

Richmond Green Secondary School – School Council Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 19th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance

Staff Members: Daraius Bharucha (Principal), Sara Gupta (VP), Sayema Chowdhury (VP), Lynn Pyke (Teacher Rep), Shelina Jaffer (Teacher Rep)

Student Representatives: Kira Yip (SAC Chair)

Attendees: (see list)

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Inclusion
 - Adoption of Minutes of October 2023 Meeting
 - Student Council Report/Update
 - School Council Co-chair's Report/Update
 - Teachers Report/Update
 - Principal's Report/Update
 - PRO Grant Discussion
 - Richmond Hill Public Library Introduction and Orientation
 - Dates for School Council Meetings
 - AOB and Adjournment
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- 7:05 pm start – Mr. Bharucha welcomed all attendees. Introduced the admin team and shared the agenda
 - Shared quote for the meeting and Land Acknowledgement.
 - Shared theme for the year for school staff

Inclusion

- All attendees participated in the inclusion activity – The Sun and Moon

School Council (SAC) Update

- Kira provided an update of the work of Student Council in December, 2023.

- Updates were about Donations to Food Drive, RGSS Talent Show, Movie Night, Winter Wonderland and Dodgeball Tournament..
- A Video by Student Council was also shown.

School Council Co-Chair's Report

- Hila Draper and Karim Hasham, the Co-Chairs of School Council, touched upon the Central School Council Forum in on October 25, 2023, and the topics discussed there, namely: Digital Environments, Student Learning and Privacy, Supporting Literacy Learning at Home (a slide show link can be found in the slides), Mental Health and Transitions to high school.
- Finding different ways of Fundraising was also mentioned as needed to be discussed and explored in future.

Teachers Report

- Ms. Pyke and Ms. Jaffer are the Teacher representatives to school council.
- Ms. Pyke provided information from some departments:

Student Services Special Education

- All Community Classes from RGSS participated in the SNAP Basketball Festival last week at Richmond Hill HS.

Drama

- The Drama Department is currently working on script writing for the school play which will be held in May. The play is entirely led and written by the students. This year's theme is growth and resilience!

Business

- Grade 11 Marketing Fair was on Friday, 15-December, 2023. This was the first time this fair had run in quite a long time, and this was also the first time the students could not sell food, so they had to be extra creative and the kids did great!!!
- 4 groups sold out of their items before the end of lunch and \$85.00 were raised for charity.

Alternative Education (Alt Ed)

- EOP finished successful sales of charcuterie boards

Physical Education

- Lunch time fitness club is on-going.
- School Hoodies have been a success and students enjoy ordering on school cash online and picking up right away

French

- Grade 9 students went to McMichael Art Gallery where they engaged in a French Poetry workshop. The department is in the process of printing posters to feature student work around the school.

Student Success

- January 11th and 12th will be our Credit Rescue Days. Students at-risk of failing courses will be pulled out for the day to complete work in a supported environment.

SHSM

- 60 Students were given the opportunity to get their 1st Aid/ CPR Certifications which are Mandatory Certifications for all sectors.
- Cost per student was \$100 each - the costs were covered by the school/board

Principal's Report

- Mr. Bharucha spoke about appropriate conduct and behavior with community partners, especially in the plaza across the street as complaints had been received from vendors there about inappropriate behavior, shoplifting and racist comments. He emphasized how parents as partners need to work with the school to have appropriate messaging about behavior and that some vendors have stopped allowing kids for lunch.
- Mr. Bharucha said Activity Fees have not yet been paid fully. These fees help support the various programs, clubs, sports teams and other student life enrichment opportunities and that parents are highly encouraged to pay the activity fee.
- Mr. Bharucha also spoke about Student Conduct Protocols.
- Mr. Bharucha provided an update about school's recovery from the system outage, and that the school did not miss a beat, did well and coped the old-fashioned way; the Mid-Term Report Cards were ready in spite of this system outage.
- Mr. Bharucha spoke about Winter Break Talent Show Modified Timetable.
- Mr. Bharucha spoke about RGSS's official instagram: @rgssofficial as another community channel. He asked everyone to please follow the account.
- Ms. Gupta update the council about that End of Semester information: PA DAY agenda, Course Selection, report cards date (2nd week of Feb. 2024).
- Ms. Chowdhury added key information about the Exams would be provided to families, including bussing schedules, students rules to be followed during Exam

time; for example students can only stay in cafeteria/gym before and after their exam time.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants

- Mr. Bharucha mentioned seminars about financial literacy. A link can be found on the slide. The cost of the first meeting was paid by Mr. Bharucha.

Richmond Hill Public Library Presentation

- Staff from Richmond Hill Public Library did a presentation and orientation for School Council.

School Council Dates for 23-24 Year

- October 17th 2023
- December 19th 2023
- March 19th 2024
- May 14th 2024

AOB and Adjournment

- The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Karim Hasham and seconded by Hilla Draper.
- Lucy Giannotta proposed adjournment and Jaclyn Zhang seconded it.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Minutes of this meeting was prepared by:
Ana Pad (Co-Secretary of the Council)