Rickson Ridge School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15th, 2024: 6:00-7:00 pm
ONLINE
At each meeting, we work within our Council Code of Ethics.

In Attendance: Jenny Fender (Co-chair), Christine Plateo (Co-chair), Jill Carlyle, Allison Stoffman (Principal), Jill Martin (Vice Principal), Hannah Harris (Treasurer), Alicia MacNeil (Secretary), Melissa Mendell, Anne Bonnar, Andrew Strimas

Regrets: Deb Bush (Co-Secretary & PIC Rep), Krystal Nichols, Steph Andovski

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Welcome and Introductions
Welcome Anne and Andrew, our new teacher rep(s)

- Approval of September 2024 Minutes
  1st: Jill Carlyle 2nd: Christine Plateo
- Approval of October 2024 Agenda
  1st: Jill Carlyle 2nd: Hannah Harris

Financial Update (Hannah)

Opening Balance	$10,000.00	
Playground Fund Hold	$6,000.00	
2023-24 Startup Funds & FDK Track	$4,000.00	
Deposits minus expenses	$4,511.72	Open House, Harvey's, Booster Juice, Cookies, Family Game Night
Allocated Funds	$484.00	Family Fun Night ($16 already spent in expenses)
	$250.00	Family Game Night ($250 already spent in expenses of $500 allocated)
	$1,000.00	FDK Track painting and signs
	$1,000.00	School Equity Fund
	$3,240.00	Danceathon ($20 already expensed)
Unallocated Funds	**$2,537.72**	

PIC Update (Deb Bush)
Met Monday Sept 23rd, 2024

- Partnership and commitment to communication was shared.
- Strategic Multi-year plan, Vision 2026 Purpose "Find your path"
- PPM 170 School Board Communication with parents
- Policy 215-A Public Concerns Procedures

- Guest speakers 14 days at least notice to parents
- PPM 128
- Report cards will have a classroom distraction component moving forward.
- 17.5 million in wrap around supports for student mental health
- Redesign website which is up and running now, family portal, one stop
- UGDSB new app
- $500 funding to each SC will be sent
- Likely similar to last year applications for $1000 however money has not been provided yet from the Ministry of education when they give money, PIC will get information out for applications.
- Boundary review under way for new High school in South end of Guelph. On track to open Sept 26/27 breaking ground anytime now https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/city-gives-green-light-to-start-building-new-high-school-9537672#:~:text=South%20Guelph's%20new%20high%20school,It%20will%20accommodate%20900%20students.
- Volunteer Policy re questions about what is needed https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-205-volunteers/
- PIC website with lots of helpful information for SC https://www.ugdsb.ca/o/pic
- Next meeting is Monday Oct 28th at 7pm and is a hybrid meeting.

School Council Update (Jenny)

Garden Maintenance

- Co-Chairs spent a day cleaning out the front gardens
- High school student volunteers and families are planning to come work on the side garden
- Discussions on how to maintain the gardens in order to avoid the state they had gotten into are happening
- School to maintain responsibility
- Admin looking into interest in a gardening club
- Suggestion made that small gardening tasks could be a helpful activity for certain students needing a break with the CYW or admin
- Council will maintain a list of those willing to help with the gardens and is open to organizing a Spring garden clean up day

Communications

- The school has agreed to share School Council information in their weekly Family emails
- We have begun providing a weekly summary to School Admin on Thursday
- Our email lists, working groups and other communications lists have been updated - those interested in being added to any of the lists should email ricksonschoolscouncil@gmail.com

Open House

- Council Corner at Open House was a great kickoff to the school year
- We handed out over 250 QR code flyers which families can use throughout the year to access information on council initiatives

- We made a profit of $382.52
(15 t-shirts, 3 toques, 20 Bubly, 48 juice boxes, 59 cookies, and 62 bags of popcorn)
- Remaining spirit wear has been considered in submitting our current clothing order and remaining snacks will be used in upcoming events (Danceathon, Family Fun Night, etc.)
- Thank you to the 6 parents and 4 student volunteers who helped out!

Spirit Wear
- 80 items sold with a total revenue of $1,953 ($375 increase from last year, $1,633)
- No holiday option this year. If interested, send order to ricksonschoolcouncil@gmail.com and items will be sold (at cost) directly from Council

Food Program
- Successful kick-off to the first round of our Food Program bringing in $4,300
- The next round will be available for purchase on October 28th through School Cash Online
- Introducing WokBox as our Thursday lunch program for the upcoming round

Family Game Night
- Thursday October 24th from 6pm-7:30pm
- Flyers, Facebook, Announcements & Email blast have gone live
- Thank you to parent and high school volunteers who have offered to help out

Danceathon
- Cash donations are due by November 6th and School Cash Online by November 8th
- Fundraising goal - $8000 for experiential learning experiences for students.
- Looking for suggestions to have an alternative option for students who do not wish to participate in the Danceathon and/or how we can make it more accessible (headphones, movie, etc.)
- Thank you volunteers! We have filled each spot and have suitable coverage for the event

Communal Closet
- Located in the office for when/if a student requires a change of clothes
- A variety of clothing items have been donated and are now available. No additional donations are required at this time.

Family Fun Night
- June 5 – awaiting response from Bubbleology

Charity Drive
- Date TBD - possible collaboration with C. McDermott

Staff Appreciation Lunch
- February 26

School Update (Allison Stoffman, Jill Martin)

- Terry Fox Run raised $2000
- Open House and Bookfair had a great turn out of parents and students who attended
- Fall fire drill procedures have begun, 3x fire drills in total with an impressive time of 2 mins for everyone to exit the building
- Fall lockdown drill coming up, typically happens during a police officer visit
- Congratulations to our junior and intermediate cross country runners who placed as top 10 finishers at the cross country meet
- Our foot and bus patrollers are fully trained and actively working to keep everyone safe
- Progress reports are expected by mid November with parent/teacher interviews to follow
- Grade 4 field trip to the movie theatre to see The Wild Robot movie
- The multi-year plan is working to identify and monitor students who are not performing to standard and continued focus on attendance monitoring
- EQAO results were above the provincial average level
- Clubs, sports and teams have started and will continue to pop up, stay tuned
- Mr. Duncan and Mrs. McDermott will be holding auditions for the musical: The Storm
- Remembrance Day assembly will be held on November 11th – a letter will be sent home to welcome and encourage students to bring in or share a photo of a service person, to be added to our Remembrance Day slideshow
- Field trips to the River Run Centre will be starting soon
- Picture Retake day is October 30th
- Discussion about changing bell times slightly as we are the only/last school in our district to run 45 minute breaks rather than 40 minutes. The current bell schedule allows for a 20 minute nutrition break and 25 minute recess. The idea is to schedule 20 minutes for both, eliminating the last 5 minutes. Updates to come.
- There have been no updates shared with admin regarding construction for expansion (adding 6 classes and second gym).
- FDK teachers requested $1000 to be used towards toys/equipment for FDK playground rather than track line painting. The funds have since been approved and reallocated.
- Admin plan to continue weekly school information email for parents
- Admin are working to keep website calendar up to date https://www.ugdsb.ca/ricksonridge/
- Families struggling with finances can access “Keep kids fed” through teachers or principals (application can be filled out on the families behalf through the school) More information on the program can be found here: https://www.childrensfoundation.org/what-we-do/keep-kids-fed-at-school/ Changes occurred last year, there is more info around the changes in the past year with the food programs in our area https://www.childrensfoundation.org/resources/stories/food4kids-guelph-to-merge-with-children-s-foundation-to-better-address-childhood-hunger

Upcoming Council Activities and Involvement Opportunities

● Family Movie Night - January 23, 5:30-8pm. Request for $750 for Movie Night budget approved by consensus. Event to be led by Alicia MacNeil and Melissa Mendell.

New Business and Questions

- Public use of parks – waiting on response from the board. Parents are encouraged to contact bi-law or non-emergency if there is a cause for concern
- Spirit wear hand-me-downs best for Facebook, less successful at school events.
- Consider at Fun Fair: Seek donation of a week at camp or Wonderland tickets for the basket raffle
- How to get the info out about Equity Fund: teachers and principals are always willing to hear if help is needed
- Parents were asking about how to volunteer for Keep Kids Fed https://www.childrensfoundation.org/what-we-do/keep-kids-fed-at-school/
- Parents encouraged school to share construction information proactively, especially safety around portables and black top recess

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Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Future Council Meeting Schedule:
Please note the revised meeting schedule below. Corresponding changes will be made by Jill Martin (Vice Principal) on the website.

- Monday, Jan 13th at 6pm, Online
- Tuesday, Feb 11th at 6pm, In person
- Monday, April 14th at 6pm, Online
- Tuesday, June 17th at 6pm, In person

*Working Groups will meet in the time between full Council Meetings.