

Minutes of 4th RCHK Council Meeting 2015 / 2016
4 pm on Monday 14 March 2016

Present:

Chairman	Anne Choi (AC)
Principal	Harry Brown (HB)
ESF Representative	Belinda Greer (BG)
Community Representative	Shirley Ma (SM)
Parent Representative	Jack Ng (JN)
Parent Representative	Kathleen Ahrens (KA)
Parent Representative	Whymont Lee (WL)
Staff Representative	Lesley Harrison (LH)
Staff Representative	Katherine Evans (KE)
Secretary	Lucia Lam (LL)

Apologies:

Staff Representative	Concettina Ventura (CV)
Community Representative	Yat Kin Sin (YK)
Community Representative	Allan Li (AL)

In attendance:

Business Manager	Samuel Hureau (SH)
ESF Chief Finance Officer	Vivian Cheung (VC)
ESF Senior Account	Ann Chan (ACh)
Vice Principal – Primary	Jason Doucette (JD)
Student Representative	Ike Park (IP)
Student Representative	Cherry Wu (CW)
Student Representative	Hannah Geanning (HG)
Student Representative	Isabella Kuo (IK)

1. Welcome

AC welcomed VC and AC to the Council meeting and introduced new student representatives H and I.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were confirmed.

3. Matters Arising

- a. Para 3 b – Proposal for additional financing for Primary Block Extension.
None were proposed.

- b. Para 5 – Gender breakdown for ISA results - JD presented; discussion followed.

4. Draft Budget 2016 - 17

VC presented the 2016/17 key figures: 6.2% increase in school fees for RCHK, 3.4% increase for teaching staff salary and 4.8% increase for non-teaching staff salaries were proposed.

ACh spoke on RCHK's 6 year budget plan and budget 2016 – 17.

Points raised during discussion included:

- For 2016-17 the College is \$5.5M over funding formula. HB proposed that the shortfall would be covered by transfer of \$3M from scholarship fund.
- The budget would cover transport costs of school teams travelling to competitions, not only sports.
- DOA expenses will end in 2020/21. Break even is expected in 2020/21. College should discuss what level of surplus it should aim for in subsequent years (between 2 to 3%).
- Management fee to ESF (line 38) is less than previous year.
- SCAD expenses – unlike online courses which are self-financed, the financial burden of SCAD's higher costs is not passed on to the parents in order to support the programme.

After discussion, Council endorsed ESL Directors' 2016 – 17 budget proposal for the College, including a 6.2% fee increase and the transfer of \$3M from scholarship fund.

Ach has confirmed that ESF is now working on a loan of 55M only for the Primary building (instead of 65M) because of the good results in the NMR campaign.

5. Primary Block Extension Update

HB reported. The 2nd pile of 3 piles was being done. Complaints were received from neighbours through the management office about noise during weekends. In response the start of piling on Saturday mornings has been delayed until after 8 am. No complaints had been received from our primary school. The piling was projected to be completed by June.

6. Principal's Report

HB spoke to his report previously circulated. When asked if he was concerned about the turnover of 20 teaching staff he replied in the negative, as some of these were the result of staff securing promotions in other schools and natural attrition after almost 10 years in operation.

Council approved action items proposed:

1. 2016 – 17 RCHK budget
2. Salary adjustments to selected staff effective 1 March 2016.

BM Report – SH spoke to his report previously circulated. NMR for 2015/16 now 30. Loan from ESFC reduced from 65M to 55M, 27.5M in 2015-16 and 27.5M in 2016-17, to be confirmed by ESF.

Preliminary report of the feasibility study of heating system indicated a cost of \$5.8M for a basic system, not including the swimming pool, which would require an additional \$4M and exploring newer heating technology.

HB remarked that a meeting would be held with John Stewart to discuss additional electricity capacity with CLP, and proposed returning to this matter at a later date.

7. Committee Reports

Finance committee report- it was covered by VC's and ACh's earlier report.

8. School Council Report

BG spoke briefly on the recent reported dated 29 February 2016.

9. A.O.B.

1. Option of meeting on Mondays instead of Thursday - AC suggested that Council discusses this at the next meeting.
2. School Calendar – KA asked about report grades coming out in February. HB replied that Council determines the College calendar, and that the secondary school calendar is being reviewed by Carol to address this particular point. HB will update Council in May.

8. Date of next meeting – Thursday 19 May 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm