



Rousseau School Council Meeting – November 6th, 2024

Location – School Library and MS Teams

ITEM	NOTES
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Call to order 6:30 pm Reading of the Land Acknowledgement
Attendees	M. Seo (Principal) K. Strecker (Chair) L. Rossman-Bhatia (Member-at-large) A. Longboat (Member-at-large) A. Burk (Member-at-large). L. Speziale (Member-at-large) P. Welsh (Member-at-large). M. Craig (Treasurer) J. Buesink (Member-at-large) M. Thompson (Member-at-large) L. Dale (Member-at-large) K. Royds (Member-at-large) B. Bennett (Teacher Rep). S. Wellman-Earl (Secretary) M. Fawcett (Teacher) H. Conti (Member-at-large). J. Burns (Member-at-large)
Principal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween parade: great turnout to watch the parade. Lots of great feedback from students and parents. Washroom update: new partitions installed over the PA day, painting done, sinks will be installed over Christmas break; one toilet still to be installed over the Christmas break (both need to be done when the water can be turned off) <p>Q: Can the gaps between the door and partition wall be looked at? Students feel they can be looked at in between the partitions? → Moojean to check with Facilities</p> <p>Q: Are there rules about how many students can be in the washroom at the same time? → Generally, there is one student per class permitted. → To be discussed with all staff: students need to be permitted to go to the washroom whenever they ask (no restrictions placed about when they can and can't go, being told to go before class, etc)</p> <p>School playground: There was an inspection was done late August/early September. Q: Can this report be shared with the parent community? Parents would be more understanding of what we are waiting for. Three quotes obtained from the Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a delay on parts for the company chosen. The person from the company is hoping to give Moojean an update in a couple of weeks. <p>Kindergarten pen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received new mulch <p>PA Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 1st: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff involved in professional development training: challenging islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism (more information available on the HWDSB website: https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-year-calendar/pa-days/).. Math training continues to be a focus

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 22nd: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent teacher interviews to be held. Some teachers will also be offering times in the evening on Thursday, November 21st. • Progress reports: will be sent home the week of November 19th • November 27th: movie field trip for grades 3-6 <p>Movie nights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The hope is for them to begin in December with the intention of hosting four throughout the school year. - Funds will go towards trip subsidies, school initiatives, and positive space club <p>Q: Who gets access to the funds (i.e. for trips)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whenever the need arises i.e. Last year the school had paid for certain transportation costs (i.e. bus for track and field day at Ancaster High) <p>Positive Space Group: run by Ms. McFadden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interested in having a speaker come in and Mrs. Seo let her know raised funds could be used to fund the speaker - The group is open to any kids who want to come out - Mrs. Seo to put in the newsletter to share the information <p>Class Wishlists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each teacher was provided with \$250 per class: which accounts would Council like for that money to be pulled from? <p>→ Use up all the little amounts from the small accounts first, then Groove-a-thon, then Fun Fair</p> <p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a giant bush impeding the walkway (coming from the crosswalk): can it be trimmed? <p>→ Moojean to follow up with Facilities</p> <p>Playground paintings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moojean has the names of three companies from other schools
Teacher's report	<p>Mrs. Stead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is running a Grade 6 Leadership team. If they wanted to come and present to school council, they are welcome to come/send to school council to share their ideas <p>Mrs. Fawcett:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - running Primary choir (grades 1-3) and Junior choir (grades 4-6). Students are reminded on morning announcements of choir practice, as well as reminders in the Primary hallways (for primary choir) so that they have a chance to remember to come. - Both choirs are performing at the Remembrance Day assembly. - Class 6A and 5/6A are starting to learn ukuleles and have started a ukulele club - Classes 2/3 and Mr. Johnsons 3's from 3/4B, and Class 2A, and Class 4/5A all enjoyed performing for students and families at the October assembly. Ms Fawcett will be able to showcase all classes when possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remembrance Day assembly will be held on Monday, November 11th: Three Grade 6 students will be delivering the script. The Primary and Junior Choirs will be performing, as well as many of the classes. <p>Mr. Berg: Along with Mrs. Knight, Lego club will begin possibly next week and will happen during nutrition breaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While there is some Lego in the school, they could always use some more. Families are welcome to donate Lego (in particular the flat bases) <p>Mrs. Fernandez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swim team wraps up this week, the meet is next week. - Field trip for grades 3-6 to see Moana 2: the classes will be walking over to the theatre and are in need of parent volunteers to join. - 34A will be having Lena Montecalvo (a local artist affiliated with the AGH-she came into my class last year as part of the free program of Artists in Schools funded by the AGH) come in to do water colour wintery scenes with us in December. We are using part of our school council donated money for that and the rest will go to DPA equipment for our class. - The donated headphones, by the council, are now fully in use daily and there is a new organized wall with chargers. Thanks to the school council for providing these. - 34A's intention is to start fundraising by selling popcorn in the new year to help fund the purchase of an ozobot kit for the school. The purchase price is \$2000 to \$3000 depending on if the kit is 12 or 18 bots. Mrs Scime graciously brought her school kit into my classroom last year and it was highly engaging with coding that can happen at every level. I will be looking into STEM grants too. If the council has any connections to businesses that offer STEM grants, I would love to chat and will work with them to do the paperwork. <p>ALL STAFF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All teachers appreciative of the \$250. Some staff are preferring to use the money throughout the year, as needs arise. <p>Q: can we find out what the money was spent on?</p> <p>Stove in the staff room – is ancient! Some classes do use the stove for classroom purposes/programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This was brought up last year and we discussed that it should be a Facilities expense <p>Q: Is the school able to take a donated stove?</p> <p>→ Moojean to confirm with Facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for Christmas Gift Drive – partnering with a sister school for the gift wish lists. Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Seo to follow up about which school and when.
Other updates	<p>Grant applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah led the submission of a grant application to Desjardins Foundation Prize to fund a GaGa Ball pit, for the Junior school yard. We expect results to be announced the week of December 2nd. The

	<p>application was for \$3,000, with an anticipated cost of the project being \$5,000 for the purchase of a GaGa Ball equipment kit (boards, stations, assembly materials, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second grant application to one of the funding opportunities available through PHE Canada is planned for submission by November 15th to hopefully fund outstanding amounts needed for the GaGa Ball pit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For context, Sarah and Ms. K held focus groups with students from grades 4,5, and 6 in Spring 2024 to discuss what they would like to see for recess activities in their school yard. All grades identified having a GaGa Ball pit would be a great addition! • Other opportunities for future years: S'Cool Life Fund <p>School opportunities</p> <p>Rocks & Rings: The Rocks & Rings original program introduces students to curling through several different fun, physical activity stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructor led. Provided to us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all the equipment to work with up to 32 students at one time. 7-9 sessions can be run in one day. - Maximum of 9 sessions in a day. - Or Rocks & Rings tournament: 4 mini sheets of curling set up in the gym. Students are taught some terminology and scoring, and then play a fun friendly tournament. For each session we recommend 40 minutes. - The price is \$235 + tax for a full day of excitement (\$266) • Equipment rental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-day equipment rental: package does not include an instructor, but comes with all the equipment to work with up to 32 students and easy to use programming cards to help easily teach your students all about curling. Equipment is dropped off on a Friday afternoon (between 1-4 pm) and pick up the following Friday morning (between 9-11 am). - \$350 plus tax (\$396) • There are also free online education portal for teachers. Lessons are all around the sport of curling and are in Math, Science, Social Studies, Language and Art for Grades K-6 in English and French. Click this link to register - Free Online Resources. <p>*Mrs. Stinson had earmarked this \$\$ last year, with the hope that this money would be brought forward to the current school year.</p> <p>Q: Could the trips be more curriculum-based?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All school trips need to have a curriculum-focus.
Fundraising initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising plan needs to be submitted to the Board • Council members were asked to submit their ideas for fundraisers for the school year. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School car wash - Popcorn/Kernals - Frozen yogurt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groove-a-thon - Photobooth - Cookie dough fundraiser - Local pizza partnership - Monthly family meal nights - Pajama day - Parent/grandparent Zumba - Retirement home art sale - Winterfest - Fun Fair (with silent auction). Needs a larger subcommittee this year - Using an additional line item on School Cash Online to offer a donation option when parents/caregivers are placing orders online. - Parent-to-parent sale: have fun in the past with the raised \$\$ going to the school - Auction off prizes for “teaching a class for a day”, etc.: We had great success with these types of prizes last year as part of the Groove-a-thon.
Coat Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmony runs a coat drive each year: collecting winter clothing (child items have been going to Queen Mary school, adult items go to newcomers). Information has been shared on Rousseau Facebook page; welcome sharing it widely within the school community (a flyer can be shared). Mrs Bennett happy to store the items in her classroom.
Facilities Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim trying to get access to the Facilities Inspection so that we can be clear about what the status of the Rousseau building is.
New Business	<p>→ # of hooks and state of hooks (i.e. rust marks onto kids’ clothing and backpacks)</p> <p>→ Anonymous submission box: not all students may be comfortable expressing concerns to teachers/Principal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could possibly be a leadership opportunity for the grade 6 class to field the suggestions (with guidance/support from teaching staff) <p>→ Use of an owl device for the purpose of hybrid meetings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lexia licenses: there weren’t enough licenses available for distribution that the Board would fund, so Rousseau did not receive any this year. Moojean has asked the sales rep how much it would cost for the school to purchase. Also an option for school council to possibly fund these initiatives if it will not be provided by the Board.
Adjournment	