

RHS School Council Minutes

Date & location: December 12, 2023. Ridgemont H.S. Library

Attendance :	Nancy Dean (Chair) Sophie Kholtochina (Student Council Representative) Rachelle Sintic (Principal) Nadia Gandhi (Guest Teacher) Li Mariel Toribio Katharine Sara Godding	Mike Furlong Melanie Bolster Sally Fereday Katie Lee Jonathan Wootton Florence Ann Wootton Nicole Gibeau
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Agenda Items

1. Welcome & Approval of Minutes (November 14, 2023)
2. Student Council Update (Sophie Kholtochina)
3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)
4. Guest Teacher (Nadia Gandhi, Department Head, English,
5. Committee Discussions
6. Next Meeting (Tuesday, January 9, 2024)

1. Welcome & Minutes Approval

Call to Order at 7:05 pm

Minutes Approval (November 14, 2023)

Moved: Florence Ann Wootton

Second: Jon Wootton

Vote result (CARRIED)

2. Student Council (Sophie Kholtochina)

- Spirit week December 18-22 – events taking place include spirit days, gingerbread house contest, door decorating contest, and movie in cafeteria (students can pay to miss first and

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second class to watch a movie. All funds will go to the food bank. Selling baked goods during the 20-minute break).

- Council meeting on Thursday – discussing coming events.
- Kindness week – same week as Pink Shirt Day (Week of February 26). Activities will include thank you cards, karaoke – students vs teachers, giving out free t-shirts.

3. Principal's Report (Rachelle Sintic)

- Student course selection for next year – beginning of February. Ministry has new course codes and some have been sunset. Guidance will work with students.
- Tech courses mandatory for Grade 9-10 students – must take 1. Will have a Grade 9 foods – planning to pair with Green Industries (waiting approval for that).
- Some courses renamed and repackaged. Guidance counsellors will share info with schools.
- Info night this Thursday, December 14 for Grade 8 students.
- Literacy test organized by Nadia and ran November 22-31.
- Last month was Holocaust Education month. Had a presenter via Google meet. Great feedback.
- Simon Weisenthal Education Centre – classes and workshops coming up in January. Anti-hate, etc. Muslim Student Association put on assembly on Islamophobia month earlier.
- Midterm marks recently sent out. Principals and VPs for next year announced. No changes at Ridgemont.
- Stomp Program underway (Students Together Moving to Prevent Tobacco Use grant) – anti vaping campaign. Students who hand in a vape receive a gift card.

Question: date for graduation?

Response: Rachelle looking into that. Board provides parameters to schools. Looking at June 25 in the afternoon. Have to double check – fifth day for exams; generally don't have exams for that day. Will be held in the auditorium.

Question (Nancy Dean): School Council would like to provide feedback on format for graduation - E.g., length, communication, what to expect. Parents would like to start a graduation committee.

Response: Yes – can sit down to discuss. Greg is going to organize timing.

4. Guest Teachers (Nadia Gandhi, Department Head, English)

- Nadia Gandhi is Department Head for English, ESL, EFL, Student Success, Right to Read, etc.
- Anecdotal evidence that Right to Read strategies/support are working.

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- Reading assessment on all students before they leave Grade 8 (in May-June). Scores are given to HS staff so they can identify those who may need targeted support right away.
- Ridgemont is piloting a Student Success Model for the OCDSB. Other high schools interested in visiting Ridgemont to learn more about the model. Two classes: teacher goes into class to help students to use work they are doing in the class.
- Currently about 80 students in the classroom, but scope is widening. Won't know final participation numbers until January. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Winter also assist for Math, reaching half the school population. Every Grade 9 science class also participating, so program reaches a wide swath of the population.
- ELD (English Literacy Development) - food drive underway. Literacy, numeracy built in as part of the activity.
- Guidance – University applications are due January 15, 2024. College applications are due February 1, 2024. Guidance staff are visiting Grade 10 classes to talk about course selection. Civics class – lots of good discussion about pathways, setting goals, etc.

5. Committee Discussions

- Nancy Dean outlined the following considerations for committees:

Multicultural Dinner

Would like to start up the committee and then extend invitation to rest of school – open to folks who don't necessarily want to be part of council but want to support. Usually happens in May but committee can make a decision about a date. Touch base with Multicultural Liaison Officer to see how this could work, what to consider, etc. Has been a potluck in the past – dishes from different cultures. Activities that could go with it – art pieces, kiosks, etc. Please avoid Ramadan – March – April 10 and note that Roberta Bondar has multicultural dinner planned for Education Week - May 8.

Parent Reaching Out Grant - [PRO GRANT 2023-2024](#)

Application needs to be in by January 12. Committee could look at what we could do with PRO grant.

Grade 12 Graduation

Mr. Chambers, Ms. Alexander and Ms. Nemic. Connect with them to talk about how to work together.

Fundraising

N/A

- Attendees broke out into small group discussions to consider the purpose of each committee and to brainstorm things they would like to work towards. Results of the discussions are recorded [here](#).

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9. Next Meeting (Tuesday, January 9, 2024)

- In-person meeting, Tuesday, January 9, 2024.