

RHS School Council Minutes November 8, 2022. Ridgemont HS Library.

Date & location:

Attendance:	Nancy dean (Chair / parent), Mike Furlong (parent), Lindsay Barr (parent), Ana Flaman (parent), Nicole Gibeau (parent), Mike Furlong (Parent), Sarah West (parent), Marty Carr (parent), Rachelle Sintic (RHS Principal), Laura Wheeler (RHS parent council teacher rep), Claude Pike (RHS Vice Principal), Hamdullah Arbab (parent), Marium Isac(parent),
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Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Approval of Minutes (October 11, 2022)
2. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)
3. Teacher's Report (Laura Wheeler)
4. Chair's Report (Nancy Dean)
5. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean)
6. Comments / Concerns
7. Next Meeting (Tues, December 13, 2022)

1. Welcome & Minutes Approval

Call to Order at 7:05pm

Minutes Approval: month of October 2022

Moved: Mike Furlong

Second: Nicole Gibeau

Vote result: carried and approved

Note from Chair: Council can invite teachers to Council meetings if there are particular topics Council members are interested in hearing about

2. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)

- **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)** - being organized for the Grade 11 and 12 students. It will take place the last week of November. Information will be sent home soon.
- **ELD Parent Night** – will take place November 16 from 6-8pm. For parents and guardians of students who have had interrupted schooling. Higher numbers of students registered

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this year, so funding has increased significantly. RHS is staffing up to fill positions accordingly.

- **Take your Kids to Work Day** – took place on November 2.
- **Fathers, Uncles, Big Brothers Kitchen Table conversation** - took place on October 19 from 6-8pm. About 30-35 parents attended. Event was focused on newcomer families, with the objective of sharing what a typical school day looks like. Translation was provided. Administration has an upcoming meeting with the Superintendent to determine next steps.
- **2022 OCDSB Parent Conference** – took place at RHS on Saturday, November 5. About 40 RHS students volunteered at the event. A few hundred people attended the conference.
- **Report cards** – will be distributed via School Messenger Secure Document Delivery on November 23.
- **Working with 2SLGBTQ2S+ community** – RHS Administration is working with Kusha Dadui (OCDSB Trans and Gender Diverse Student Support Coordinator) and with Jess Houghton (OCDSB 2SLGBTQ2S+ Guidance Coach) to support 2SLGBTQ2S students. Jess met with the RHS Spirit Club on Friday, November 4.
- **Safe Spaces** – RHS Administration is working on the creation of Safe Spaces for teachers to ask questions related to equity-deserving groups such as the BIPOC community.
- **YMCA Exchange (Claude Pike)** – RHS is participating in a YMCA exchange with a community in Saskatchewan, which will take place in May 2023. Billet families from the RHS community would be appreciated.

3. Teacher's Report (Laura Wheeler)

• November News

Guidance/LST/ SST		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities at Carleton University is offering a virtual information session - Make the Cut - for all Grade 12 students with IEPs and their parents about transitions to post-secondary (at any institution) on November 23, 2022 from 12:45 - 3:00 pm. Register by November 11, 2022 by filling out form emailed to Grade 12 IEP students or visit Room 202 for a hard copy of registration documents. Parents are also welcome to attend sessions focused on Planning Transitions, Learning Strategies Supports, Assistive Tech, and a Student Success Panel. Message LST Lauren.Greene-Roesel@ocdsb.ca for additional information.
Phys Ed		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abilities Centre is hosting a Wheelchair Basketball workshop for PE Classes this Tuesday and Wednesday• Harvest House Ottawa is presenting to our grade 9 PE students

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		<p>during their Substance Use & Abuse Unit in health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodgeball Intramurals start next week!
Civics & Careers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Pillay's Civics classes successfully conducted the Student Vote for the municipal elections for the whole school in the cafeteria on the 1th October, 2022. Students researched candidates for all 3 races, created posters, organized the event, tallied results and kept the school informed through school announcements. It was heartening to see democracy in action at school.
Library		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genrefication of fiction section on-going. Slow process as we don't have a library tech assigned to our school. We are about ¼ of the way done. It's been useful so far as students definitely ask for books by genre more often than by author.
Social Sciences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Niemiec-Moore's Geography class is about to start a big project on landforms in Canada and the world, where students will research about them and build dioramas and present them to the class to demonstrate their learning. • Mrs. Robertson's History Class is working on a display for the lobby on Remembrance Day. They are looking at propaganda, people, and battles in WWII and will be building dioramas of their battle. • Mr. Pike demonstrated how to convert dough from flour into protein to Food and Nutrition students in D. Pillay's class . A neat meat alternative! This protein-packed alternate food was transformed into a brilliant Jamaican meal served with a variety of veggies and rice for a tasty, wholesome meal. We used the remainder of the vegetables to create a neat Chinese stir-fried rice dish the next day!
2nd Languages		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
English		<p>John Serroul and myself have begun a Debate and Public Speaking club this year. We intend to help the students develop great communication skills as well as how to express themselves clearly, logically, and in a persuasive way. Michael Kadoura has a background in Public Speaking and Debate from the State of Michigan where he taught these courses for over 10 years.</p>

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Science		<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Mathematics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the team: Ben Jennings (ELD math, ELD science) and Kate Braid (ELD math, ESLAO/BO)
Arts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grade 12s will be performing their monologues this Monday! There were all given the same monologue that is actually a poem! They must add subtext and meaning using voice, physicality, lights, sounds, set design, and other actors. This is a challenging project but I am so proud of what they are coming up with. Grade 9 drama class will be starting Greek theatre and Choral speaking. They will also be searching for a poem, looking for a deeper meaning behind it and using choral techniques to present perform. This is one of those “out of the box, out of what they think of when it comes to theatre” assignments and where those creative students really shine.
Co-op		<ul style="list-style-type: none">
ECL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work experience has begun. Some students being integrated into other classes. 67's hockey game coming up joining many other schools. Hosted Gloucester for a visit last week. Bi-weekly swimming is now a walk away at Clifford Bowey.
Teams		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sr. Boys Volleyball team in playoffs now (Game today - will post results) - Finished 3rd in Regular season, very strong team, coached by Mr. Narraway and Mrs. Niemiec-Moore Sr. Girls Volleyball Team has been chosen and practices are underway! Girls are super excited as we have not had a team since our Grade 12's were in Grade 9. First tournament is November 24th, We (Ridgemont) are hosting, coached by Mrs. Niemiec-Moore and Mrs. Robertson (LTO teacher) is helping out as well! Ridgemont's ESports team is up and running! Miss Gray and Mr.

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		<p>Shimens are coaching. Team members (grade 9 to 12) are playing Rocket League.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ridgemont's Hockey team has started their season with 2 wins and a loss. They have a tournament this Friday.• Ridgemont newcomers girls hockey has also started back up. We had a great time learning/remembering how to skate and move the puck! We practice every Thursday from now until March.
Clubs		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Maja Villarroel and Mrs. Niemiec-Moore are heading the Yearbook team with some Grade 12 and 11 students and we are continuing to recruit! We meet on Wednesdays at lunch.• Spartan Studios is killing it with training from some graduates. They have learnt Lights and will be learning sound on Wednesday. They were professional and outstanding last Saturday for the parent council and will all be involved in the remembrance day ceremony. They will be responsible for the lights, sounds, curtains, mics and organizing the assembly in terms of tech. It feels so good to get kids back in the auditorium training!• Our first two day Spartan's Camp in 3 years is coming up December 2-3. Students will go home on Friday night at 9:45 and return for a full day of activities on Saturday. For more information contact Mr Chambers.• The Garden Club has started to greenify Ridgemont's classrooms with pothos and spider plants. We are also starting to grow avocados from seed this week. Ms. Katheryn Braid has joined the team.
Other Programs?		<ul style="list-style-type: none">••

4. Chair's Report (Nancy Dean)

- **OCDSB School Council Newsletter** - all OCDSB parents can subscribe to the School Council Newsletter to receive email updates when new information is posted. Link is here (upper right-hand corner): [Supporting School Councils: News and Updates - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board \(ocdsb.ca\)](https://www.ocdsb.ca/supporting-school-councils/news-and-updates)
- **School Council Training Resources Survey** – encourage parents to fill out this survey by November 21, 2022. The OCDSB Family and Community Engagement (FACE) department

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provides resources and in-person and virtual training opportunities to support School Councils in engaging families, eliminating barriers to participation, and collaborating effectively and wants to hear from the community. Ideas will inform future School Council resources. Link is here: [School Council Training Resources Survey: Share Your Ideas! - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board \(ocdsb.ca\)](https://www.ocdsb.ca/school-council-training-resources-survey-share-your-ideas)

- **OCDSB Family and Community Engagement Department** – is looking for volunteers to participate in two working groups to develop district documentation supporting school councils across the OCDSB. The topics are fundraising and best practices. Encourage parents to volunteer to submitting an expression of interest by November 21, 2022. Link is here: [School Council Working Group: Expressions of Interest Open - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board \(ocdsb.ca\)](https://www.ocdsb.ca/school-council-working-group-expressions-of-interest-open)
- **Camille Williams-Taylor, OCDSB Director of Education** – has accepted a position with Durham District School Board. OCDSB Trustees will be undertaking the selection process for a new Director of Education. If you have input about this process, contact your trustee.
- **Welcome dinner for new OCDSB Trustees** – to take place on November 15.
 - Link to Trustee information [meet your trustees](https://www.ocdsb.ca/meet-your-trustees)

5. OCASC Report (Nancy Dean)

- **Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) update** – next meeting to take place on November 17. OCASC Website: <https://ocasc.ca>

6. Comments / Concerns

- **Washroom access for transgender and non-binary students** – parents raised concerns about an incident that took place when a transgender girl was targeted for using the girl's washroom, and an Instagram account that was subsequently started, targeting transgender students using the washrooms of their choice. Administration met with the students involved in the washroom incident and Instagram account. Parents and students are encouraged to report the account to Instagram in order to have it taken down. Attendees spoke about ideas for raising awareness of transgender-related issues such as an assembly, targeted classroom discussions (with a facilitator), more frequent parent gatherings. Using the Parent's Reaching Out (PRO) grant for a speaker series was also discussed.
- **Bring Your Parent to School** idea was raised, as was the idea of a **multicultural dinner**.

9. Next Meeting

- **Next meeting** – to take place on December 13, 2022. Last meeting of 2022. Plan is to have a visioning/planning meeting for the next year. **Meeting will take place in-person.**