



Kars on the Rideau School Council Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Minutes were taken by Kara Hayne.

Present: Rick Haggar (Principal), Sherrie Guthrie (VP, Teacher Rep), Lynn Scott (Trustee), Louise Cesario (Teacher Rep), Diane Dey (Co-chair), Kara Hayne (Secretary), Julien Franche (Web Administrator), Kim Cable, Rowena Pearl, Bonnie Fiarchuk, Vicki Arkininstall

1. Welcome, Introductions and Co-Chair Updates

Diane welcomed parents and committee members, and Trustee Lynn Scott.

Council will provide each teacher with \$100 grant

Chairs have a meeting scheduled with Rick to improve communications between school and Council executives.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Carrie sends regrets.
- Total Loonie Toonie sale profit was \$3,259.52 (\$284.86 less than last year)
- Kindergarden information night was well attended with approximately 30 people. Council spent a total of \$35.87 on treats purchased from Costco.

3. Principal's Report

Isolated incidents with vaping, etc. have been much more prevalent in other schools. Disciplinary sanctions are the same for all children, and the policy is applied equally. Information is coming on marijuana legalization and schools are anxiously waiting for new policies. The addictions clinic Rideauwood (<http://www.rideauwood.org/>) was in to speak with staff. Council's role is to educate families, and Rick offered the KOTR school website to link to Council's website for community resources. Council discussed the possibility of a speaker coming in an evening for information for parents. The School Resource Officer does not include the role of speaking to student bodies. However, the OCDSB screens speakers carefully and could make some recommendations. Community Resource Centres could also have no-charge speakers (e.g. public health nurse, social worker).

ACTION: Lynn Scott to request from Michelle Geroux (Safe & Caring Schools Program) a list of potential speakers.

ACTION: Rick to ask the School Resource Officer for a list of potential speakers and send the list to Kara Hayne.

ACTION: Kara to contact potential speakers and explore dates in April/May.

Council is considering a two-part series: 1) signs to look for addictions, where to get help, prevention, etc., 2) policies, legalization, implementation in the OCDSB, etc. Other topics could also include gender identity, social media, addictions, anxiety, etc.

May 10th – a theatrical group is visiting the school to perform and speak about bullying and acceptance.

The Great Gower Run organizing committee is donating a speaker to the community to address social media in September 2018.

The school BBQ community event will have more bouncy castles this year. Rick is getting sponsorship and will inform Council what Council funds could subsidize.

For the Dance-A-Thon, Sherrie and Rick are exploring dates in May, with school staff willing to take on the organization with the help of grades 7 and 8. They will have an in-depth conversation with staff on March 20th to explore incentives (e.g. every \$100 raised by kids, the student would receive a \$10 gift card), and are asking School Council to donate prizes.

ACTION: Sherrie to provide a summary of staff meeting to Council.

4. Teacher Representatives' Report

School Council Funding Requests:

- 1) Grade 6- Asia Adams is asking for a class set of 2 novels (2x Class set \$48 from Indigo. Not available through Scholastic - La Mysterieuse Bibliotheque, Other). She has already bought the teacher guide and manual. Total amount with tax: **\$897**.

MOTION:

Motion made by Diane

1st: Kara, 2nd: Rowena

Motion **PASSED**

- 2) JK-gr. 3 classes - Jolene is requesting science workshops "Scientists In Schools", offered in French and English. \$190x 9. Total: **\$1710**

MOTION:

Motion made by Diane

1st: Vicki, 2nd: Julien

Motion **PASSED**

- 3) Bus Subsidy- could be lump sum or split in two. \$5/student for 668 students currently. Not a standing motion. Total amount with tax: **\$3,340**

MOTION:

Motion made by Diane

1st: Bonnie, 2nd: Kim

Motion **PASSED**

- 4) \$100 teacher consumables (45). Standing motion for teacher consumables – **no vote required**. Rick confirmed that Council is to fund the school in lump sum for the school to manage. Total amount: **\$1,936**

Rick received Board support to purchase all teachers their own Chrome book, subsidized by the Board. Projectors were subsidized by the Board. Composite staff picture and class pictures were provided by LifeTouch.

Rick is in support of Council spending more on school programming and less than anticipated on technology and equipment.

To expand the Resource Library, the computer lab is being consolidated into a multi-technology lab. A teacher from St. Francis Xavier is coming here to deliver a parent and student workshop to be proposed in the March 20th staff meeting. Her book will be added to the parent resources, along with a list of helplines, contacts, and community events.

5. Council Format

Council Executives have been struggling this year getting sufficient volunteers to run all planned fundraising events and to attract more parents to the Council meetings. On this, the Trustee provided advice to Council on how to improve meeting format and how to attract and interact with parents of the school community to improve parent engagement and communication:

- The strength of a school council is not in numbers - broad outreach of parents are generally not interested in organizing events, but they *DO* need *connection* to the school.
- Council meetings are business meetings, whereas parents are generally more interested in social engagement and learning opportunities. Parents won't attend unless they have a really good reason.
- Lynn suggests a two-pronged approach. First, Council could host an event early in the school year – e.g. meet the teacher night when parents are already here. Have Council members stationed strategically throughout the school and have parents quickly fill out a form identifying their interests/skills in various roles such as writing, event planning or financial management, and availability during daytime/evening.
- Second, at early Fall meeting- host parent school info night (not a school council meeting- blend with school event as school community event) on how they can be involved (e.g. school hand book, council, social events, report cards, etc.) to start getting interest.
- E.g., Huntley centennial school Council provided coffee the first couple of weeks to parents dropping off JK kids.

DECISION: Keep future meetings 7-9pm. Consensus from current members is that a 6pm or 6:30pm start time would be too difficult. Earlier would be better for teacher reps as they have a staff meeting prior to Council with a big gap.

6. Current Business

a) Council Bylaws Update:

- Proposed updates not yet complete.

ACTION: Council members to send input to Diane for next meeting.

b) Council Website Updates:

- Issue: Website is hosted on a free platform (Weebly) and therefore limits formatting. Could pay for “pro” version for a more attractive website (\$12US/month would give us hosting and a domain name KOTRCouncil.ca). Julien is documenting to establish a manual for future web administrators. Rick supports it so we can have more flexibility. Lynn says this is a good deal. Kim does not think Weebly is our tool of choice. Diane looked at NG Co-Op website coordinated by Tara Cavanaugh designed by Andrew Wardell. We have community resources to help us update if no one on Council has the skills to maintain it. Site needs to be mobile friendly.
- Diane motioned between this month and next- that Kim, Shereene and Julien to meet and come up with the feasibility of moving to a new platform and options; and vote next meeting to approve up to \$150/year.
- Rick motioned for **KOTR to give School Council \$300 per year ongoing** for a high quality School Council website (School would be invoiced). All seconded.

MOTION:

Motion made by Rick

All seconded.

Motion **PASSED**

7. Coordinator Updates

○ Hot Lunch (Kim):

- Term 2 is wrapped up for orders and payments. Suppliers have all their orders.
- Report for Term 1 and Term 2 profits will be ready in the coming weeks. Chicken Fingers was the most popular item, followed by pizza. Hot potato is the lowest profit maker and was less popular than the Caesar salad.
- Need to renew online ordering system account by June for discount and so Kim can set it up over the summer.

● Dance-A-Thon (May):

- No longer a School Council event, Will likely be organized by school staff and students.

● Cake Walk (March 28):

- Tanya Mercer will coordinate but will need help the day of the event. Organizers will determine the time slots they need for volunteers.

● Used Book Sale (April 20-21):

- Melissa is coordinating and working on advertising. Cardboard boxes are welcome.
- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon:**
 - Council to organize. Greening Committee will do the flowers. Diane will lend mason jars for the flowers.

8. Trustee Update

The OCDSB is funding a new public high school in Stittsville by 2021. A massive consultation is coming up on how to determine boundaries that will likely impact schools in our region. Lynn expects that we'll continue to need South Carleton High School. Stittsville kids will no longer go there. The pressures are due partly to new housing development and growth in Richmond, south Manotick, etc. In the Osgoode Township, Castor Valley has many portables. KOTR has 3 students from Osgoode due to boundaries.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting will take place on May 8, 2018.