

# **RH King Academy – 2024 – 2025 School Council**

## **Meeting Minutes – Meeting # 2**

### **Tuesday October 29, 2024**

#### **Participants:**

Executive Committee:

Co-Chair: Angelina Meighlal

Co-Chair: Jason **Irving**

Secretary: Carolyn Ward – Glasgow

Treasurer: Erik Cardenas-Poire

Administration:

Principal: Catherine Chang

Teacher Representative: Brian Wilkinson

Teacher Representative: Jordyn Booth

<b>Time:</b>	<b>Agenda Item and Notes:</b>
7:00pm	<b>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement</b>
7:05pm	<b>Acceptance of previous minutes</b> Accepted by: Tom Anastasios      Seconded by: Melissa Taylor
7:10pm	<b>Student Council's Report:</b> <b>Presented by: Niara</b> It's been a great year so far. -Halloween Bake Sale tomorrow -Nov 19 Grade 8 Information Night - Excursions happening including an English class - <i>Goblin: MacBeth</i> Shakespeare production at the Tarragon Theatre -Talent Show auditions are in March -Have a great Wellness Break!
7:15pm	<b>Superintendent Courtney Lewis addressed School Council</b> Mr. Lewis Re: Calendar change announcement to align w/ the "System-Wide Calendar": -Mr. Lewis mentioned that the Pilot Project approved for the 2016-17 school year to alter our calendar until 2019 continued after 2019 and into the pandemic and beyond. He thinks that a further review is likely needed to proceed. -We need to review the emotional, social, and academic impact on students on any decisions moving forward is made, to ensure the process is being followed. -We will "pause" this process for now to allow us to consult and gather additional research. This does not necessarily mean it will continue next year, however. Before a final decision is made, there may be a space for voices, longitudinal evidence to get rid of the perception that this was done unilaterally. Q: Will you take a vote again? Q: What data will be looked at in a consultative process?

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**Superintendent Courtney Lewis addressed School Council – Continued**

Q: Will all stakeholders be consulted?

Only A: The Board of Trustees approved it; we must go back and ensure we've adhered to the pilot.

There were many comments from parents such as:

- A lack of sensitivity and consultation in the process, and in the announcement of the calendar change

- Just because 109 other schools haven't implemented it also, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't take a step back and be implementing it across the entire Board, we should be working towards improving the other schools

- We as a Council want a voice in such a huge decision.

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7:20pm **Treasurer's Report**

**Presented by: Erik Cardenas-Poire**

Current Balance: \$5886.88

Debits since last meeting: \$2.25

Credits since last meeting: \$0.05

Expected upcoming expenses: \$47.76 for meeting expenses

Notes: NONE

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7:25pm **Principal's Report**

**Presented by: Catherine Chang, VP Timothy James, and VP Lesley McLean**

Mr. James:

Thanked all those involved in the Teacher Interviews night, as well as the Youth Link Settlement worker introduced to the community who attended.

- Tuesday, November 19 from 6-8 pm is Grade 8 Info night.

Ms. McLean:

Relayed that it has been a challenge to fill our staffing gaps. Alice Walter is retiring – have hired an English teacher as of November 1. We were offered an opportunity to hire an additional teacher in 9 & 10 in an area of need (Nicole Dube) and for Grade 9 & 10 Math to help support and reduce class sizes (Asil Khan). We hired a permanent Child and Youth Worker (CYW); welcome on November 11 to Kevin Hodge – we are sharing with Woburn CI. Hoping to hire a FT business teacher, an ART, GLS and English teacher.

Ms. McLean also responded to a concern about a Grade 9 English class without a FT teacher that they are working to resolve it as quickly as they can.

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### **Principal's Report – Continued**

Parent commented that his gr 9 daughter is without 2 ft teachers... Ms. McLean comments that it's a shame indeed and they are working on it.

Ms. Chang:

- SHSM – 77 students aligned now with a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), with the newest one having 31 students (Health & Wellness SHSM).
- COOP is expanding, including OYAP.
- Business staff to see college campuses e.g. George Brown campus
- We are interviewing teachers and looking at new teachers.
- Caretaking – seasonal and temporary staff positions are available – URL is on the web site. Be aware that caretaking staff can be moved in the evening to help other schools. And we have one plumber available to our school – right now two washrooms are not available to us. Please continue to report caretaking issues with the QR code scan.

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### **Chair's Report**

**Presented by: Angelina Meighlall**

SCIG – School Council Innovation Grant is now open and applications are due Dec 1, 2024

- On Oct 8th I informed the school of the key date, and all pertinent information needed and said I would be willing to help fill out the application

SSON – School Statement of Need is due in Nov and we must fill out section 1 – this is to be developed annually by a parent rep in consultation with the school community.

- Anyone familiar with it can volunteer to work with us after the meeting

Nov 16 – 2024 TDSB Parent & Caregiver Zoom Conference – named the JOY, Wellness & Wholeness Conference

- the invitation was posted on FB

Thank you to all the parents who came out to support the council on the parent-teacher interview day! We had snacks, flyers and great conversations with parents, and we were very privileged to have our own in-council translators. So, THANK YOU.

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### **Chair's Report – Continued**

Parents have told me that their sons are unable to use the bathroom at King. There are only 2 stalls that are operational, one on B1/2 and one on A floor. "They are always gross and disgusting" so their sons try to wait till they get home. After speaking to the principal, she said it is a concern and staffing shortages are the main obstacles.

Lastly, we don't have any volunteers for the Fundraising Subcommittee... that is supposed to be the FUN committee. A Google form was sent home so pls consider volunteering for 1 of the 4 sub-committees.

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### **7:35PM Discussion on elimination of unique calendar:**

Student Council President perspective (Areeb M) & Secretary (Fahmida):

- 93 online and 40 on paper responses on the wellness week.
  - Significant wellness benefits by maintaining the Wellness Week such as having time to get various supports, planning for Post-secondary, attending PS fairs or school visits, taking time for volunteer hours opportunities such as in elementary schools, etc., working on mental health during a very stressful month of November.
  - This was definitely false advertising for current and future families who have just found out.
  - There was a survey last year, too. We had parent voices, teacher voices, student voices which should all count.
- Jason I: Started with a statement that this is to be a civil conversation. We want to be a voice, an advisory board.
- Jason I: Presented a PPT – summary:
- The wellness week is not just a November Break. It's to make up for the early start. The teaching hours are the same as any other school. It's exactly the same thing as "March Break" that semester 2 has.
  - The RH King Academy calendar IS a ministry-approved TDSB Calendar.
  - There was a vote in 2019 which was ratified, making our RH King Calendar a ministry-approved TDSB calendar.
  - There is a "Pause" right now according to our Superintendent.

Angelina M – I really dislike these vague terms being used to describe the results of the survey:

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### **Discussion on elimination of unique calendar – Continued**

- From the student body of 1227 students, 812 students (66% of student body) took the survey of which 696 said YES to keeping the modified school year.
- That is 86% of students surveyed and more importantly that is 57% of the whole student body said YES

Regardless of what the remaining 34% felt, the clear majority of students wanted to keep the modified school year.

Q – Student: What about the future of Mentor and Clinic and if they are on the chopping block?

Ms. Chang: I welcome the opportunity to talk about this and the rumours around it. The ‘Pause’ is just for this. I will work with my leadership team to determine which other changes need to be implemented.

-There is central leadership also; once I have something to consult on, I will bring it to Council.

-Survey data is just one way to get data. She is happy to share her perspective but trying to respond to the “Pause”.

-Schools like Bill Crothers (YDRSB)– it is a choice to go there – we are not that. I must acknowledge those other voices that came to me. We are an in-area and out-of-area school, and some have no choice of where to go.

[note that BCSS has **two** breaks in addition to March Break (Nov and Apr), to provide a wellness break and make up for starting the term the second week of August].

Q: Parent: How can we take the school seriously that they are coming up with a plan of how the consulting process will work, when they dealt with the uniform process with no consultation process and was not going to change it?

Jason: We’ve asked to be consulted and do what is best for our students.

-The slide show will be shared with you.

-Reach out by email. Reach out by email to the principal and others.

-Thank you to all who came online (36) and in person (32). Thank you also to Malika Ghous, Ward 18 TDSB Trustee, for attending tonight.

-Reminder that tomorrow is a Late Start.

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**Discussion on the elimination of unique calendar – Continued**

The Admin team confirmed that Mid-term reports will be sent November 11.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 26 at 7 PM.

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8:55pm **New Business:**

None

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9:00pm **Meeting adjourned**

Motioned by: Tom Anastasios

Seconded by: Rayford Glasgow

**Attendees:**

**Quorum: Yes**

#:	Name:	Position:	In-person:	Online:
1	Angelina Meighlal	Co-Chairperson / Voting	X	
2	Jason Irving	Co-Chairperson / Voting	X	
3	Carolyn Ward Glasgow	Secretary / Voting	X	
4	Erik Cardenas Poire	Treasurer / Voting	X	
5	Mawordi Ahmed	Voting member		
6	Thomas Anastasios	Voting member	X	
7	Ichraq Ayad	Voting member	X	
8	Kamrul Hassan Chowdhury	Voting member		
9	Luthfur Rahman Chowdhury	Voting member		
10	Rupa Dey	Voting member		
11	David Feld	Voting member	X	
12	Lubaba Gemma	Voting member		
13	Rayford Glasgow	Voting member	X	
14	Cliff Gordon	Voting member		
15	Leigh-Anne Israel	Voting member		X
16	Sabrina Janer	Voting member		
17	Sonia Kaya	Voting member	X	
18	Mahira Khan	Voting member		
19	Kaniz Sadik Kureshi	Voting member	X	
20	Tabassum Mahmud	Voting member		
21	Ibitsam Munir	Voting member	X	
22	Mariam Mwenye	Voting member		
23	Sazal Roy	Voting member	X	
24	Suzie Sharma-Hardial	Voting member	X	
25	Chandra Srirangadhamu	Voting member		
26	Jazmin Tapia	Voting member		X
27	Melissa Taylor	Voting member	X	
28	Alice Vennema	Voting member		X
29	Shelly Xie	Voting member		X
<b>TDSB</b>				
1	Catherine Chang	Principal	X	
2	Lesley McLean	Vice Principal	X	
3	Timothy James	Vice Principal	X	
4	Brian Wilkinson	Teacher Representative	X	
5	Jordyn Booth	Teacher Representative	X	
6	Courtney Lewis	Superintendent	X	
7	Malika Ghous	School Trustee	X	