hope that our council will consider starting the Acts of Kindness Program in September 2022 (kids competing to be the most kind) through World Changing Kids, with our very own parent on council; Lindsey Barr.

8. Special Recognitions

There were specific parents that we missed thanking before they “graduated with their kids” during the pandemic, so we are taking the opportunity to acknowledge them in appreciation of all of their time and effort on the Ridgemont School Council. Thanks to Ms Wheeler’s help, we have certain books that are needed in the RHS library and we are dedicating them with an inscription of your names to remain here for the students to benefit from. Special thanks to:

1. Paul Dillman & Elizabeth Bryce
2. Petra Alince

This year, the following parents are moving on and again, we would like to thank them for all of their work and support:

3. Stephanie Glover
4. Shahla Khan-Salter
5. Eleanor Fast

..we wish you and your families all the very best in the future and you will be missed.

In addition, it has been our good fortune to have such a wonderful and efficient VP with us for the past few years, Nancy Henry, who is set to retire. We wish you the very best and thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Rachelle is not leaving RHS, however, she has been a very supportive principal and considering how her job has been especially challenging during the pandemic, we wish to thank her with this small gift as well.

Bev is also not leaving us, but she should be recognized for all of her hard work and dedication, on top of her support for extracurricular activities and the breakfast club, she has been the teachers rep at our school council meetings for the last 10 + years.

9. Comments/Concerns

(Bev) This has been an unbelievable year with the Students Council, a big thank you to Yasmeen and the team.

(Rachelle) We are running a Better with Basketball program, which is offered for 10/11 schools that fit a certain criteria (priority neighborhoods).

(Bev) Laura Wheeler and Pam have been doing a great job getting more and more sports going. Lots of intramurals going on at lunch. Also, there have been some requests for hockey, as we’ve had in the past, but we need to find a staff lead (right now we have a girls team going). Jim Durrell center is used.

(Nancy) As part of the Arts Advisory and an advocate for arts, I'm interested to know if there's any news about performance based arts and what is the plan. (Rachelle) Jessie is back in September and she has a lot of plans to cover that piece of arts.

(Heather Holmes) Please to announce that she's expecting and may or may not be back in Sept, but is due in October.

(Stephanie) We actually have 112 graduates attending the Prom this year (as compared to 10 last year!) It is a very fancy location. Parents are invited to attend a Garden Party 4pm - 5pm, before the Prom to take pictures.

(Petra) It was such a pleasure volunteering with all the sports and the special needs class. Just to mention, my son is in his 2nd year at Carleton in the Software Engineering program and he has been doing really well (well prepared) due to the great knowledge he gained from his teachers here at RHS; specifically Mr Lesser and Ms Mirella Bareggi.

(Shahla) It has been a great pleasure working with this School Council, this is my last year, bittersweet and thanks to all of you.

(Cindy) We would love to hear from VP Nancy and learn about any retirement plans she has.. (Nancy Henry) We bought an RV and plan to visit all through Turtle Island (he's Mohawk) and we both ride Harley Davidsons which will be on the RV! After 34 years of being an educator, the best of my days have been here at Ridgemont and I'm humbled to serve this population of amazing families, even though it has been a challenging (unprecedented) time, many thanks to all parents and staff.

10. Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tues Sept 13th at 7 PM** with the option of joining in person or online