Rickson Ridge School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 13th, 2024: 6:00-7:00 pm
ONLINE

At each meeting, we work within our Council Code of Ethics.

In Attendance: Jenny Fender (Co-chair), Jill Carlyle (Co-chair), Christine Plateo (Co-chair), Allison Stoffman (Principal), Jill Martin (Vice Principal), Hannah Harris (Treasurer), Alicia MacNeil (Secretary), Deb Bush (PIC Rep), Anne Bonnar, Melissa Mendell, Stephanie Andovski, Vasanth Subramanian, Vineeta Raman

Regrets:

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

- Approval of September 2024 Minutes
  1st: Melissa Mendell 2nd: Christine Plateo
- Approval of October 2024 Agenda
  1st: Hannah Harris 2nd: Denise Russell

Council Update (Jenny)
About Rickson Ridge School Council
● In line with the UGDSB's Multi-Year plan and in collaboration with the School, RRSC seeks to support the needs of the school community as a whole, with particular attention to:
  ○ Community building and family engagement
  ○ Enhanced learning through resource supports and in school experience programs
  ○ Equity
  ○ Sustainability
● Council initiatives include organizing events for families, students and staff, fundraising, volunteering, communicating parent perspectives to the school and more.
https://www.ugdsb.ca/ricksonridge/school-council/

Financial Update (Hannah)

Fundraising to Date: **$19,433** ($11,970 from the Food Program)
Unallocated Funds (as of January) **$19,793.87**
Playground Fund Hold: **$6,000.00**

Proposed Allocations Jan Meeting	
Additional Family Fun Night Budget	$2,500.00
Hands-on Learning for each class	$10,000.00
Forest of Reading	$1,016.51

Total	**$13,516.51**

Projected Available Funds to End of the School Year		
Projected Additional Fundraising	$11,500.00	$500 Parent Engagement Grant, $5800 Food Program, FMN $200, FFN $5000
Expected Unallocated Funds after January Meeting	$6,277.36	Assumes approval of proposed funds at January meeting
Total Projected Available Funds to End of School Year	**$17,777.00**	

Expenditures for Future Consideration	
Emerging School Needs and Technology	$3,690.00
Graduation	$1,000.00
Playground Replacement Funds	$6,000.00
Carryover for 2025-26	$3,000.00
Total	**$13,690.00**

PIC Update (Deb Bush)

- A reminder of the PIC website as a resource https://www.ugdsb.ca/o/pic
- A reminder of the UG connect app for parent communication https://www.ugdsb.ca/o/jfrcvi/article/4687 Policies up for review https://www.ugdsb.ca/page/policies-procedures-and-protocols
- Inspiring Engagement with Parents & School Councils
- November 25, 2024 there was a PIC event for School Councils. Info shared about PIC which can be found on the website above. Director Peter Sovran shared his story of parent engagement with parents that did not have strong english skills and importance of accessibility and parent engagement.
- There were break out sessions: One was Cyber Security and here are some resources shared https://www.ecno.org/cyber-awareness/ and https://cybersecurityontario.ca/k-12/
- More information will be shared when available.

School Council Update

<u>FDK Track (Jenny)</u>

Per discussions among the Kindergarten teachers and staff, and with consensus support from School Council Voting Members (obtained via email), the decision was

reached to use the funds previously held for lines and signs for the FDK track, for other outdoor equipment for the kindergarten yard. The following items have been ordered with $1000 coming from School Council funds:

- Sand shovels & buckets
- Hoola hoops
- Small soccer pop up nets
- CAT wheel loader
- CAT dump truck
- Jr. Spring Ball
- Black sleds

Spirit Wear (Jill)

- There was great feedback from staff and families regarding the design options available this year, with specific interest in the circle logo without identifying school information.
- No one purchased the snapback cap or cinch bag.
- There were 72 individual items ordered with 8 items including the last name addition.
- Although this sale is primarily considered a school connection/belonging initiative, our profit was $440.
- Some items we already had available from the Open House sale.
- As a reminder, all t-shirts are sold at cost.
- In addition to the Spirit Wear sale in the Fall, 4 additional t-shirts were purchased just before the break, providing an additional profit of $60 (these items were purchased using June 2023/24 fundraising).
- There are 6 tshirts remaining.

Food Program

- Total food program fundraising profits to date are $11,972.13
- The change to split lunch/recesses creates challenges regarding food deliveries to students, but adjustments are underway to ensure the food programs continue running smoothly.
- An option such as Bunsmaster could be a suitable option for the spring and better work well with the split breaks.
- We continue to look for a Halal option. After having a number of families taste test the potential Halal option, Ona's Bakery, we have decided not to proceed with this option.
- We are fortunate to have Zehrs donate (fruit cups) again this year making it a full profit for the school. Zehr's requested the funds they would have invoiced should be allocated to student engagement.
- Thank you to the parent volunteers and Mrs. Murray's class for their continued efforts with helping/organizing every week.

Danceathon

- Thank you to the 21 volunteers who helped run the event this year in November.
- Everything ran smoothly and the students all seemed to have a great time!
- Financially, we had significantly less in cash donations and Professor Jamz website

donations this year (last year was just over $5100 in Cash and $1400 on the website).
- Snack sales were roughly the same as last year.
- Ultimately, our total profit to go towards an experiential learning activity in each class is $6,483.02. It is less than we aimed for but it does reflect our overall financial climate these days, and we also expected that some families may have donated more in the past due to prize incentives.
- We will have the school admin report back at future meetings about the experiential learning programs selected by each class.

Family Game Night (Jenny)
- Family Game Night was well attended and received.
- An estimated 200 people attended.
- It was completely free for families and included jumbo games, games of the globe and games borrowed from the Terry James Resource Centre (UGDSB), the Guelph Public Library and Families.
- Expenses totalled $382.11, which included game purchases and rentals, as well as snacks that were offered to families for free.
- Free snacks were a lovely addition, allowing all families to partake if desired. A larger quantity would be useful in the future.
- A group of high school student volunteers were instrumental in setting up and helping at the event. Most were Rickson graduates.
- Jumbo Snakes and Ladders, Jumbo Candy Landy and a larger version of checkers were purchased and are available for use at future events.
- 3 jumbo connect 4 games, including 2 owned by the school were a big hit, as was the jumbo Snakes and Ladders.

Family Movie Night (Alicia & Melissa)
- Family Movie Night is scheduled for January 23rd, 5:30-8pm and will feature Sonic the Hedgehog.
- We will be offering pre-ordered dinner/snacks (pizza, popcorn, cookies, juice, and Bubly) through School Cash Online as well as a cash snack bar option the night of the event.
- As the movie night falls during the high school exam period, we will rely on parent/family volunteers.

Charity Drive (Christine)
In consideration of the number of asks of families and the food drive held in association with The Storm Musical, the decision has been made to hold off on further charity drives at least until spring, but possibly until next school year as Jump Rope for Heart will also take place in the spring. A query was made as to whether we could include a charitable element to the Family Fun Night, such as a food drive. This will be considered in the planning of FFN.

Staff Appreciation Lunch
Scheduled for February 26th. Planning is underway.

Family Fun Night (Jenny & Alicia)
- The committee is beginning work for the end of year event scheduled for June 5th.
- More help is welcome, as it takes a lot of hands to put on Family Fun Night.
- Ideas for food options?
- Bake sale replacement?
- Suggestions are welcome.

School Update (Allison Stoffman, Jill Martin)
- Clubs, teams and events still happening
- Storm musical in December was a hit and Food Bank donations were exceptional
- Basketball start-up
- Primary Craft Club organizers were overwhelmed with sign up, needed to add days to accommodate all interested
- Split recess/lunch has been lovely, the students have much more space with half the number of bodies out there at one time. Seeing a great amount of positive changes from this switch.
- The logs in the log area have been closed, as they are climbers which are closed during the winter. Thoughts on a secondary area for students who wish to have a quiet/safe space?
- Kindergarten registration is open and can be completed online. The documents required will need to be brought to the school following the registration.
- Waiting on a decision about the hands-on learning experience. This is covered from the funds raised from the Danceathon.
- January 24th is a PD Day.
- Report Cards to be posted February 11, 12 or 13.
- Wolfpack assemblies continue and are going well.
- Grade 8 students are beginning to choose their courses for next year.
- Blue Jays game and Ripley's Aquarium in discussion about graduation trip. Graduation plans are in the works.
- 2x initiatives starting for Grade 7 students – Anti Human Trafficking & Women in Crisis.
- Cold weather: if it is -20 and below students will be kept indoors.
- Construction update: we have had a visit from the early stage audit and will provide an update when we know more.

Financial Requests & Budget Approvals

- Family Fun Night $3000 (additional $2500, including $500 Parent Engagement Grant)
- Hands-on/Enrichment Learning Opportunities for each class $10,000
- Forest of Reading $1061.51

Consensus was reached and funds approved for each of these items.

Upcoming Council Activities and Involvement

- Family Movie Night (January 23) - Ready to go

- Staff Appreciation Lunch (February 26) - Jenny and Jill to co-lead event

- Family Fun Night (June 5)
    - Alicia McNeil offers to co-lead event with Jenny
    - General overview of plans.
    - While Bubbleology performer was popular last year, she has not been reachable, so alternates are being considered
    - Confirmation with relevant authorities will be sought to confirm that we can run the Basket Raffle again
    - Vineeta offered to help seek donations for the Basket Raffle such as a week at camp and suggests we consider options such as purchasing Wonderland Tickets to include as prizes.

- Remaining spirit wear (Youth T-shirts Black - 1XS/1L, Adult T- shirts Black - 2L/2XL) - no current action to be taken in regards to remaining spirit wear

- Pro Grant Funding Opportunity (Application Due January 31)
    - Discussion of possible options included ways to improve parent communication, supporting families access to information and building on the learning that happens in school.
    - Jenny and Deb to work on the proposal with the intention of using the funds for engaging with parents at Family Fun Night.

New Business and Questions

- 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.
- Waiting for an update regarding bell times for next year.
- Class structuring for next year will begin in May.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

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

- 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.