

## RHS School Council Minutes

**Date & location: October 10, 2023 - Videoconference.**

<b>Attendance</b> :	Nancy Solange (Chair)	Jasmine Northcott
	Rachelle Sintic (Principal)	Li Toribio
	Laura Wheeler (Teacher	Jon Wootton
	Representative)	Ann Wootton
	Susan Ragheb (MLO)	Lindsey Barr
	Lama Baltaji (Student Council)	Melanie Bolster
	Sophie (Student Council)	Elham Seddigh Ayafor
	Mike Furlong	Katie Lee
	Nicole Gibeau	Archan Dabadi
	Sally Fereday	

### Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda and Minutes (September 26, 2023)
2. Guest Teacher - Meet our Multicultural Liaisons (MLO)
3. Principal's Update (Rachelle Sintic)
4. Teachers Update (Laura Wheeler)
5. Student Council Update (Lama Baltaji)
6. Chair's Update (Nancy Dean)
7. Officer elections
8. Next Meeting (Tuesday, November 14, 2023)

### 1. Welcome & Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

#### **Agenda Approval**

Moved: Mike Furlong

Seconded: Jasmine Northcott

Carried.

#### **Minutes Approval (September 26, 2023)**

Moved: Mike Furlong

Seconded: Jasmine Northcott

Carried.

### 2. Guest Teacher - Meet our Multicultural Liaisons (MLO) (Susan Ragheb)

- Multicultural Liaison Officers (MLO) work for Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization ([OCISO](#)).
- There is a team of 23 in Ottawa and they work with both the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and the Ottawa Catholic School Board to support newcomer students and their families with a variety of services, including integrating into schools and the surrounding environment, providing settlement supports, referring to counselling, and intervening in crises. MLOs also support school staff and help build bridges between staff and newcomer families.
- Ridgemont's MLOs are Susan Ragheb, Abdirahman Hilowle and Emanuel Molla.
- Parents and guardians who are interested in supporting the work of the MLOs and newcomer families could consider volunteering for the [Friends of the Family](#) program, in which a volunteer family is connected with a newcomer family in order to build friendly connections, join social events, explore the city, support one another, and learn about each other's culture.
- Interested families can contact Susan at [Susan.ragheb@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Susan.ragheb@ocdsb.ca) or [sragheb@ociso.org](mailto:sragheb@ociso.org)

### 3. Principal's Update (Rachelle Sintic)

- Picture retakes are on October 31 and November 1.
- Morning basketball begins this week. Anyone is welcome to come and play basketball between 7:30/7:45-8:30am – times are on the school [website](#)).
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) planning and preparations are underway. Grade 10s will take the test in March and outstanding students in \*. Practice sessions will be offered.
- Registrations continue to increase almost daily, so Ridgemont has obtained additional sections. Registration is at approximately 850 students; the highest number in recent years. Classes being added include Food, Integrated Arts and Geography.
- Progress reports are due at the end of the day on Friday, October 13. They will be distributed in the same manner as in the past – via email and accessed using Ontario Education Numbers (OENs). Students can have a printed version if they like. Visit [ocdsb.ca/reportcards](http://ocdsb.ca/reportcards) for details.
- Homework club continues to take place Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday from 3:30-7:30 (no cost).

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### 4. Teacher's Update (Laura Wheeler)

- The Physical Education program has been very busy - soccer, basketball and cross country teams have started.
- Outdoor Education has resumed for the first time since before the pandemic; the participating students are headed to Gatineau Park on October 11.
- The Physical Education program has a group coming in to teach wheelchair basketball – they will run a lunchtime session and classes.
- The Arts Department is running an Arts and Culture [SHSM](#) (Specialist High Skills Major) program for Grade 11 students. Participants can take courses in arts, co-op, etc. and are awarded a specialized diploma in SHSM when they graduate. Parents can reach out to the school if they have any questions.

### 5. Student Council Update (Lama Baltaji)

- Ridgemont's first spirit week took place the week of October 2-6. Participation was high, with lots of engagement from the incoming Grade 9 students.
- Student Council is now planning a Halloween Spirit week, which will include a haunted house (a very popular activity last year) and a costume contest. Donations of Halloween decorations are appreciated to help with decorating the cafeteria and the haunted house.
- Spartan Stars will be running intramurals this year.

### 6. Chair's Update (Nancy Dean)

- Nancy Dean is happy to see so many people join Ridgemont School Council this year.
- A reminder that OCDSB holds board meetings on Tuesday evenings. The Board meets as Committee of the Whole to discuss issues in detail. Decisions made at Committee of the Whole are recommendations which are then brought to a meeting of the Board of Trustees, the final decision-making body for the school district.
- Public Committee of the Whole and Board meetings are live-streamed via [webcast](#) and posted on the OCDSB's [YouTube Channel](#).
- Nancy is Ridgemont's representative for [OCASC](#) (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils). She will provide an update at the next Ridgemont School Council meeting, following the monthly OCASC meeting.

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### 7. Officer Elections

- Nancy Dean reviewed the responsibilities for each of the officer positions, which include Chair/Co-Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications.
- The following people self-nominated for positions:
  - o Co-Chair: Nancy Dean, Ann Wootton
  - o Vice-Chair: Elham Seddigh Ayafor
  - o Treasurer: Li Toribio
  - o Secretary: Mike Furlong and Nicole Gibeau
  - o Communications: Nancy Dean
- Jasmine Northcott moved to accept the full slate of candidates as presented.
- Nine members voted in favour of the full slate of candidates.
- The subject of Council committees was moved forward as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

### 9. Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023.