

Minutes of 1st RCHK Council Meeting 2016 / 2017
4 pm on Thursday 29 September 2016

Present:

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

Apologies:

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

In attendance:

Business Manager	Samuel Hureau (SH)
Student Representative	Isabelle Kok (IK)
Student Representative	Leo Wong (LW)
Vice Principal – Secondary	Stewart Redden (SR)
Head of Secondary	Carol Larkin (CL)

1. Welcome

AC welcomed Council members and student representatives.

2. Contract Renewal (Confidential) – Dr Harry Brown

The Council agreed unanimously to offer a further two year contract (2017 – 19) to Dr Brown.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were confirmed.

4. Matters Arising

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

5. Primary Block Extension Update

HB first showed the 10th anniversary logo and postage stamps. He then gave an update on the extension block, and presented the recommendation from building and finance sub committees to suggest that Council endorses the \$5M option for the roof out of three options,

the other two being \$7M and \$11M respectively. The roof facility would have a modern Chinese feel, and would provide cover for outdoor learning, additional quiet play space and a further option for College-wide outdoor functions.

JN expressed concern about safety given the different levels and types of surfaces and steps. BG asked about insurance and HB would look into it.

As requested by the finance sub-committee, SH presented the history of the different versions of the primary block and associated costs:

College Council date	Decision	Cost implication
2012 / 2013	Feasibility study	\$1.062M paid
21/11/2013	First vote for 3 storey building + roof	\$80M max for the works \$6M max for the fees
3/4/2014	ESF earmarked loan up to \$55M	
15/1/2015	Additional ground investigations needed	\$0.8M
17/9/2015	4 storey building feasible – agreed. Works to begin	\$93M voted as new max for works; \$6M max for fees (same); Furniture paid from annual capital expenditure (within \$8M)
14/3/2016	ESF confirmed \$55M loan	
19/5/2016	Design amplification of the rooftop under review by the architect	Probably \$3M extra
Finance & building committee (joint meeting) 12/9/2016	Recommend a Chinese rooftop garden (water stream, organic garden, Chinese chess seating, pagoda, water calligraphy area,	\$4.4M for the rooftop works; \$0.6M for the fees; Total amount now: \$97.4M for the works \$6.6M for the fees \$7.5M for furniture (within \$8M allocated in annual capex)

Council approved the recommendation from Finance and Building subcommittees to accept the proposal for the new primary extension block rooftop at a projected cost of \$5 million HKD.

6. Council Self Evaluation

Completed, as attached. Council agreed to:

- a) continue to monitor provision of computer science classes/computer programming within the MYP curriculum, in order to ensure our students are familiar & comfortable with relevant concepts before university
- b) follow male/female performance across all subjects, with special attention paid to female performance in mathematics, physics & chemistry, as well as special attention paid to course selection in Y12/13 when students are in Y11.

BG requested that the College should also mention the progress of students in the IB Careers-related Certificate /SCAD course.

7. Principal's Report

7.1 IBDP results 2016 – SR gave a presentation on this year's IBDP results. The results are the most impressive compared to previous years and clearly on a par with all ESF schools. Student entry to the very top universities (Harvard, Oxford etc) have secured the school's reputation, in a short space of 10 years.

HB spoke to his report previously circulated.

7.2 Council approved the staffing subcommittee's recommendation to accept the 2017 RCHK recruitment plan, which includes the principal to attend the CIS and Search Associates Fairs in Bangkok, London and San Francisco.

7.3 Business Manager's report – SH spoke to his report previously circulated. The council noted that the College will break even for the first time in 2015 – 16 (Note 1)

8. Committee Reports

Summarised in the attached minutes.

9. ESF School Council Report

BG spoke to the latest report.

- 9.1. Election of Parent members to ESF Board – BG pointed out that 2 RCHK parents will be stepping down. The college was invited to encourage parents to put themselves forward for election.

JN asked about the possibility of electronic voting for the ESF Board. BG replied that this would require a change to the ESF Ordinance which is unlikely unless it was part of a major review of the Ordinance.

- 9.2. ESF 50th anniversary - the celebrations will be launched at Chinese New Year at RCHK, followed by 9 additional events.
- 9.3. Brand Strategy update – a handbook with new guidelines for implementation has been distributed to schools.

KA raised the issue of stress among students. Noting the ever-higher examination results, she asked whether students were coming under increasing pressure, and wanted to know if the school was taking steps to monitor students' stress levels throughout the DP programme so as to make adjustments to deadlines and/or provide additional performance feedback when needed, as well as provide additional support when necessary."

10. AOB – None

11. Date of Next Meeting - **10th November 2016**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

1) NOTES after the meeting (FROM SH)

After the Council meeting, ESF contacted the SH in October with two final adjustments to the College's P&L account:

- An electricity bill of \$270,000
- Additional depreciation for \$600,000.

Therefore there is a deficit of 0.8MHKD in 2015 / 16 (against an expected deficit of \$3.1MHKD). This deficit is only 0.36% of the annual income and includes depreciation expenses for \$7.1MHKD, a non-cash expense.

SH will explain this at the next Council meeting.