

RECORD OF DECISIONS RALSTON SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 20 Sep 23

Present	Mrs Nunweiler Mr Carrier Mrs Keast Mr Vanden Mr Danso Mr Munro Mrs Munro Mrs Fisher Mrs Raco Mrs Darko Mrs Jest Mr Pun	Headteacher Junior High G4/5 Parent Council Chair	
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Serial	Item / Record of decisions
1	Opening remarks and introduction. Mrs Nunweiler introduced herself and explained what the parent council is. The School Council is a bridge between the school and the community designed to get what's best for the children in the school, it is the parents voice in the community. Parents and Teachers in attendance introduced themselves.
2	Principals Tea will begin next Wednesday at 2:45pm, it is an opportunity to ask in person questions regarding your children.
3	Parent Representatives – Parent representatives are a figurehead for each grade, advertised so that parents have someone to go to with concerns when they can't attend parent council themselves. We would like parent representatives again this year, a letter will go out to the parent community this week. The letter will explain what the role involves. Emails for parent representative volunteers will be sent to Mr Vanden.
4	Mr Carrier provided an update on some of the initiatives for the school this year. We have a set timeslot each week called (Professional Learning Community) PLCs where the whole school gets together to work on a project as a whole, This year's first project in PLC's will be called "The Best Part of Me", it allows the students to focus on themselves. The results will be published at the end of October. Junior Highs will be doing Fall Camp in the 1st week in October, it will be focussed on Learning from the Land. Outdoor education will continue this year. Mr Leveque has returned this year and will be teaching Frisbee Golf. Confirm with PSP their dates.
5	The hot lunch programme is reliant on numbers, with the low numbers, hot lunches will be less frequent. Support will be required from the parent council for advice as delivery fees are high. The only way to facilitate them will be with the help of volunteers. Last year the school took substantial losses on hot lunches.

6	Parent Handbook – Was sent out on the day of the Meet and Greet. It outlines the policies and the way the school is run.² Communication policy – The official communications for Ralston School are Monthly Newsletter, Seesaw, School Messenger Home school communication policy goes through responsibilities, it details who the contacts are for each subject. It also details the discipline standards. Parents who haven't received the handbook can request a link from Mrs Nunweiler. The attendance policy will be updated following the visit of the British MOD teachers last week. Mrs Munro asked if the Parent Handbook contains information on lockdowns. What happens during emergencies such as Tornadoes. Parents understand the children will be secured in the school. What is the plan to exit after a lockdown? Mr Carrier briefed that the school follows a student release procedure. Once it is deemed safe the school will use different types of secure communications to release the children. It is unclear what is deemed a hold and secure? Their primary concern is the safety of the children. Mrs Nunweiler will work with Division Office to confirm the policy and send the policy out to the parents. Lockdown procedure will be added as an agenda point for the October meeting.
7	Differences between UK and Canadian Curriculum – At the British MOD Teachers visit there was a request for information detailing the differences in the curriculums of the UK and Alberta, this would be made available to parents at the lending library that will be hosted by Mrs Stanton. This allows parents to bridge the gap in preparation for children returning to the UK. This will be added as an agenda point for the October meeting.
8	School Notice Board – The request to make a weatherproof notice board has been submitted to BATUS and it will be undertaken as a community project. Mrs Nunweiler advised that concrete pillars would be required if the notice board is being secured in the ground, once details are known a works request will need to be submitted to secure the board.
9	Mrs Keast asked if there was an opportunity for the Ralston Parent Council to mirror parent councils in other Canadian schools? If the parent council continues to receive the strong attendance it has at the September meeting, we would be able to expand on the roles of its members.
10	Mr Carrier advised that they need help moving the schools Greenhouse once approval is gained to relocate it.
11	Mrs Keast – The gaps in education don't just affect the British Military children. Canadian Military parents are moving a lot and the differences between the Schools in Canada are huge, it is difficult for them to get into the better Schools. There is a different curriculum for each province in Canada.

12	Data Protection – Mr Munro asked if the school had learnt any lessons or created new policies to ensure that personal data does not go missing again in the future. Mrs Nunweiler advised that School Work that happens at the school is the property of the School. The school are required to provide data to the parents, not the actual schoolwork. Mr Munro requested evidence that this is true. Mr Carrier advised that at the end of the School Year, books are disposed of in a shredding box. Mr Munro's concern is that on a recent occasion this process was not followed and schoolwork including personal information has gone missing. Mr Carrier advised this hasn't happened before and the school will update their policy to ensure they learn from the error.
13	The Division has a board member that is unable to make parent councils as he works full time.
14	Mrs Keast advised that there are other channels if you aren't getting the answers you need from the school.
15	The next meeting will be on October 18 th , 2023 @ 2.30pm.

Martin Vanden
Parent Council Chair