

**Rickson Ridge School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 6-7pm, Rickson Library**

In Attendance: Jenny Fender (Co-Chair), Christine Plateo (Co-Chair), Allison Stoffman (Principal), Jill Martin (Vice Principal), Alicia MacNeil (Secretary), Anne Bonnar, Melissa Mendell, Krystal Nicholson, Stephanie Andovski, Vineeta Raman, Golbon Gharagozlou

Regrets: Jill Carlyle (Co-Chair), Hannah Harris (Treasurer), Deb Bush (PIC Rep)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- o Approval of January 2025 Minutes
1st: Christine Plateo 2nd: Melissa Mendell
- o Approval of February Agenda
1st: Christine Plateo 2nd: Melissa Mendell

2. School Council Update

Financial Update

Opening Balance	\$27,237.52	
Deposits minus expenses	\$214.00	Family Movie Night
Allocated Funds	\$6,000.00	Playground Fund Hold
	\$2,984.00	Family Fun Night (\$16 already spent in expenses)
	\$10,000.00	Hands on Learning
Unallocated Funds	\$8,467.52	

Anticipated Future Fundraising	
Parent Engagement Grant	\$500
Food program M4, M5, T4, T5	\$6,400.00
Family Fun Night	\$5,000.00
Total	\$11,900.00

Unallocated Funds + Anticipated Future Fundraising = \$20,367.52

Expenditures for Future Consideration	
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Emerging School Needs and Technology	\$10,000.00
Graduation	\$1,000.00
Playground Replacement Funds	\$6,000.00
Carryover for 2025-26	\$3,000.00
Total	\$20,000.00

PIC Update

January 27, 2025 Meeting Summary

- Transportation issues with weather were discussed, pertaining more to other areas of the board.
- Acknowledging the Provincial election being called and the influence that has on school board
- Let's Go! UGDSB Goals and key outcomes. End of 2nd Quarter and reflecting on the goals r/t reading and math. Financial challenges which was in the news r/t replacement cost for staff
- Superintendent retired and was not replaced for costs savings r/t budget challenges (replacement costs in 2019 just under 12 million now is 20 million and minimal increases in funding - 80% of budget is for staff salaries which already make it challenging for other costs)
- Healthy reserve UGDSB has with permission from MoE which they used for reading and math additional learning which has shown success.
- Working on attendance for all "Everyday Counts" initiative
- Centre Wellington K-8 on track to open Sept 2025
- Out of district change: open/closed schools Policy 521 reminder of Jan 31st deadline and no transportation provided for those requesting.
- Policy 214 Accessibility Feb 13th feedback
- Pro Grant so far 44 applications: Mid Feb decisions will be made
- Questions about cyber security and John McCormic through the board is the contact, which came up r/t Pro Grant ideas at some of the schools

Next Meeting: February 24, 2025

Food Program

Harvey's, Booster Juice and Zehrs Fruit Cups are going well. After an unsuccessful attempt to find a suitable Halal vendor, we have decided to run Wok Box and Booster Juice again in the March 20 to May 1 slot. We are adding additional options from Wok Box that include: Butter Chicken on Rice, Beef and Broccoli on Rice, Vegetable and Egg

Fried Rice and Gluten Free Sweet Tamari Chicken and Broccoli. Orders will open at the end of the month. Profits from the food program are ~\$13,200 and will likely surpass our fundraising goal from the program by a significant margin.

ProGrant Funding Application

Council, in partnership with the School, submitted an application for \$1000 of funding to support parent engagement with a specific focus on mental health and well-being. We will be informed in February whether the proposal was funded or not.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Planning for the Staff Appreciation Lunch is underway. The lunch is scheduled for February 26th, 12:30-2pm. Families are encouraged to contribute food items and/or share their “Howls of Appreciation” using the [online form](#) or rainbow mailbox outside the Rickson library.

Family Movie Night

Family Movie Night was held January 23, featuring Sonic the Hedgehog. Approximately 125 people attended. The event was well received. A February date might be better for a winter event next year to avoid conflicting with high school exams, limiting the availability of high school students for volunteers and to allow more time between the winter break and any School Cash Online posting and possible financial asks.

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night planning is underway with Jenny Fender and Alicia McNeil co-leading the event. Proposed event plans include:

- Food (Pre-order and On site purchase)
- Basket Raffle
- Creation Station (DIY Body Art, Wolf Mask Decorating and Button Making)
- Rickson Stage
- Games Galore (Free Play)
- Uno Mania
- Organized Field Games
- Photo Booth
- Chill Zone & Sensory Space
- Parent/Family Resource Space
- Used Book and Game Sale (Organized by Mrs. Patrick)
- Rickson Ridge Neighbourhood Group booth

As in past years, the intent is to make the event as inclusive as possible. As such, only food and the basket raffle will have a cost. Lower cost food options will be available and

families are welcome to bring their own food. Also, anyone can request a basket raffle ticket for free.

3. School Update (Allison Stoffman, Jill Martin)

- Grade 7 Anti Human Trafficking seminar happened last week
- Metis speaker on February 13th
- Grade 8 graduation photos are coming up
- Grade 5 will be participating in a moccasin identifier project
- Term 1 report cards available February 12th through 'ConnectED' portal
- Junior kindergarten registration still active for 2025-2026
- Early reading & attending everyday continues to be our main focus
- Scientist(s) in the School has been decided by the majority of classes for Hands-on-Learning. Grade 6 have decided to learn about the sport curling
- Anxiety/Mental Health seminar/project on April 3rd hosted at SIB
- A reputable construction company (known to focus on safety as a priority) has been hired to work on the extension of our school come Spring. They will begin by setting up the hoarding fencing which will create a solid barrier between the construction site and the public.

4. Financial Requests & Budget Approvals

- Graduation \$1000
 - Discussion:
 - Grade 8 grad likely to require majority of this budget re: decorations, cake, dinner, chairs, etc.
 - SK grad could do without a cake but rather cookies & juice
 - Approved by consensus
- Student Food Volunteer handout appreciation \$50
 - Discussion: "Thank you" to Ms. Murray and students for helping execute the weekly food program by delivering to each classroom with care
 - Approved by consensus

5. Upcoming Council Activities and Involvement

- Family Fun Night (June 5)
 - Discussion:
 - Will the gym be available? Yes.
 - Weather depending as usual with an alternative plan in progress to move (as much of) the event indoors if need be, without having to cancel
 - 'Volunteers needed for FFN' to be added to Weekly Update from school

- Construction to most likely affect floor plan/space which will be worked around accordingly
 - Waiting to hear back from the City of Guelph re: activation station
 - Photo booth has been booked
 - Remaining spirit wear (Youth T-shirts Black - 1XS/1L, Adult T- shirts Black - 2L/2XL and 24 Rickson Toques)
 - Discussion: We continue to circle back to the number of toques we have in house and welcome ideas on what to do with them. An idea of possibly adding a Rickson toque to each basket for the basket raffle at FFN was suggested.
 - Planning Committee for 2025-26
 - Discussion: Planning for next year - food vendors, events, etc.
 - Volunteers - please let Jenny know if you are interested in volunteering by sending an email to ricksonschoolcouncil@gmail.com
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6. New Business and Questions

Meeting adjourned at: 7:13pm

Upcoming Council Meeting Schedule:

- Monday, April 14th at 6pm, Online
- Tuesday, June 17th at 6pm, In person