

**Minutes of 4th RCHK Council Meeting 2016 / 2017**  
**4 pm on Thursday 16 March 2017**

**Present:**

Chairman	Anne Choi (AC)
Principal	Harry Brown (HB)
ESF Representative	Belinda Greer (BG)
Parent Representative	Kathleen Ahrens (KA)
Parent Representative	Eric Wong (EW)
Parent Representative	Jack Ng (JN)
Staff Representative	Lesley Harrison (LH)
Staff Representative	Concettina Ventura (CV)
Staff Representative	Katherine Evans (KE)
Secretary	Lucia Lam (LL)

**Apologies:**

Community Representative	Yat Kin Sin (YK)
Community Representative	Shirley Ma (SM)

**In attendance:**

Business Manager	Samuel Hureau (SH)
Manager – HR & Finance	Anney Chan
Head of Secondary	Carol Larkin (CL)
ESF Senior Executive – Finance Control	Ann Chan (ACh)
ESF Chief Financial Officer	Vivian Cheung (VC)
Student Representative	Tao Chen (TC)

**1 Welcome & Introduction**

CL came to the meeting to bid farewell to the Council prior to her taking up her appointment as Principal of Sha Tin College in April. HB and AC both thanked her for her distinguished service to RCHK as a leading member of staff since the College opened in 2006.

HB introduced the new student representative TC to the Council.

**2 Minutes of Last Meeting**

Council agreed to delete the sentence “The differences that emerge in upper primary years occurs across all ESF schools’ from item 5 (Principal’s Report) paragraph 2. The minutes as amended was confirmed.

**3 Matters Arising**

3.1 Para 4 Primary Block Extension additional financing – none received.

**4 Presentation of draft budget 2017 - 18**

ACh from ESF Centre presented the budget proposal from ESL Directors for 2017 – 18. The key parameters were: 6.2% increase in school fees, 3.4% increase for teaching staff salary and 4.4% increase for support staff salaries.

After discussion, **Council endorsed ESL Directors' 2017 – 18 budget proposal for the College, including the transfer of \$2M from scholarship fund towards the 2017 – 18 operating income.**

## 5 **Principal's Report**

HB spoke to his report which was previously circulated.

**Recruitment of Head of Secondary School to succeed Carol Larkin.** Two finalists have been selected for interview on 20 – 22 March 2017:

Brian McCann – Vice Principal and IBDP Coordinator at Discovery College

Natasha Williams, Director of Curriculum and whole school Deputy Principal at Victoria Shanghai Academy

**Premises Issues** - An extra HK\$500k required to complete the heating system project in the gym and admin building.

**College Community Activities** – two events to celebrate RCHK 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary:

24 March 2017 – Pun Choi organized by RAPT

25 March 2017 – Concert and Exhibition, starting 5 pm

HB also took the opportunity to respond to some parents' emails concerning student well-being and the recent rash of student suicides in Hong Kong, in both local as well as international schools. He stated that whilst suicide prevention is not explicitly embedded in the curriculum, the College embeds stress reduction and well-being in primary and secondary school, through the PSE programme. In year 13, students are guided to role play scenarios which they might encounter in their first year of university, particularly overseas. Fine line managed regarding suicide prevention - not ignoring but not glorifying the issue – RCHK has a robust counselling service to address not just personal but also family issues. BG spoke on the additional impact of social media and how ESF had sensitively handled media coverage over recent cases.

**Business Manager's report** – SH spoke to his report previously circulated.

EW indicated that RAPT is ready to make a donation to the College towards the heating project. HB thanked EW for RAPT's generosity but he suggested that parents' donations to go towards more visible & tangible projects that students & parents could enjoy and benefit from.

**Council approved two action items in the report**

1. HK\$500k for the heating project
2. Transfer of \$2M from scholarship fund to 2017 – 18 operating incomes (covered in budget presentation above).

## 6 **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee minutes was tabled and noted.

## **7 ESF School Council Report**

BG spoke to the ESF report. Highlights included ESF's exploration of IBCP, Annual Recruitment Round, Online system for Leave & CPD applications, Island School redevelopment and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

8 **AOB** – Allan Li tendered his resignation as Council member. AC invited Council members to suggest suitable persons to serve as a community representative to succeed AL.

9 **Date of Next Meeting - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm