

Ralston School Parent Council Meeting
12th October 2022

Attendees

Ralston School: Mrs Rose,

Parent Council Chair: James Whately-Smith

Parents: HWS, RH, DM, JM, AR, RKP, AR, CF, KC, RD, RJ

Apologies: Ms Nunweiler – medical appointment

1. Intro of Attendees

2. Parent Council Norms discussed and the following ideas were suggested –

- Be respectful
- Confidentiality when discussing children, e.g. use first initial instead of child's name when discussing specific children in meetings.
- Minutes of meetings to be recorded by a volunteer each month, typed up and sent to Ms Nunweiler and JWS and made available to all parents on seesaw/email so they can see content of meetings.
- A way for parents to request to add to the Parent Council meeting agenda before meetings.
- HWS suggested idea of class reps for each grade. A parent (or 2) could volunteer to be their grade's representative. Other parents could bring suggestions, ideas or concerns to their class rep who could bring them up at Parent Council meetings. This would be especially useful for parents who cannot come to meetings due to work or other commitments.

3. Parent Issues and Concerns— attendees were shown flowchart for protocol for reporting concerns. Who to go to first – class teacher, principal then division office or welfare. D asked if this could be made available on Seesaw/ email for parents. Also, who is the contact at the division office if parents have concerns? Mrs Rose found the contact – Mark Heinrichs.

4. Education Suitability Report

-In response to the concerns brought up, the school is planning to hire a new half-time teacher for Grade 2 students. Grade 2/3 will be split in the morning for Math and English Language Arts. Miss Tuff will be teaching the Grade 3s. Then the class will be brought back together with Miss Tuff in the afternoons. An EA will also be running interventions for those children with gaps as identified by class teacher assessments in September.

- See letter from Miss Nunweiler that will be sent out to Grade 2/3 parents today.

- Talked about interventions plan – there was a concern that taking an EA from Grade 4/5 to work on these interventions will cause additional problems in Grade 4/5 as there are children in that class who require support. AR asked, will this not cause the same problem higher up the school?

- All agreed that from Grade 1 up, everyone understands that the Canadian curriculum is taught and not the British curriculum. KC brought up that although parents understand this, they just want to make sure that the Canadian curriculum is being delivered to a high standard.

- KC and HWS asked if there was a way to work with children expecting to go back to the UK within the next school year e.g. interventions on transition back to a different curriculum. KC explained that this was in place the last time her family was here in 2017.
- HWS also added that these interventions/work with Grades 1-3 was what was stated in last Education Suitability Report which BATUS families based their education information on before arriving and signed showing that they understood the differences in the Canadian/British curriculum.
- Mrs Rose suggested that any further concerns on this matter should be taken to Ms Nunweiler and she will be happy to meet with parents to discuss this.

5. **Hot Lunch Ideas**

- Parents agreed that the cost of the new hot lunch at \$12 was too high, this was the reason the school haven't seen much take up, although they appreciated the effort to make these lunches healthier for children.
- Suggestion of a cap of \$10 was discussed and agreed.
- Ideas from parents for future lunches: Subway (good veggie option and kids meals) Puck Stop as its local. Parents were very enthusiastic about this. We would be supporting a business in the community and the delivery costs would stay down. Also, the Puck Stop caters for different dietary needs such as dairy-free which makes the lunch more inclusive for children with these needs. Costco and asking the Mess to provide a packed lunch were also suggested.
- Parents asked if children could eat together in the school gym at lunchtime, logistical issues with chairs and tables were discussed. HWS expressed concern that screens were being used, as classes are watching movies while children eat their lunches in classrooms. Opportunities for learning good manners and having conversations with peers are being missed and too much screen time does not promote healthy brain development.
- Parents asked if there could be an etransfer option for paying for hot lunches as only option for ATM in the village is the CANEX. This also charges \$3 for non-BMO bank accounts so parents actually have to pay even more for the hot lunches if they are not BMO customers!

6. **U18 Hockey tournament at Ralston on 16th October.** Volunteers needed!

- RH and HWS offered to do ice action.
- AR asked that information could be sent to her so she could pass on to Ralston Devils team as they would be happy to help
- All children invited to watch
- Suggested that someone gets in touch with the Puck Stop to open and provide refreshments for the tournament as it is usually closed on a Sunday – KC

7. **AOB**

- DM asked about school budget, what can/ cannot be shared with parents or made public?
- Cash/ettransfer options for school, especially as MFRC has an etransfer option and the Puck Stop now accepts card payments. HWS mentioned that Canadian JK/K parents had to pay in cash for school fees and this was inconvenient.
- Recess – parents asked what happens if a child hurts themselves. Where do they go? A few children have mentioned adults not being around when injuries happen and having

to go and find an adult themselves. Asked about supervision on the playground.

Communication between supervisors and class teacher, as class teachers sometimes do not know if a child has been injured or received first aid.

- Parents asked about if incident forms are filled out when a child is injured, it does not seem that this information is being relayed to parents. Is there a parent signature required on an incident form? If not, would this be a good addition? Some parents are concerned about communication with parents when their children are injured.
- AR suggested idea for a receipt book for minor injuries and a small first aid kit in a sling bag being given to recess supervisors. Receipts could be filled out if a child receives First Aid, given to child to give to teacher and put in bag so parents are informed. This keeps an adult on the playground too. Asked why children are no longer given bumped head stickers following a head injury as this keeps all adults aware and reminds them to observe that child throughout the day.