

## **STUDENT BODY PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT RPPS**

### **Issue:**

Rockcliffe Park Public School (RPPS) staff and Council members believe that all students, regardless of family/guardian financial considerations, should have equal access to fee-based special programs and extra-curricular activities that take place throughout the regularly scheduled school day, as well as RPPS-directed and supervised programs and extra-curricular activities that take place outside of regular school hours (e.g., ski club, sports tournaments, etc.).

It is recognized that effective learning experiences often result from first hand observation of, and/or participation in, special programs and extra-curricular activities that enhance the provision of aesthetic, cultural, intellectual, athletic, artistic and social experiences.

### **Parameters of Suggested Management Strategy:**

In order to ensure equal access to fee-based special programs and extra-curricular activities that take place throughout the regularly scheduled school day, as well as RPPS-directed and supervised programs and extra-curricular activities that take place outside of regular school hours, RPPS Council will set aside \$1500 of its projected budget each year for subsidy purposes. This amount may be increased or decreased based on budget availability.

Parents/guardians wishing to access subsidy monies will be encouraged to speak directly with the Principal or to their child's teacher (who will address the request with the Principal on behalf of the parents/guardians). Only the Principal will make decisions with respect to the granting of subsidies. Teachers will be encouraged to inform parents/guardians of the existence of said monies if mention of fee-based special programs and/or leisure activities is made when communicating with parents/guardians (e.g., via weekly email communication, discussion at parent-teacher interviews, etc.). Should parents mention financial hardship during formal or informal conversation with the Principal or teachers, both should be encouraged to inform parents/guardians of the existence of subsidy monies. Providing that monies remain available, either a full or partial subsidy will be provided, depending on need.

Subsidy monies will **not** be available for special programs and extra-curricular activities that are facilitated by a third party outside of regularly scheduled school hours.

### **Getting the Message Out:**

Information about the availability of special program/extra-curricular subsidy monies will be communicated to the parent/guardian body via inclusion in the RPPS Welcome Package; periodic mention in RPPS Principal Newsletters; placement on the RPPS and Council web sites; and via email communication to parents/guardians from the Council Chair and teachers (as appropriate). Special mention will be made of the availability of subsidy monies if and when a new fee-based special program/extra-curricular activity is announced.