

ROPS School Council Meeting

School Council Meetings:

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend School Council meetings. All of our School Council meetings will be offered virtually via Google Meets and in person (when possible). Please find the link attached to the email reminder sent by Ms. Houle on the day of the meeting.

We usually meet once a month throughout the school year to do our part in helping to improve student achievement. What does that mean? Through the Council, we hope to involve and engage as many parents as possible in their children's education. How do we do it? Just ask or better yet, please join us at a meeting. Confirmed meeting dates will be added to the school Calendar found on the ROPS website.

September 22, 2025

6:30 PM Start

In Person Attendance

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jessica Houle (principal) | 5. Marcelle Robinson |
| 2. Sandeep Narayanan Das | 6. Amanda Toal |
| 3. Christine Ballard | 7. Brenda Cohen |
| 4. Ayesha Abbas | 8. Sara Rashid |

Online Attendance

9. Andrea Mendrinos
10. Rachel Cameron
11. Sonia Chadha

Land Acknowledgment/ Welcome from the Principal

Ms. Houle read the land acknowledgement, which was updated last year. She welcomed everyone and noted that this meeting's purpose is to close business from the last school year. She gave a quick overview of her journey to becoming the principal at River Oaks. She was the principal at the Alexander's Public School in Burlington and is new to Oakville. The vice principal Gemma Shugg has worked in Oakville. They both heard great things about River Oaks and are enjoying the school and its positive vibe. Attendees introduced themselves as well.

Last meeting Recap, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Houle provided a recap of last meeting's minutes which was held in June. The minutes were approved by the council.

Principles Report

- **Open House-** The school will be open for families on October 2nd. All families are welcome to join to see classrooms and meet our educators. This will also be a chance for the school to promote the updated library and enhanced gym.
- **Terry Fox Run-** This will be held on October 9th. The school will be divided into 3 groups. The younger groups will be doing some fun games and the older group will participate in a run in addition to these games.
- **School Reorganization-** This is a process that all schools in Halton go through. For River Oaks, we will neither be losing or gaining a class this year in this process. There are very limited changes. Families will be informed of any changes on Wednesday with students moving to their new classes on Monday.

Treasurer Report

We finished the 2024–2025 year with a balance of around \$36k. The fun fair was the biggest fundraiser bringing in around \$18,000. The numbers on the report are not final as not all expenses that were approved in June have been included.

Council should keep in mind that money raised within a school year should be spent within the same year. Since the fun fair occurs in June around the end of the school year, the council should aim to spend as much of it by December, keeping in mind that the actual ordering of any material ends on June 6th.

Voting Member Positions

Below are the members for the 25-26 school council

- Teacher Representative - Amanda Toal, Marcelle Robinson
- Chair or Co-Chair (required) -
- Secretary (required) - Zehra Kaynak Tan
- Treasurer (required) - Ammara Ahmed
- PIC Representative - Christine Ballard
- Member at Large - Sara Rashid, Sandeep Narayanan Das, Brenda Cohen, Fatima Ahmed Bharuchi, Rachel Cameron, Ayesha Abbas, Andrea Mendrinis

We still need a chair whose main task will be to work with the principal to set meeting agendas, organize subcommittees and bring forward any complaints from parents to the principal in case a parent prefers to reach out to the chair rather than the principal. Ms. Houle will put the request out to the community to fill out this position. The council suggested to offer a booth at the open house to engage parents in the school council and actively find a chair.

School Council Dates

Below are the dates of our upcoming meetings. Meetings are held at 6.30 pm and should be around 1 hr long.

- October 6
- December 1
- January 12
- March 2
- May 4

The idea of having childcare available for parents who want to attend the meetings was discussed. We can bring in a lunch supervisor, paid for by the school, to take care of that. Ms. Houle will also be bringing a conference system to facilitate the online meeting.

Other Items

- Sandeep brought forward the idea of having programs centered around STEM this year.
- Ms. Houle reminded the council that the school is rented in evenings. The only availability for any afternoon/evening events is Thursdays.
- Council put a tentative date of June 4 of the Fun fair.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20. Next Meeting will be on October 6.