

SAC Minutes

Date: September 14, 2022

Attendance: G. White, J. Quinn, C. Hutchinson, S. Harvey, M. O'Neill, J. Graham-Migel, N. Aucoin, K.Morgan , **Students:** Adli & Claudia.

Regrets: C. Smith & V. Dockendorff

Approval of agenda and last year minutes

Bylaws & Agreements - reviewed

- Looking to increase the representation of our SAC to include more diversity: ie: from all grades levels, communities we serve and a variety of programming at RMS
 - Searching to add a student representation from grade 7 & 8
 - Seeking 3 community members (Francis Waterman-Coolen has agreed to join the SAC as a community member)

Principal's Report

Current Enrollment: 578 students and climbing (133 Grade 6, 130 Grade 7, 161 Grade 8, 154 Grade 9)

Grade 6: 4 English classes, 2 French Immersion classes

Grade 7: 2 English classes, 1 late French Immersion classes, 2 early French Immersion classes, one combined 7/8

Grade 8: 4 English classes, 1 late French Immersion classes, 2 early French Immersion classes

Grade 9: 4 English classes, two early/late immersion

Enrollment. A lot of new enrollment over the summer and at the start of school. Classes over cap in grade 6. We have been provided another grade 6 English class- to be hired- and teachers are in the process of designing the class & where the class location will be in the school. Job is posted and closes Tues. Sept. 20th. We are also over cap in grade 7 English classes and have shared this information with our supervisor at HRCE. We are waiting for follow up in regards to grades 7 enrollment.

Many new to Canada students enrolled here at Ridgecliff. Students appear to be settling in well here and we are in the process to ensure support and information are shared with these families and students.

Staff

Number of new staff with us. Everything is updated on the school website.

Coming Up

September 16 : Fire Drill

September 19: Federal/Provincial Holiday

Week of September 19: Lockdown Drill

September 21: Curriculum Night

September 23 – Photo Retake Day

September 29: Orange Shirt Day

September 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day – no school

October 3-14: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

October 7: Immunizations

Professional Development Days and Teacher Learning

September 1st: Organizational Day

September 2nd: PD was focused on Teaching Standards and the Inclusive Education Policy. Terry Drysdale- smudging ceremony on the 1st day of school with staff

September 6th– Off site PD (Grade 6 Math. School Counseling, Renewed Curriculum, Equity in Assessment) and Equity work with Otis Daye

Emergency Management Plan

Fire Drill: September 1th

Lockdown: September 21st

Hold & Secure: September 28th

Breakfast Program

Breakfast Program- eager to get that started. In the works about how that will look this year, but should begin by the end of September. Grab and Go – yogurt tubes, cheese granola bars will begin later this month.

Attendance Changes

Attendance- new system. Attendance has changed period by period &How parents report has changed . Parents shared that you can only excuse kids for the days. Confusion with parents.

Parents finding some glitches to the system and feedback was provided about not being able to excuse your child for the day.

Construction Update

- Construction update- road work outside the school has begun and will continue in our community over the next few weeks which may cause some disruptions and delays. We will share this with community parents when the sidewalk extension begins at the end of the school driveway.

Athletics

Soccer underway – girls and boys

Volleyball – starting soon

Cross Country – starting soon

- **Activity Box** accessible for students during recess & lunch— in need of items for play and activity (soccer and basketball, skipping ropes, etc.)
- Groups & athletics- are being planned and are starting up. Staff are volunteering and we are encouraging students to get involved. Leadership has an initial start up meeting tomorrow at lunch.

Leave school property- we may have to revisit this option for students' leaving school property as we have heard of concerns from others in the neighborhood. We will continue to monitor.

Question raised regarding RCMP liaison - does this still exist. RCMP have changed their approach and there are no liaison's attached to school with RCMP. We have been told we call the non-emergency line and officers will respond.

School Success Plan- Our goal will be to discuss what are the targeted strategies & approaches needed here at RMS. Conversations will take place for all staff, during PLC and staff meetings, as we dig deeper into data in an effort to support student achievement & well being here at RMS. We will be using evidence & data (classroom & provincial)- to respond collectively to school needs and individual student needs.

- *Question- were parents happy with the PD at the beginning of September, rather than the end of Sept. like the past? Much better, less disruptive and easier transition and better flow. Teachers enjoyed it but found it a bit overwhelming and not as effective timing for the adaptations as we didn't know our students yet.*
- **Finance-** student fees will not be charged to families this year.
- **SAC Grants-** approx. \$5578 (\$5000/school + \$1.00/student)

- **Exterior cameras-** we would like to have cameras on the exterior of the school. We have asked HRM counselors to help support this financially. Mr. White reached out to Ms. Stoddard to set up a meeting.
- *Question- can we share the homework hub with the parents & students? Admin will post on a website and have teachers share with students on google classroom.*
- *Question- how can parents know more about the school announcements? We will look into this and see how we can share extra curricular dates, etc. with parents.*
- **STUDENT REPORT-**
 - Lots of opportunities for clubs, sports, and groups to join. Students are looking to see if the art club? - Ms. Bezanson is planning on starting an art club. And maybe a tech/ hands on club, like makerspace.
 - The school is welcoming. Better respect for our school.
 - Kindness idea: we want to reward kindness and encourage students by nominating students and providing them with rewards.
 - Accessible: someone in a wheelchair needs to be better accessible. (locker, gymnasium door, washroom door, desk with storage ss does not fit there)

Next meeting: to appoint SAC Chair & add community representation, as well as student representation.

Scheduled for Nov. 17 in the library @ 5:30pm.