

<p>Parent Council Meeting November 6, 2024</p>	
<p>Present: Valerie Arsenaault, Christine Kennedy, Christian Muise, Rebecca Welfare-Lister, Tina Harvey, Vincent Perez, Patricia Parks, Cat London, Paul Conway, Tessa Hanmore, Sachil Singh, Amanda Satov, Scarlet</p> <p>Note from Secretary - If I omitted you or didn't catch your last name, I apologize - please feel free to add your name. It will get easier as I get to know everyone!</p> <p>Also, Kate isn't here and Cat is taking minutes so don't expect the same quality; sorry.</p>	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	
<p>Approval of today's agenda and last meeting minutes</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>Any business arising from minutes?</p>	<p>Cat would like to state that the minutes are top-notch. Way to go.</p>
<p>Parent-led Initiatives (1 of 2)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rideau Tribune <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Vince is asking for \$1250 o Christian suggested using the Tribune as a fundraiser (selling to alumni and using it to get alumni email addresses, which can then be used to seek donations for the library) o 500 copies will be printed o Cat moved to grant the budget; Rebecca seconded; motion carried 2. Archives project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Vince is asking for \$1500 (we suggested a larger budget to leave room if needed) o Rebecca moved to grant the budget; Christian seconded; motion carried
<p>Chair Report</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PiC-anyone interested? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meetings are Nov 14, Feb, 6, April 3, May 1 o No response 2. Boo Bash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rebecca expressed deep gratitude to everyone involved for doing such an amazing job o Val said the older kids loved dancing outside - Rebecca suggested having a speaker out there next year <p>Boo Bash update from Alicia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The overwhelming response was very positive! Everyone had a blast!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thanks again to all staff, volunteers & parents that helped out - we could not have done it all without teamwork! ○ The sensory-sensitive option of leaving the lights ON for the first hour was definitely a success! Several parents mentioned how much their little ones preferred the option. ○ Conversely, a few older students (and parents) were hoping to see the lights go "totally dark" too!! [Perhaps a future "lights-all-out" Glow Dance party; or something we could work into the later part of each Boo Bash night in 2025.] ○ There wasn't a fundraising initiative chosen for the funds raised at Boo Bash before the event; however, I would like to propose that the Boo Bash proceeds be allocated to assisting M. Davison with any costs necessary for staging the Annual School Musical for 2024/2025. A vote before Council on this point perhaps? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Val: there is a charitable trust account where people have made donations directly to Parent Council's account tied to arts/musical (about \$1,200) - since the money is restricted to arts/drama use, Val recommends we use that first - there is another \$215 with no restrictions attached to it ■ Rights for the musical might be around \$1,000 (this is an estimate) ■ It was decided to put the Boo Bash money into the general pot ○ Extra supplies from post-Boo Bash have been returned to the School Council closet. Next week, I plan on reorganizing the closet and doing a more in-depth inventory of what we have on hand for the year.
Principal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Achievement Plan and Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kids are doing well but a lot of primary kids showed as below where they should be in Grade 1/2 French immersion literacy-wise - there was a "summer slide." ○ Math-wise, we are working on building teacher capacity in identifying the lagging skills in math (which step in their math process are they missing and what strategies are you going to put in place to move them forward?). ○ Other focus areas: (1) attendance (the goal of the Ministry is to have 90% of the students attending 90% of the time - we're at 83%) and (2) sense of

	<p>belonging (do you feel like you belong at your school? - our data looks overall positive and the student comments are apparently level; there will be another kid-friendly survey to take the pulse of the kids and make sure we capture the a sense of the mental health and sense of belonging of the younger kids)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staffing: Mme Morowiec is away for the month; Mme Rey has been away (no long-term plan at this time); casual EAs have come in - Tina's niece Mme. Danielle has joined the EA team. ● Rideau 100 Celebration committee met and the idea is to have on Thursday June 12 (2-7 pm) the opening of the 100 year celebration with a picnic/bbq, inflatables, presentation for students, 100 video, presentation from Archives Club, school open for visits, self-guided tour, photographer in front of school, decades-themed classrooms ● Hot Lunch: going well, but it's not accessible if you don't have a credit card - apparently Visa gift cards don't work but debit Visa works ● Veterans' Day presentation tomorrow, Remembrance Day celebration Monday ● Student Council is organizing a Play Day - they'll go outside and SC will run activities and games
<p>Teacher's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justine can't be here but the list of extracurriculars is very very long. Way to go teachers.
<p>Fundraising Report</p>	<p>Family picnic (complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The family picnic made \$1230.00, which is \$615 for the school and \$615 for parent council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feedback: there was nowhere clearly available to put recyclables. Noted for next year. <p>Boo Bash (complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After the main expenses are balanced from Boo Bash, the fundraised total for the event will be: \$683.48 (net: 984.35 - expenses: \$300.87 = \$683.48) Please note that receipts have yet to be submitted to the Treasurer, so if there are any other receipts outstanding please let me know! <p>Popcycle sale (complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We don't have a final number but it made about \$1,000, minus the board bill. ● The Board bill was way higher (\$415 for a Sat sale last year): \$590.56 Custodial fee. The fee was higher because of the Sunday scheduling. <p>Fresh from the Farm (complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We sold 69 veggie bundles and 47 apple bundles. ● We were also able to support Lord Strathcona school's participation in the fundraiser by adding their orders to ours since they did not have enough orders to participate.

- We keep 40% of the total, so our total take is \$1,058.40.
- We will need volunteers for delivery date (we should have a date soon).

Pewter ornament (proposed)

- We currently have 200 “in stock.” At the last meeting we decided to order 300, so I inquired about ordering 100, but the price per item increases with a smaller order.
 - 100 would be \$12 each (\$1200)
 - 150 would be \$9 each (\$1350)
 - 300 would be \$7 each (\$2100)
- These prices include tax but do not include packaging (no bags, no cards). We had suggested that Vince Perez of Everlovin’ Press could possibly make special “Rideau 100” cards with which we could package them, but we would need to pay for his supplies.
- Downtown Kingston sells them for \$10 each with the presentation of \$25 worth of receipts from downtown businesses and says they have a regular retail value of over \$20.
- I think we could sell these as a limited-time run as part of the centennial and get collectors and alumni interested. I think art from Vince would really amp up interest from community members and I wonder if Vince would consider selling these at Fat Goose Craft Fair if his art is featured.
- The price point would depend on the number we order. We already have 200. If we ordered 200 more at \$9 and we could sell all 400 at \$15 each, that’s \$2,250 profit, minus what we pay for the cards.
- It was suggested to set aside 15-20 ornaments to be available as prizes or in draws to make sure everyone has a chance to have one
- Paul motions that we order 200 more to be sold at a cost of \$15, Tina seconded, motion carried

FundScrip (proposed)

- This gift card ordering fundraiser may be complicated because it historically could not be done via SchoolDay and we don’t want kids bringing envelopes of cash to the school.
 - Is it still cheque-based?
 - Patti, Cat, and/or Rebecca are going to look into these passive income options - Rebecca will ask people she knows who have done them

Do we want to do another fundraiser before Christmas?

- Mitchell’s Soup Company and Wilton Cheese make sense in the leadup to Xmas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apparently Wilton is easy, but the catch is the product goes home with the invoice - what do we do if they don't pay? • Cat/Patti to investigate these options and send out details about a pre-Christmas fundraiser to Council for an email vote <p>Future fundraiser options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Val will put the fundraising ideas in a Google Form to send out to parents so we can determine which fundraisers are of interest - Cat or Patti to send these to her.
<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted: Right now PC has \$16,000 in the bank account; out of that about \$1,700 needs to go to Fresh from the Farm. • There was some talk about updating how the financial records are kept (they are currently on paper).
<p>Committee Updates</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Library Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space: Due to the class restructuring at the beginning of the year, half of the library space has been turned into a "shared space" in which Mr. Baker is teaching Grade 5 and 6 English. This cannot be called a classroom or converted into a classroom with any kind of walls, because if Rideau has a new classroom, it can be reassigned at board level once again and Mr. Baker and the HAL library could lose their space for a second time. • Sound: Mr. Baker is now trying to teach while classes are having library time on the other side of a curtain. This is, of course, very challenging; my daughter June reports that "it's impossible to work in the library while Mr. Baker is doing group work and it's impossible to hear Mr. Baker while kindergarteners are having library time." • Facilities: There are rules about what we can and cannot do. We can replace furniture but we can't make structural changes. Things that need approval from Facilities include painting, anything built-in, carpeting/flooring changes, anything electrical. However, the carpet is in bad shape and is starting to peel so we hope we can convince Facilities to allow us to replace it (not with more carpeting). <p>Who is Jen Sutherland? Jen Sutherland (née Storey) is a Rideau parent with over 15 years of experience running her own interior design company in Kingston. She has experience with new builds and renovations, commercial overhauls, retail stores, etc. She has won two Heritage Kingston Awards and has been featured in a number of national design magazines. We are very lucky to have her working on the library redesign!</p> <p>Jen's proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have sent out Jen's rough proposal (sorry, it's just a photo; someone will scan it into a PDF but I can't at the moment), which gives an idea of a plan that includes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ plywood, completely modular additions that will separate the two areas of the library and create new seating, importantly, without violating the board-level rule against structural changes ○ baffles and sound-reducing felt tiles to reduce the noise ○ designated spaces for younger kids versus older kids so it's easier for children to find books that interest them ○ flexible, easily cleaned seating options (small rockers for the littles; larger beanbags for older kids) ○ audiobook/podcast stations ○ "nooks" and cozy, inviting reading spaces that maintain visibility so children can still be supervised ○ designated entry and exit points to improve the flow of traffic and to reduce noise ○ the incorporation Indigenous art if possible <p>Costs/Budget Still to be determined, but numbers for specific purchases were coming out in the tens of thousands, so let's say somewhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000 depending on what we want to do. I realize that's a huge range; we're working on narrowing it down but it's hard to do when we don't know what Facilities will let us do and how much help we will get from our wonderful parent contractors! We are continuing to refine the proposal and get a clearer idea of budget and look at a tiered approach.</p> <p>Fundraising possibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bingo makes a lot of money, but no one wants to do it. But I think we need to look at it seriously. ● How much money can we get from Parent Council? ● In-kind donations including work from local Rideau carpenters and the carpenters' union ● Other possibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Online silent auction (a lot of work!) ○ "Sponsor a book"/ "Sponsor a shelf" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Novel Idea window display? ● Rideau 100 Limited-edition Spirit Wear ● Grants ● Donations from alumni and community members
Discussion Items	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parent-led initiatives – requests for funding (part 2 of 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board games for the sensory room <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An EA is asking for \$150 for kinder sensory space ■ Note that we can get board games at cost through our Nexus connection (owner is a Rideau parent) ■ Rebecca motions, Pat seconded, motion carried

- Sewing Club
 - 66 kids signed up
 - Patti is asking for \$800
 - Patti motions, Christian seconds, motion carried

2. Mascot

- Wishlist item: rhino mascot is exciting and desirable but very pricey (a couple thousand)
- Not in the cards for now; putting this into a 5-year plan

3. Any further plans for this year: Winter celebration or sale?

- Christmas Market proposal from Alicia:

Should we hold a Winter Market before the holiday break?

- There's been some interest in holding another event - a Winter Market (potentially) - before the Winter break. Perhaps we could hold something in late Nov/early Dec to allow parents and kids to share in the joy of getting small items for loved ones during the holiday season?
- Items that could be available include:
 - Local Artisans/Vendors could sell affordable items (under \$20) at market "booths".
 - One table per vendor, inside the gym, calculate a table cost for vendors [ex. \$35 for Standard Vendor (ex.local business); \$25 for Parent/Alumni Vendor (ex.parents/graduates that own a small business); FREE for Student Vendors (kids can either donate 'small toys' or make small crafts)]
 - 'Booth' table sale proceeds go to School Council fundraising initiatives; individual monies raised at Vendor booths go to each individual vendor; monies raised by various kids crafts (ie. 25 cents - \$1 per craft) go to School Council fundraising initiatives; other ideas??
 - We could have a special booth for our Rideau Public School "limited edition" pewter ornaments for sale as well; proceeds go to funding Centennial Celebrations
 - I would be happy to offer suggestions/ideas for simple crafts the kids could do that are 'winter' themed and not tied to any specific holiday (ie. origami deer; origami gift box; mini 'mice' made with candy sticks & felt; 'snow-covered' decor candles; etc...)
- Proposed dates: Sat Nov. 30 or Sun Dec 1 or Sat Dec 14.
- Response: PC felt it was too late to plan something for November or December and that the market was fairly saturated and the time of year is very busy. The dates suggested also compete with other holiday markets. An alternative proposal was suggested: a Spring Market

	<p>around Easter. This would give more time to organize as well as compete with fewer events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Budget allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are meant to have money earmarked/allocated for specific things so we will go through proposals and start marking out what the money is for; the rest can possibly be called playground money and be pulled from as needed (we pay for the cost of structure, transportation, sometimes installation) 5. Teachers Winter Holiday class fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We gave a budget of \$150 to each teacher and ECE last year ○ There are 35 teachers and ECEs but some (4?) are on leave ○ $\\$150 \times 31 = \\$4,650$, which makes a big dent in our savings, but not every teacher spends the full amount (teachers in later grades usually spend less) ○ Patricia will check to see what was actually spent last year and then we will do an online vote 6. Thanking the caretakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Still under discussion: possibly cupcakes, possibly purchasing something or sponsoring a meal. But something specifically to their office would be appreciated. 7. Sandbox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal is needed - we need to find someone who can price it out - we hope to use volunteer parent labour
Tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Next Meeting	Next meeting is December 5th at 3:45 PM