

In Attendance

Andrea R. (Principal), Jackie C. (Vice-Principal), Jennifer K (teacher), Tyler D., Krista T., Reidun T., Cathy B., Jen G., Jenny S., Aletha B., Daine B., Ryan F., Kathleen D., Sharon S., Yssra A., Amy R., Anling K., Heather R.

Welcome and Opening Comments

- Meeting opened by Tyler at 7:01 pm

Parent Council and attendee introductions

2025/26 Meeting Dates:

- Oct 22, 7pm
- Nov 19, 1:45pm (online)
- Jan 21, 7pm
- Feb 18, 7pm
- April 15, 1:45pm (online)
- May 20, 7pm

Traditional Land Acknowledgment

Andrea Riquelme

Principal's Report - Andrea

Introductions

- Andrea - Principal
- Jackie – Vice-Principal

Communication Plan

- Multiple sources of communication
 - It is reciprocal – also parents' responsibility to review info
- School website – primary source of information
- Weekly newsletter – Hello Rideau!
- Instagram
 - @principalriquelme
 - @cbe.rideaupark
 - Teacher accounts are gradually being added
- Teacher Shells – Google Classroom, D2L
 - To connect with the classrooms, academic content/updates
- School Messenger – sent to specific groups
- Staff e-mail – to connect with teacher about specific concerns re your child

Budget Update (Staffing)

- Lower than expected enrollment at RPS

- Budge (RAM) planned for 461 students – currently have 441
- Placeholder creates uncertainty and makes planning difficult
- Staffing reductions
 - Reduced 1 full 30 hr EA position – decision based on presenting need (i.e., safety/accessibility needs)
 - Parent volunteers can help provide support in the classrooms with certain tasks (e.g., reading with students)
 - Reduced teacher FTE from 0.7 to 0.5 (Ms. Bliet)
 - Reduced 25 hr Library Tech to 15 hr Library Assistant
 - Andrea Lane decided to retire
 - .2 tech person who comes every week for 1 day (mandatory for middle schools)
- Cascading effect
 - Redeployment of teachers during prep time (student support)
 - Redeployment of administration – Jackie will cover portion of Gr 1/2
- Have not had to overflow any students, have called back all overflow students from last year
- Many area 7 schools are also experiencing reduction in expected enrollment
- Uneven enrollment across the grades – some grades are at capacity
- Even with reductions we are entering this year with about 60 % of our ideal budget
- If we lose more students before the end of Sept, the reference point will continue to drop
- Priority: staffing over stuff

School Wishlist Items

- Council/parent support allows us to protect staffing levels and continue to enhance programming with items such as:
 - Furniture improvements (classrooms, learning commons)
 - Specialized classroom resources
 - Artist residencies – fine arts, connection to Indigenous elders
 - Staff acknowledgment – e.g., teacher dinners, Rideau branded sweatshirts
- Learning commons & classroom improvements – flip tables, rolling chairs, etc.,
 - To create an inviting, flexible, modular space
- Classrooms
 - Resources to enhance inclusive practice (flexible seating, timers, focus dividers, noise cancelling headphones)
 - Learning subscriptions
 - Air quality (classroom fans)
 - Music program - various instruments have not been maintained/need to be replaced
 - Teacher well-being – dinner nights during conferences
- KD space looks pretty good, older grades classroom have greater needs
- Full Wishlist Cost: \$37,673.44 (\$43,673.44 including IndigeSTEAM)
 - Can we prioritize items?
 - Andrea – furniture, teacher well-being dinners
 - Smaller items – appropriate for Parent Social fundraiser
 - Can we sell old furniture? (vs returning to CBE inventory)

Volunteer Orientation

- Excellent feedback
- Volunteers are welcome and needed in the school and for off-site activities
- See our RPS website for our guidance: <https://rideaupark.cbe.ab.ca/volunteer>

Classroom Updates –

- New teacher to RPS
- Approximate ask - up to \$6,000
- IndigeSTEAM – working with First Alberta Robotics
 - Introduce robotics from an Indigenous perspective
 - Use two-eyed seeing and storytelling to understand how Indigenous Ways of knowing align with current robotics practices
 - Learn to approach problem solving from a variety of perspectives
 - View how communication and art are intertwined with robotics and current technology
 - Provide students with hands-on learning opportunities
 - Provide teachers with resources for taking robotics in their own classrooms
 - Able to match resources provided with available funding ('a la carte')
 - Intention is that the program is available K to 9 using a scaffolded approach
- No residencies booked yet
- Can also look at other options for next year (e.g., Storytelling with Jeff Stockton, sport residencies), tend to book up very fast
- Schools do not receive funding for residencies so we either need to charge students for these opportunities or receive funding from parent council

Chair's Report - Tyler

Recap of approved spending

- Lego Kits (10) – approved in April 2024 but still on our books (\$5700)
 - Jackie – these may have been requested by Mr. Brush?
- Gr 9 grad shortfall
- Landscape rocks
- Kinder/Gr ½ classroom furniture – given that this furniture is still in relatively good shape, Andrea decided to purchase flip tables for Jr High instead
- Kinderclass paint?

Soccer field grass maintenance team (i.e., Reidun & Tyler) – thank you!

Open positions on Parent Council:

- Treasurer - priority
- Jr High Rep – Cathy B
 - Grade 9 grad committee – Cathy B., Katie R., Daisy L., & Heather B.
- Volunteer Coordinator – past position
- Classroom Rep – purpose is to communicate with parents
 - Andrea to discuss interest with teachers

Teacher's strike

- No more info other than what is in the media
- Grade 9 Quebec Trip – need info from senior leadership

School need for food supplies/gift cards

- Jackie – we still have a few GCs left

Sport court tiles and basketball hoop

- Tyler has the tiles & basketball hoop
- Where can we store them?

Teacher classroom supplies reminder (\$150)

- Reminder (especially for new teachers) that this is approved on our budget

Halloween Dance

- Oct 28, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Gym is already booked
- For elementary students only
- Jr High students volunteer for leadership hours
- Increase admission to \$10/per person or a family rate? Approved by Council
- 50/50 raffle – Reidun to apply for the permit
- Candy and raffle donations needed
- Request for pumpkin contest? Approved by Andrea
- SignUp Genius for volunteers to be sent out

Scholastic Book Fair

- End of November (usually parent-teacher week)

Fundraising Update – Jenny S

Healthy Hunger – Subway, Sept 11 \$475.30

- Have we considered offering it weekly? Yes, but challenging to do from a volunteer perspective as well as financial inequities among families
- Snack day proposed starting Oct, also through Healthy Hunger (e.g., cookie, smoothie)
 - Andrea & Jackie – Approved to try it

Apple fundraiser – various families expressed interest

Key Communicator Update

Nothing to report

New Business

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 pm

Next Meeting of the Parent Council Association: Oct 22 @ 7:00 pm (in person)