

École Robert H. Smith Parent Council

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, RHS Library

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Motion to approve agenda: moved by Mark, seconded by Tara, motion passed

Motion to approve minutes of previous meeting: moved by Kathryn, seconded by Mark, motion passed

Administrator's Report

- Registrations for 2025-2026
 - Chief Superintendent would like all children to go to their catchment school
 - Late registration of students from inside catchment areas has led to unanticipated increases in students.
 - For new registrants:
 - February 10th – for students in catchment
 - March 3 for school of choice, May 13 is the deadline for applications outside of catchment areas.
 - We have many students from outside catchment at RHS – updates to catchment areas needed.
 - Grade 6 families: students will have to look at catchment schools as they move to junior high
- We received \$15K in additional funding for the nutrition program, plus \$1K for equipment from the federal government school food program.
 - May use for cultural foods, pancake breakfast during Festival
 - Looking at mostly non-perishable foods – restricted by the infrastructure of the school (no kitchen, dishwashing requirements, staffing)
 - Equipment purchase: possibility of a fridge

Chair's Report

- Fundraising: chair applied for a raffle license through MLGC – waiting on eligibility approval.
 - The possibility of setting up a 50/50 raffle through the Munch-A-Lunch portal to pay for indoor recess activities. Passive and low effort.
 - Wine raffle – PAC only not through the school. Lucrative for fundraising (\$4K), some concerns around the issue of alcohol promotion. Labour intensive.

Previous Business

- Grade 6 Farewell – June 24
- Afternoon portion is organized by the school, committee of parents to be formed to plan the evening reception

Motion to form a Grade 6 farewell Committee: moved by Danielle, seconded by Tara, motion passed.

- Date to be set to hold first meeting and invitation to all Gr 6 parents to attend if interested

Treasurer's Report

- Credit Union Account closed.
- Total balance was transferred to Children's Heritage Education Endowment Fund
- Highlights: expenses from milk program, munch-a-lunch etc paid out
- Current balance is: \$2699.85
- A new account opening to be coordinated before the next PAC meeting.

Motion to approve the financial report: Moved by Sheryl, seconded by Mark, motion passed

South District Advisory Committee Report:

- Board proposed changes to the structure of committees from districts to elementary, middle and high school committees - organized around age rather than geographic area
- Changes to the structure to encourage more participation – concern expressed about the logic for these changes
- Took responses for consideration
- Budget: asks and discussion
- Lunch program: how do we fund the programs, use of teacher contact time, non-classroom teachers used to supervise lunches, parents still able to volunteer. Supervision will be covered at the expense of in-class teaching and intramurals.
- Major concerns were raised about supervision and safety and Matt Henderson stated that he does not have to consult with parents to reduce barriers for children.
- District Advisory Committees are open to anyone: February 11th meeting to be held at RHS.
- Agreed to send a letter to the RHS community regarding fundraising and field trips.

WSD Environmental Committee report:

- The committee met for the first time in early December.
- The small group is composed of parents, trustees and superintendents.
- At the first meeting we discussed the parameters and goals for the group. There was an agreement that we would focus on a Climate Action Plan for the school division.
- A Climate Action Plan is a document that guides the vision for sustainability across the school division. There are a variety of approaches that divisions across North America have taken, but as an example this may include documenting the current carbon emissions produced by a school division from buildings and transportation, management of resources and ensuring wellness, engaging staff and students in teaching and learning on climate action and environmental justice, and supporting the integration of climate change education into classrooms through professional development and resources.
- Efforts towards creating and enacting a Climate Action Plan will likely include students, staff and the community beyond the school division.
- The committee plans to meet monthly/bimonthly for the next two years.
- This work may mirror recent announcements from Seven Oaks School Division and Louis Riel School Division of their intentions to develop a Climate Action Plan.
- If anyone is interested in joining the committee, they are invited to contact the WSD Board Office.

Motion to adjourn: moved by Danielle; seconded by Kathryn, motion passed.