



Roch Carrier Elementary School

Meeting Minutes School Council - January 12, 2011

7:12 Call to order

By: Ken

Seconded: Caroline

Determined there was quorum as there were 11 executive members present.

7:11 Approval of agenda

Adjusted agenda to add snowhawks

MOTION to accept agenda

By: Wendy

Seconded: Jaspreet

All in favour of the agenda = 11 voted Yes

Reports:

Principal's Report (Katia Sioufi)

The first official report card of the school year is going home Feb 2nd. On Feb. 8th, there will be student led conferences. Invitations for the conferences will be sent with time. At the conference, you get to go over your child's portfolio. It will likely take place in the gym. It was noted that if you ever need to meet with your teacher, let him/her know at any time during the year and don't wait for report cards/conferences.

There was a staff meeting today. The main topic of the meeting was discussing the plan to make changes to the "balanced day" next year. Katia and Lisa went over current teaching blocks and nutrition blocks and informed the council of the changes:

- First teaching block and first nutrition break – no changes
- Second teaching block will increase from 80 minutes to 120 minutes.
- The second nutrition break will change from 12:30 to 1:20 to a start time of 1:10 and ending at 2:00 pm.
- The third teaching block will change from 100 minutes to 60 minutes.

Katia and Lisa asked for feedback. A few parents thought the change would be beneficial as the kids may eat better at the second nutrition break given there is more time between the breaks with the new plan. It was also noted that the longer teaching during second block will

allow teachers to get more into depth into the subject matter.

Q – Will the students have the same amount of time to eat?

A – yes.

During the winter it is about 15 min of time to eat at each break. During spring and fall they get 20 minutes to eat since there is less transition/dress time.

Staff Report (Carolyn Hammond)

This month, Mrs. Bannerman's J.K.'s are working on printing our names with a capital at the beginning and all the rest lower case letters (we are very proud since this is the SENIOR KINDERGARTEN way to print!!!) Our class wrote a class book called "Our Name Book" which is going home with each child.

Miss Kathy's JK classes are starting "A Letter A Day" to study all 26 letters of the alphabet. Each day will feature show and tell, art, science, math and language activities to correspond with each letter.

Starting on Thursday, Jan. 13th will put us at letter Vv for Valentine's Day on February 14th.

Junior Kindergarten students will not have a report card this term. JK students and their teachers will be working on a JK checklist in January and February. This will be a great way to inform parents about their JK child's progress.

In Mme Hole's SKEFI (room 132) in January, we have learned many new words beginning with "C". We are now talking about Winter. The children are practicing printing both upper and lower case letters daily on small chalkboards and using cubes to count with tens and ones.

Mrs. Kerwin SK

Winter is amongst us!

Let's write and illustrate a book about winter clothing!

Let's order a storyline about our favourite winter activity, building a snowman!

Let's paint a giant snowman, kinder-size!

Let's enter the puppet theatre with our snowman puppets!

Mme Meh's Grade 1 EFIs are working on Social Studies looking at jobs and maps.

Mme Desforges Grade 1 class is learning about money. They will also be learning how to present at book talk.

Grade 1 Mme Vézina's class is doing an oral presentation on a book they've read. In Math, the students are learning to tell time to the hour and the half-hour.

Mme Gravel's class is learning how to do procedural writing by writing the instructions on how to make a snowman.

The English grade ones in Mr. Ridgeway's class are finishing their energy unit with a splash, designing sailboats, machines that turn wind energy into movement. After that they will begin their geometry unit.

Mlle Backstrom's class is going to begin blogging and responding to their classmates on a **private** blog. Students must log in with a password and only our class will be able to see what has been written.

Mme Greenland's grade 2 class has been learning about telling time and writing time. We made our very own cute little clocks!

Mme Toye reports that on Tuesday, Jan. 11th, a volunteer from the NAC presented a variety of art reproductions (e.g., Norval Morrisseau) and had discussions with the children on some aspects of art related to the Visual Arts curriculum.

Something fun that the students are doing in Mme Lamarche's class for DPA is yoga! Mme has some videos and books that the class follows and they become zen!

Mrs. Levy-Rick's Grade 2/3 class and Mrs Paunins' Grade 2 students are eagerly anticipating a special presentation from the Free the Children Foundation. A team of representatives will be conducting a workshop with our students on January 26th. The students will be learning about

the organization, Sierra Leone, and what our fundraising money has been earmarked for. As well, we will be learning a

bout how the organization goes about building a school.

We were thrilled to have our efforts acknowledged by the Kanata Courier-Standard on December 24, 2010.

Madame Poirier's Grade 3 EFI class is learning to draw interesting pictograms and bar graphs during their math lessons.

Mme Macdonald's grade 3 students have been studying the way of life of the Wendat and the Anishinabe in Social Studies and recently created their own False Face inspired masks, in Visual Arts. In Science, they are starting to explore Structures. The unit got off to a great start with a hands-on Scientists in Schools workshop with a final challenge involving a bridge-building competition using newspapers and masking tape. An Up-coming projects include creating a pinch pot in Art and composing a False Face legend in writing.

Mrs. Harrison's ETFI classes:

Since taking our field trip in October to Heron Pond Trail, a beautiful old growth forest located in the South March Highlands of Kanata, we have been following the legal battle to save this ecologically priceless land from development. We are writing persuasive letters to Mayor Jim Watson stating our position on this issue.

Mr. Saschenbrecker's grade 3/4 English are learning poetry.

The Grade 4's in Ms. O'Shaughnessy's class are beginning to look at light and sound in science.

Allingham's class has set up "P7 Data Management Consulting" firm out in the portable and are currently working under "contract" collecting data about RCES students' outdoor physical activity habits.

Grade 6

Last week, the Ms Carew's, Ms Gasperetti's, Mme Laviolette's and Mme Riem's classes all visited the Museum of Civilization where they enjoyed the 3D IMAX film Hubble, directly related to the Grade 6 Science curriculum on Space. After lunch, students were able to visit the museum. In the afternoon, students were divided into groups and attended a workshop related to their Social Studies curriculum.

Ms. Carew's class welcomes Jennifer Chambers, their new student teacher. She will be with us until April

Mme Riem's students will be building parallel and series circuits and conducting different experiments on electricity. We are also writing pourquoi tales and learning about colour and colour theory.

Mrs. Gasperetti's class will begin their next science unit - Electricity.

Sports (Linguist & Sasch)

Grade 5 & 6 boys and girls are participating in intramural volleyball during lunch times and mornings before school.

Committee Reports:

OCASC (Andrea)

There will be a “getting a good IEP for your child” presentation on Thursday, January 27 to 7 to 9 at the Woodroffe high school. Elementary and high school. Former special education chair will be presenting.

ACTION: post on the web site.

Treasurer (Christina not here, Cynthia did the summary)

- Cynthia went through a high level summary of the food – what is over and under. Of note, Mazzola's amount is under b/c a cheque is outstanding. .
- She also went through some of the major activities
 - The fundraiser for the entertainment books generated more than expected profit. And each student will be discounted 7 dollars for a school field trips this year. The amount is rounded down, with the difference being put back into council
 - The grant of 500 dollars has been received and will be put toward The Rochin Fun Fair
 - Paid out library needs for fall of 3350, and other items in the financial summary.
 - There is a surplus of 349.25.
- Suggestion to hold off on spending any money at this meeting (releasing funds) given that the treasurer was not present and that there was not much money currently available. No one countered this suggestion.

Food (Christina was not present so Susan presented)

Stated that the new order forms have been distributed and she noted the change in the pizza orders – that is, you are in or out (all or nothing). Also, a reminder that forms are available at the Roch Carrier web site.

The first day of the new food term is January 31st .

The food programs will run up to the last week of school for food programs

Fundraising (Chantal not present, Cynthia presented)

The last fundraiser effort will be held at the end of March/beginning of April. There will be a package going out including fundraisers of coffee, enchanted gardens, and **fundscrip???**

Notice that there will be a cake walk on Feb. 10th

Katia noted that this was a conflict with a secure classroom practice, but she will be reschedule the practice to allow the cake walk to proceed.

New Business/Follow up

Kanata ARC (Cynthia, Christina)

Kanata ARC – The Discussion Paper for Interim Measures was circulated around the council.

It was announced that there is a public meeting Monday, Jan 17 at 7:00 pm in the cafeteria at AY Jackson. At this meeting, the planning department will be presenting the interim solutions/options for Roch Carrier and rest of Kanata. Everyone who attends can have two (2) minutes for question(s). They are expecting lots of questions –Last chance for parents to make

their opinions known. Meeting will take as long as required for all parents to voice their questions.

In addition to reviewing and discussing public comments regarding the discussion paper interim solution; there will be a quick look at long term solutions.

Cynthia stated that Roch Carrier representatives are on the Kanata ARC to represent all parents, not just their own views.

It was noted that a copy of an information binder about the review is in the office with the information including discussion papers. This binder is constantly updated by Cynthia. It was clarified that the interim accommodation measures are suggested options by planning department, not by the ARC. The planning department is responsible for presenting ideas for interim measures for Sept. 2011. You can email Cathy Curry if you'd like her to forward issues/information for her to raise.

The two interim measures/options proposed are:

- Option A: Roch carrier to remain status quo for Sept. 2011. The one change would be that school-aged children from the new residential housing (across the road ONLY, does not include the other townhomes being built in other areas of Emerald Meadows/Bridlewood) would be redirected to Bridlewood for middle French immersion and WO Mitchell for early French immersion. This will prevent the possibility of these children coming to Roch Carrier in the unlikely event that the housing development starts building in time for the 2011/12 school year.
- Option B: For the 2011/12 school year, the Grade 6 students at Roch Carrier will be moved to intermediate schools making Roch Carrier a K through Grade 5 school starting Sept. 2011. Grade 6 students would be directed to WO Mitchell or Bridlewood depending on whether English for EFI stream. And, the new residential area families would not be allowed to enroll in Roch Carrier was mentioned as going to WO Mitchell or Bridlewood.

The interim solutions do not consider potential impact beyond 2011. The interim decision will be made by Board of Trustees on **February 22nd**.

At the Jan. 5th ARC meeting, the Kanata school information profiles were presented. Items such as programs, year the school was constructed, size of the lot, and number of portables were looked at. Cynthia summarized some of the statistics about Roch Carrier

- Currently 708 students.
- 12 portables. This is the maximum allowable portables allowed, unless the electrical system is updated and an additional fire hydrant is added.
- The planning capacity is 418 students (inside building); enrollment was listed at 705, FTEs 622,
- Current utilization of school is 148.4% (does not indicate the school is in dire straits)
- Other information that might be considered is the After 3 program, Daycare onsite.
- Student enrollment is to increase to 768. It was noted that there is typically a one to two per cent error in projections. What other resources are there?
- If Roch Carrier becomes a K to 5 school, the projections for next year fall from 622 FTEs to 596 FTEs.

As part of the larger ARC review – options will look into solutions for RC for 2012.

The following bulleted points summarize the questions/ answers, and points that were raised:

- Why not build an extension?
 - Cynthia brings up the fact that Roch Carrier could have an extension at every meeting. However, it was noted that there was a lack of funds in the school board and the province (one factor attributed to the lack of funds was the implementation of full day Kindergarten being implemented.)
- Discussion paper does not match Cynthia's numbers. In the discussion paper, Roch Carrier has 679 FTEs.
- Cynthia explained the differences.
- Question directed to Katia -- how much will the Board will listen to the comments?
 - Yes, they do listen and will take it back to the Board. Katia stated that she felt that they really want to look at every possible option.
- What other options have been applied to other schools? An answer was sought from the Katia/Lisa/Carolyn to provide feedback, or suggestions.
- Are the two interim options directly from the board or from parent suggestions/fed?
- Katia provided her opinion. The kids are going to be fine, they'll adjust. Adults have more difficulty adjusting. If we stay status quo – there will be larger classes, might have more split classes, use different classes that aren't being used as classes right now, teachers don't have to leave. If the Gr 5's graduate – there will be more room, teacher assignments will change. Regardless of decision, change will happen. To do nothing will also result in change.
- There was confusion as to why new homeowners on Stonehaven and Bridgestone would get to come here but parents here with students may be displaced.
- It was explained that there would be no boundary changes in the interim year.
- It was suggested that the parents try to make/suggest the best decisions for school and not individual child. Is it better for our Grade 5s to move on or to stay here?
 - Maybe it's a good thing if the Grade 6s move to the intermediate school because they will become more aware of what the school has to offer and engage in more of the activities/programs.
 - Children might benefit from a smaller school,
 - It was noted that it is not believed, as this time, that Bridlewood or WO Mitchell will become overcrowded by these interim solutions.
 - Why not balance our EFI earlier (at kindergarten) since we are feeding the schools anyway. That way, those students can benefit for being at a school longer. Can we partner/discuss with these schools?
- Lisa and Cynthia agreed that that is a good long term suggestion and to please bring solutions/ideas for longer-term possibilities.
- Have we ever discussed moving JK as an interim solution? (that is, students don't go to Roch Carrier for JK but come back for SK to Grade 6)
- It would be considered if it was suggested but as of yet, has not been discussed.
- Might be easier if grade 5/6s to move since they are moving together.
- Has the impact from the new French public school been considered? Do we know registrations? They are operating in Kanata North.

- It was mentioned that the Planning Department has mentioned that it is really hard trying to plan enrollment for schools as family type isn't as easily predicted by housing type as it was in the past. There are new developments in the Fernbank that may affect John Young. Our boundaries are also hard to guess. WO Mitchell – no builds/no land left so easier to plan.
- Ken to Katia/Lisa/Carolyn. What about effect on leadership of losing Grade 6 students? Will it affect school life in general? Will the Grade 5s take over?
 - o Katia – the grade 5s will become the leaders. In a previous school, she saw that the Grade 5s took on the lunch monitoring, etc. Another council member mentioned that the feeder schools will also offer opportunities. Another council member mentioned that the first year of Roch Carrier it only went to Grade 5 and they were the leaders. Great opportunities for Grade 5s will exist.
- On page 43 of the discussion paper, it shows that EFI students in the new houses off of Fernbank and Eagleson are slated to come to Roch Carrier. Why would this pocket not go to another school? Quite a few students.
 - o There are no boundary changes in the interim solutions
- We must also remember that it is important to have viable EFI and English programs at Roch Carrier
- Regarding the dynamic of the Jan. 17th meeting –will the board be independently thinking about measures or will it be numbers of parents sitting in the sits.
- o looking for content, what other solutions. Not number of parents, per se.
- it was mentioned that one strategy would be to try to plan our ideas to ensure we are heard.

Cynthia stated that parents can send comments to the board directly, or can bring them to the office confidentiality and the office will send the comments to the board.

Cynthia stressed that ARC is an open process, in addition to the meetings being on our web site, parents are welcome to attend working meetings as there is at least 15 minutes at the end of the meetings for observers to provide comments/concerns within 2 minute format.

If you sent things to ARC – goes to Christina and Cynthia. They will answer best they can or forward to best person to respond.

Rochin' Family Fun Fair (Cynthia)

June 24th of June. Still looking for volunteers.

Run a- muck has rentals available. Will try to improve on feedback – need more bouncers (carousel, jousting, combo unit with operator to fit the ages of 4 to 12), instead of balloon splash there will be a dunk tank (looking for teachers to volunteer). Line up for cotton candy was long last year – need volunteers the night before and day of to make cotton candy to bag it and we will then get the profit which will cover the cost of the inflatables. The cost has therefore gone up. Instead of Gabriel's selling drinks, we'll do it to get more profit (b/c they made a lot of money and the money should go into our pockets). We'll invite them back to order pizzas. High school volunteers – Cynthia liked the ones last year and kept the list. She'll be asking them to come back. Many came back to ask to help with the BBQ last fall and others have asked to stay on the list. Will also go back to the guidance counselors to get list of potential students. Were here from 3 to 10 pm. Didn't get lots of pizza/food over the time.

Prefer to have adults to deal with funds and students to do other activities.

MOTION: to purchase pizza from council to feed the student volunteers. Formal motion not done.

The profit from the cake walk, etc. would go into technological upgrades.

Snowhawks (Cynthia)

Confirmed that liability is covered for students and volunteers.

The program runs every Tuesday. The bus takes students at 3:30 and is back by 9:00 pm. It is a 45 minute ski lesson followed by skiing on the hill with groups. A maximum of 52 students can go. The mountains are: Vorlage and Mont Cascades (twice each). Students can rent equipment. Kids bring or purchase supper as given a dinner hour. Need at least 5 parent volunteers but need to confirm.

The paperwork is not yet received. If we don't hear back by next Monday – we will have less than two weeks to register the kids and arrange the volunteers and have a volunteer meeting. Jane Doucette will be the head volunteer as she is familiar with the students. Additional volunteers can go for 10 dollars. The other two schools have not yet heard back from the contact either.

NEXT STEPS: If we do not have at least two weeks to plan/organize the program, SnowHawks will not go forward.

Agreement by Caroline and Chris

Facebook “Fan Page” for RCSC (Chantal not present, Rhonda presented)

Building on the momentum that exists with facebook users, it would be a good venue to pass on information to our parents. Things we could put on our fan page include council Web site updates, reminders about meetings, food programs, fundraisers, “crazy hair day” type activities. Chantal created a test page but only she can see it at this time.

With regard to security, you can't stop people from liking your page, but you can block someone after the fact and there can be multiple administrators.

Opened up for comment/feedback

- Ken indicated that the blog site he has gets lots of spam.
Response from other council member that you don't get that on facebook.
 - Cynthia discussed that there is a security issue and cited a past occurrence of a facebook page becoming extremely inappropriate. She also indicated that children have access to facebook and that might be an issue along with issues controlling membership.
- Wendy said you can control memberships. And discussed that we could have it so that no one can post; only administrators could post updates.
- Some discussion and agreement that pictures should not be posted.
 - Essentially – the point would be that people could “like” the page and receive feeds/updates but it would not be accessible to anyone but the administrators to upload, post, or add anything to that page.
 - Some parents indicated they liked that reminders would show up on your news feed right away.
 - There was concern voiced about the school (VP, P) with parents posting, asking questions that would not get answered.

It was confirmed that this would be clearly stated that it is a parent venture and not school

administrator. Ok for info only.

- Question whether there would be the same information on facebook as on the web site so won't have to join/use facebook. It was confirmed that this would be the case.
- Cynthia thought it would be best to be careful with what was put on the facebook page b/c of the reach. For example, may not be a good idea to discuss the Rochin Family Fun Fair in case other people don't realize it's for the school only.
- Discussion about what should go on the site, control of content, whether there should be approvals by the Chairs, the Vice Principal/Principal. However, it was then noted (Ken) that a facebook fan page is valuable in its reach and timeliness so it would be best to not apply too many rules and waiting for time points like council meetings as it would go against the benefits of facebook. General agreement with this, especially given that we run a school council web site and we don't need formal approval for what goes on that site. There was caution that facebook may require some different considerations given that the reach is greater than the web site.

MOTION : to create a facebook page on basis that no postings or pictures are allowed by any other than administrators. Only general information is put on web site that would not compromise safety of the students or functions that are held for the school.

By: Cynthia

Seconded: Susan

Vote: 11 in favour

ACTION: Chantal to establish the fan site and be the first administrator.

Round Table

- Cynthia indicated that given the amount of emails that Katia and Lisa get, they probably do not require involvement/cc'ed on all our conversations. In the future Cynthia will summarize and not continue this practice.
- PJ day – Jan 28th.
- Jennifer - Zumba – 10 dollars, adult only. Jennifer will led the class. Held at Roch Carrier. Wednesday, Feb 23rd.
- Lisa – Hydro Ottawa will be giving a presentation for the entire school next week about safety and energy conservation
- February – children in JK/SK, Grade 2 will have dental screening
- Caroline – 307 books from starbucks book drive.
- Caroline - Grade 6 flea market raised \$1,092.49.
- Wendy – Mabels labels has a new item- loot bag party favours. Loot bag comes with six for 30 dollars, each comes with dog tag and six sticky labels (can pick six different names)
- Ann – she attended the public meeting at the ARC attended and said that our reps did a great job. She also remarked that schools at this end of Kanata are doing similar activities, values, etc and seeing this decreased her worry about the future.
- Andrea – went to Amazon to look at books and said there were only 4 left on the wish list and they were from 2007 only four left. Susan said she will look check the list online (Cynthia had mentioned that she had looked at it before and it was 30 or so pages long)
- Susan – reminder to sign in, and to provide email if you want copy of the draft minutes
- Susan - WoM hosts sessions open to the public. The next few are: Feb 17th – parenting anxious children; March – cyber bullying and child safety; May – eating healthy and

body image.

- Cynthia – email to be sent out about Sunday stories occurring at the Children’s Museum theatre on Jan. 16. There will be a reading of “The Hockey Sweater” in English at noon and at 3 pm and in French at 11:00 and 2:00.
- Cynthia - James Patterson has a good web site www.readkiddoread.com that provides book suggestions broken down into different age groups with multiple genres.
- Cynthia – as a lunch monitor, she sees what teachers do for the kids. Thank you to teachers who take their time to stay in the classroom to help with the food, extra help, spelling bee, etc.
- Ken – premier’s award for teaching excellence. Will be on web site. Please nominate someone. Circulated brochures.

Close and adjournment

Motion to adjourn

By: Ken

Seconded by: Susan.