

Parent Council Meeting
September 24, 2024

Present: Valerie Arsenault, Christine Kennedy, Justine Carlone, Alicia Childes-Lefebvre, Teena Hardwick, Jim Jodoin, Patrice Lefebvre, Cat London, Kelly McNabb, Christian Muise, Patricia Parks, Sarah Phinney, Stacey Reid, Ali Ryder, Amanda Stove, Lisa Sykes, Rebecca Welfare Lister.

Regrets: Anna Coghlan, Paul Conway, Victoria Grieves, Isla Milne, Tessa Morrison, Vincent Perez, Lydia Shepherd, Sachil Singh, Mary Southall. Patty, Jenni Woman.

Welcome and Introductions

Nominations and Elections

- a. Chair - Rebecca Welfare
- b. Co-Chair - Teena Hardwick nominated - confirmed.
- c. Secretary - Kate Alldred with Cat London to assist if needed.
- d. Treasurer - Patricia Parks
- e. Fundraising Chair - Cat London to keep the calendar, Patty to assist
- f. Special Event Coordinator - Alicia Childes-Lefebvre
- g. Environmental Chair - to be filled
- h. Communications Officer - Christian Muse
- i. Volunteer Coordinator/Support Person - to be filled
- j. Breakfast Club Coordinator - to be filled
- k. Student Nutrition Program Coordinator - Amanda Stove and Tessa Morrison
- l. Indigenous Coordinator - to be filled
- m. Members at large - Ali Ryder, Victoria Grieves, Sachil Singh, Mary Southall, Paul Conway, Vincent Perez, Lydia Shepherd, Isla Milne, Jenni Women, Patrice Lefebvre, Lisa Sykes, Kelly McNabb, Stacey Reid, Anna Coghlan

Discussion related to roles

- Fundraising - does not have to rely on just one person, can be coordinated by one person with support from others on council.
- Environmental Chair - looking for green opportunities and implementing where possible - to be filled
- Volunteer coordinator and support person - there wasn't anyone in the role last year. People have been recruited as projects come up.
 - In the past they collected names to call on.
 - There was a call out for folks to sort books and people volunteered, which may indicate interest.
 - Consider reaching out for a list of volunteers who

	<p>will commit and be available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a sign-up list at the open houses for a general mailing list and/or put on the FB parent forum. ○ Only need CPIC if in direct contact with students or supervising students.
<p>Chair Report</p>	<p>Outgoing Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jim communicated with Christian for a few points to go over during meetings, nothing pressing. ● Have been looking in the basement for documents which were not found but things go back to 2002 ● Is there a standard for educational archives? Jim says 4 years and Val says in the office some are 50y, others 7y. ● An archival group wishes to look at the material and the records and we will need to know what needs to be kept or not. ● Class lists were found from 1936, 1943 <p>New chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hoping to make some plans and get things done. <p>Previous chairs are always available if needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advice from outgoing Chairs: "Don't say no" - find a way to make it work instead of saying it can't be done - make adjustments and you can fall within the rule book.
<p>Principal Report</p>	<p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Several registrations over the summer brought the numbers up to almost 450 students ● Additional class given in the junior grades because numbers were at 28-29. ● With the additional class we were able to reduce to 22-23 per class - better for learning. ● Found a French teacher who will be joining the school September 30th. ● For now, Mme H is teaching that class and doing well, getting support from staff. ● Staff shortages - in week 4 we were already short staffed with no OTs or replacement EAs through the general system which means we were already tapping emergency list in September ● When we run out of board employees there is a list of emergency people for teachers. Often a list of retired teachers willing to come and help for a day. ● Also Queen's students in teachers college and available for a day, and students from multi-session are allowed when ● they have their OCT number. ● When short of EAs and ECEs quite often we have adults in

the community - parents and grandparents or Queen's students who are available to come and support.

- This issue does not just exist at Rideau, it is a province-wide problem and not likely to go away anytime soon
- Val said there are 125 postings for this year - apply to education.com
- Many elementary OTs are intermediate - senior qualified

Rideau 100th

- Rideau turns 100 this year and need volunteers for subcommittee - send volunteers to Val
- Val will be in charge of the planning

Hot Lunches

- A good way to do fundraisers without a lot of work
- Pizza provider was great but the price went up and the quality went down
- Many schools are using Lunchbox - they take a percentage but when looking at the price range we would still be making profit
- Lunchbox organizes it all. They have their own website where families order and pay and staff can order and pay.
- Lunchbox deals with the money, the providers, make sure the providers are respecting provincial nutrition guidelines
- Bring food labeled for each child and packaged for each classroom and just needs to be delivered to the class.
- The minimum to sign up is 2 days/week and can go up to 5
- Considering starting with 3 days/week
- There is pizza - from Gino's this time and other options - pita with choices for fillings, Osmo's shawarma, could also request pasta and Lunchbox will source pasta options
- Is there a yearly fee on top of the percentage? Val said this was not presented to her.
- It may be up to \$350 and some schools get a coupon to make it more affordable.
- Price point on the products. - \$4 and would sell for \$5.50 with that being profit, things like shawarma are more expensive
- Rebecca - and in terms of trash bringing into the school - it would be the same and kids would carry their trash home.
- This is the same one that Winston Churchill uses
- Lisa had mentioned Booster Juice - they come one day a week with smoothies and can refine options - can pick two smoothies and one size - make \$1/smoothie and made 8-9000 dollars - larger school but uptake is fraction of total population
- Interest in smoothies, pasta, pizza,
- If the numbers aren't working it might need to be locked in with the provider

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is a school fundraiser, not a parent council initiative ● If going with Lunchbox the profits can be divided - like if the school did Lunchbox and parent council did smoothies ● With hot lunch there was a price increase but the idea was to make it more convenient for parents ● At Vanier they do milkshakes from Reid's dairy but smoothies sound healthier ● Students run a milkshake counter ● Might be fun once a month not once a week for nutrition reasons ● Lisa suggests Survey Monkey to find out what kinds of food parents like - Rebecca said that people will often say they want things but don't always follow-through ● May be worth doing a survey but meter with own common sense ● Start putting lunches together and if not going well collect a Survey with feedback about how kids are liking it and what they would like to see in the future ● Pita, pasta, pizza to start
Meeting dates and times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It has been suggested that meetings be held at 3:45 to make it easier for people who live outside of Kingston. ● Also to alternate days of the week ● Last year - first Monday, then Tuesday, then Wednesday, etc. ● 3:45 may be more accessible for people out of own but not for people working until 5pm ● Would a video link help? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is hard to hear people talking because of the acoustics in the gym the way the program works it picks up on whoever's voice is closest and so side conversations sometimes dominate. ○ Would a hybrid model work if there was a mic that could be passed when people are talking when they have the floor? <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alternate weekdays works. ● Having a balance of late meetings and early meetings <p>Meeting Schedule as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 1st at 3:45 ● November 6th at 6:30pm ● December 5th at 3:45pm ● January 13th at 3:45pm ● February 4th - 6:30pm ● March 5th - 6:30pm ● April 3rd - 3:45pm ● May 5th - 6:30pm ● June 3rd - 3:45pm

<p>Terms and Conditions</p>	<p>Bylaws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are meant to revisit the bylaws every 2 years AND it has been a few years ● Indigenous Coordinator needs to be included in PC roles ● If anyone wants to asynchronously look at school board regulations and bylaws ● Define the rules that govern what we do, including the list of roles and role descriptions. ● Christian to put a call-out on email with more detail and put together a sub-committee
<p>Fundraising plans and ideas</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rebecca suggests that the best way to understand is to lay out what we need money for and then when we need that money - a combination of Parent Council fundraising and independent fundraising ● For fundraising - also do a survey for what people actually want to buy - not just wrapping paper ● Rebecca has seen many opportunities on FB, has looked into it and would like to be conscious of what is being fundraised so that it is what people want. ● Rebecca has spoken to someone who runs a fundraising program - safety kit program with first aid kits for home - would work well with fire safety week - maybe not every year but once or twice - align fundraising with school activities. ● Exiting co-chairs - suggestions - survey maybe say what kind of fundraising would you like to see us do. Open ended question. ● Last year Little Caesars was done in the spring ● Usually 1-2 fundraising initiatives in the fall and then potentially another in the winter ● If there is a pick up requirement - make the date and time big and bold on the initial sheet and then provide multiple reminders ● Put pick up information in all the newsletters ● Need to ensure that you have lots of helpers for the pick up day ● Noted that when we used to do paper forms we made more money than online orders. ● Cash cannot flow from home to the school - you need people to pay online to an external place. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could we do online orders but send papers home with fundraising information on them - a QR code? ● Rebecca wonders if we should also have Instagram for the parent forum. ● 786 people read the newsletter sent on Friday - goes to all contacts and is put on Twitter, this includes staff ● One from yesterday is at 250 people read

- So fundraising might be best to go in the newsletter
- **Christian and Rebecca** to put out an email to find out what fundraising initiatives people are interested in.

Where will the money go?

- Centennial celebration,
 - What about centennial spirit wear that you can only buy on the 100th year? Maybe a different kind of design or stuffies for the 100th year?
- Playground at some point,
 - Christian said we should be putting aside \$1000/year for the playground according to the bylaw
- Library project,
 - New books, a nicer space, new resources that are more relatable - take Clifford down - maybe Clifford could be auctioned off? (Mme Kennedy)
- iPads for primary
 - iPads for some of the primary classes - some were purchased years ago and are now at the end of their lives - a few classes could use iPads.
- Sandbox
 - Kinder teachers have said they would like a sandbox - this may not necessarily be expensive - can it be done by local carpenters or does it need to come from the LDSB?
 - Val - Sandboxes need to be covered so that animals do not use them as bathrooms
- Archive group is interested in re-thinking the display case with archival objects.
 - Would the archive project live in the library or in the hallway?
- Suggestion to also put aside \$2000 for kid-led initiatives
- For all the funds needed we need a budget - a set of things to decide what we fundraise for and where the money will be spent.

Fresh From the Farm

- If we want to do it it needs to be done now
- FFTF - all local farmers - the group gets things from the farmers and it is delivered in a veg package and people order in advance, then on pick-up day volunteers come to hand out but you end up calling people after hours for pick up
- It did make a reasonable amount of money - Cat has been asked if RPS is doing it again because they enjoyed it
- Food was good quality last year
- FFTF is a go
 - Suggest putting money toward the library and the

centennial

- Will need many fundraisers tied to library project - can also link this to the centennial by selling/auctioning mementos, archives, one-of-a-kind clothing, etc.
- FFTF - could be for a sandbox for the kinder yard and then iPads, library, centennial celebration.
- Mme Kennedy - is there money left over to go to a sandbox now? There is \$1300?

Library Project

- Cat suggests online silent auction for the library
- Jim says the silent auction last year went well.
- Cat wants to find famous alumni like Don Cherry to help with fundraising for the library.
 - Lisa wonders if there are alumni lists from previous RPS students
 - Cat says memories of Kingston just shared an old pic of Rideau - many comments from many people who went there - could we reach out to alumni for fundraising?
- A designer has seen it. It won't be possible to do structural or lighting changes - don't have numbers yet but the numbers are less than what they were without those changes.
- The original price was \$100 000 but that was with structure and electrical
- Mme Kennedy suggests looking into sponsors or grants. Best Buy has an upcoming due date for a grant that would fit really well with this initiative.
- Christian suggests we could facilitate grant writing for big money and then aim for smaller money.
- Kelly says have an idea of where you want to go and then find the people you need to go there, don't just look into any project - if lots of money needs to be raised, find initiatives that raise lots of money.
- Christian - the library is a concrete thing to get money for - but if we ask Don Cherry, etc what is the level and how much does Parent council need to facilitate - fundraising or fundraising push? Would someone reach out independently or does this become responsibility for the Parent Council?
- **Cat** to strike subcommittee for library - **Patricia and Christian** are in

Clothes sale

- Isla is organizing a clothes sale - on a **Sunday, October 20th**
- People are invited to bring gently used clothing and drop off on Thursday and Friday before and then volunteers organization the gym by size and gender, tops and

	<p>bottoms, also doing tiny toys, books, all organized in the gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors open between 8-9am and people from anywhere in Kingston can come and pay what you want • Will also include halloween costumes • And Marvel cards? <p>Boo Bash</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for October 24th and 25th 5:30-8pm • Will need assistance and volunteers. • Two tables at a bake sale each night last year and there was nothing left at the end • Alicia suggests lights on for the first 1.5 hours then 7-8pm lights out • Then divide the music for younger music in the early hours,, and then spookier music and older activities later in the night • Logistics to be planned next week <p>Musical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Davison will have a report and information for the BBQ and then will have report for Parent Council at the next meeting. <p>Sandbox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we just arrange to have it done now? To be done before the snow? If volunteers can do it and if allowed. • Need sand and toys - sand is much of expense • No kinder rep on the board this year - we are meant to have one but it was not on the list of nominations. • Val will ask the board?
<p>Tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian to put a call-out on email with more detail and put together a sub-committee for bylaws. • Christian and Rebecca to put out an email to find out what fundraising initiatives people are interested in. • Cat to strike subcommittee for library - Patricia and Christian are in • Rebecca to produce Agenda for next meeting with support from Val
<p>Next Meeting October 1st at 3:45</p>	<p>Focus on Boo Bash, decisions and goals</p>