



Rousseau School Council Meeting – October 2nd, 2024

Location – School Library and MS Teams

ITEM	NOTES
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	<p>Call to order 6:30 pm Reading of the Land Acknowledgement</p>
Attendees	<p>M. Seo (Principal) B. Davis R. Garden J. Martin J. Rein K. Royds Nicole H. Conti J. Buesink K. Beavers M. Craig L. DiPaolo K. Strecker A. Assaf J. Blair J. Martin R. MacLean J. Burns M. Thompson L. Speziale J. Reid L. Haverkamp A. Longboat A. Burke D. Gravino S. Wellman-Earl B. Bennett (Teacher rep) L. Dale L. Haverkamp</p>
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees must be at the first meeting to be included as a member-at-large
Principal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school year began with 3 kindergarten classes, however JSC only had 7 students. - Every Fall, the school board provides recommendations for reducing class sizes. This Fall, JSC was directed to close. - Students in grade 2-6 had to be moved around and redistributed to reallocate students as most classes were over their class caps. As such, a new grade 2/3 class was opened, the grade 3 class was changed to a grade 3/4 class. - Core French thereby was increased to 0.9, but as such the allotment for a dedicated gym and health teacher was reduced from 0.5 to 0.3 which now means that Ms. K has been reduced to 3 afternoons/week <u>Questions from parents in attendance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How were decisions made about which kids were moved around? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academics, socioemotional factors were considered, and conversations were had with teachers, the learning resource teacher, and principal. Teachers, with their best professional judgement, provided suggestions. - What was the logic in moving students who didn't necessarily need to be moved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In such a small school, it is hard to escape split classes. - It is concerning that the grade 3 students are spread amongst 3 classes. - Would it be possible for the grade 4s who are moving to the new 3/4 split class to enter through the Junior wing (vs. the primary doors). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, Mrs. Bennett can help facilitate this. ○ The recess boundaries remain the same. - Will opportunities that will be afforded to the upper years (i.e. grade 3+), be afforded to the grade 3s in the 2/3 class? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will be sure to look into this - Grade 4 receive Core French, which as a by-product, the 3s in those split classes will also have exposure to French. But the grade 3s in the 2/3 class will not have French exposure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mrs. Seo has spoken to many families and followed up with many families who had reached out and expressed concerns. None of the decisions were easy. - This was one of the biggest reorganizations the school has undergone within the most recent years. - The direction comes from the Board: grade 3/4 split classes are very common, because grade 4 and beyond have higher class caps. - Parents can voice to the School Board about the concerns regarding timing of the reorganization: there is strength in numbers and expressing concerns (i.e. petition) <p>Suggestion for reorganization next year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to families ahead of time to give a heads up and have a conversation to provide the opportunity to flag any pertinent issues. <p>School playground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An inspection was done over the summer, the school was informed in September that the playground must be closed - The Board will do the repairs, and hopefully it will get done before the winter <p>Junior washrooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New toilets were installed - New partitions are on order - Washrooms have been painted <p>Primary washroom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New toilets were installed - New partitions are on order - Washroom have been painted <p>There is an accessible washroom which is designated as gender-neutral</p>
Teacher's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross country has begun and is in full swing. The meet will be held on Monday, October 7th • The swim team begins October 9th; information/permission forms have already been handed out • Focus on Nature will be coming up for some classes on October 21st (Grade 3/4a) and October 28th (grade 3/4b) • Spirit wear is coming and orders can be placed soon. The orders will be brought to the school for parents to pick up. Parents will have a 3 week window to order online. • Ms. Stead (Grade 6) is planning a food drive from October 7th-25th. Non-perishable items will be collected for Ancaster Community Services. Students have set a goal of 500 items. If families have boxes they can donate, the students will need lots of boxes to pack everything up. • Grade 6s are also planning a twin/triplet day for October. • JSB raised and released two Monarch butterflies. They learned about the life cycle and monarch migration. • Upcoming trip for JSA and JSB to Brantwood Farms
Elections	<p>Review of positions: Treasurer, Secretary, Chair/co-chair, member-at-large</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H. Conti stepping down as co-chair <p>Only submissions received were for Treasurer and Secretary</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Craig: Treasurer • S. Wellman-Earl: Secretary • K. Strecker: Chair <p>- Support to form subcommittees and greater presence on council would be welcomed</p>
Fundraising initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school/School Council needs to have a fundraising plan that has to be shared with the Board by the end of the month • How is it determined how funds are spent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goal is to get fundraising dollars to the classrooms as quickly as possible. - Do the funds need to be dispersed in an even manner, or can they be distributed in an uneven manner (i.e. to classes on an as-needed basis)? - Council funds are not spent on facility-related items or new technology that the Board will cover the cost for. <p>Update on school council accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFS Fundraiser: \$410.44 • Fun Fair: \$10,320.39 • Groove-a-thon: \$2,510.09 • Poinsettias: \$387.26 • Outdoor learning: \$855.77 <p><u>Council motion:</u></p> <p>→ Recommendation for Ms. Coburn and Ms. Stead to have access to the \$400 (that teachers were afforded last year) for her new classroom, as well as Mrs. Bennett's sensory room. Vote = pass</p> <p>→ Recommendation to allocate \$250/class to spend right now Vote = pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to streamline the process between teacher requests/purchasing and council
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage: was using the stage for storage. It is now cleared and is accessible; the YMCA does store materials up there. • Devices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grades K-8: there should be no personal devices in the school classroom
Scheduling	<p>Recommendation for School Council meeting schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Wednesday of each month <p>Vote = pass</p>
Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Send ideas for fundraising to Kim to be collated (i.e. we have done Fun Fair, Groove-a-thon) to create a fundraising plan for the year ➤ Sarah to circulate minutes from today's meeting ➤ Ask teachers for their wish lists and/or look into whether gift cards can be purchased and sent to teachers ➤ Mrs. Seo to include information about the Board's new device-policy in the next school newsletter ➤ Kim to look into getting a Facilities inspection for Rousseau ➤ Sarah to review last years' minutes
Adjournment	