

ROPS School Council Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2026

6:30 PM Start

In Person Attendance

1. Jessica Houle
2. Gemma SHugg
3. Marcelle Robinson
4. Amanda Toal
5. Christine Ballard
6. Brenda Cohen
7. Devashni Murugan
8. Zehra Kaynak Tan

Online Attendance

9. Rachel Cameron
10. Sara Rashid
11. Sandeep N. Das
12. Ayisha Irfan
13. Fatima Bharuchi
14. Melanie Shackleton

Land Acknowledgment/ Welcome from the Principal

The land acknowledgement was read by School Vice Principal, Gemma Shugg.

Last meeting Recap, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Houle provided a revision of the meeting minutes from the March meeting. And it was officially approved by Brenda.

Principles Report: School Updates & Student Activities

- **Oliver Jr. Musical:** Scheduled for this week on Wednesday (May 6) and Thursday (May 7). School performances will run during the day, followed by evening shows for families. Tickets are priced at a nominal 1 dollar to manage venue capacity.
- **Track & Field:** The annual "Burgundy and Gray Day" track events kicked off today, giving every student an opportunity to participate. The competitive school team will be finalized based on these results. Permission forms will go home by the end of the week, with events running across 3 separate days.
- **Music & Band Updates:** The school band has been invited to the National Championships in Niagara Falls (carrying over from last year's invitation). They will also participate in an "Elite Band Jazz Night" and an upcoming adjudication at Canada's Wonderland.
- **Field Trips:** Every grade is guaranteed at least one field trip before the end of the school year:
 - Grade 3: Swim to Survive training.
 - Grade 6: Warplane Museum excursion.
 - Grades 5–8 (and potentially Grade 4): Attending the Honey Badgers school day basketball game in Brampton on May 28.
- **Grade 8 Graduation Trip:** Scheduled for June 22 to Toronto. The trip will use a coach bus (subsidized by council pizza funds to reduce the cost to 165 dollars per student). The itinerary includes Game Time Mississauga (video games, pool tables, and a pizza lunch), Ripley's Aquarium, the Eaton Centre, and a Blue Jays game.
- **Graduation Ceremony:** To be held on June 17 at St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre, which is an excellent venue size for the graduating cohort.

Important Dates & Administrative Deadlines

New Kindergarten Orientation: Scheduled for Wednesday, May 13.

Approximately 55 new kindergarten students are currently registered for the upcoming school year.

Come for Coffee: The next informal parent drop-in morning is scheduled for Friday, May 22.

Class Building Input Form: Next year's class structures will be finalized in June. The official digital form for parent input regarding peer dynamics, student well-being, or learning styles closes strictly on May 17. Parents are urged to use the form instead of individual emails so the administrative team has central access over the summer.

Halton Learning Foundation (HLF) Fundraiser: The HLF crisis fund has seen unprecedented demand this year. The school will run a fundraising campaign via QR codes displayed during the Oliver Jr. musical nights to help provide clothing, food, and trip subsidies to local families in need.

Facilities & Infrastructure (Portables)

Removal of Portables: Out of the 6 total portables on-site, 4 will be permanently removed over the summer. This is a major structural operation involving disconnecting hydro and dismantling the units, which will clear significant blacktop and field space. The remaining 2 portables will stay locked and will only be utilized if unexpected class enrollment requires additional space. The entire school population will be accommodated inside the main building next year.

New Business & Motions Voted Upon

Outdoor Basketball Backboards

With the portables leaving, the outdoor blacktop area will open up significantly. The current backboards are severely worn down. The council discussed options ranging from steel to heavy-duty aluminum (priced between 500 and 1,000 dollars per unit) to ensure safety and durability.

Wooden or glass panels were ruled out. The goal is to replace at least 2 (ideally all 4) boards in the fall. (Anonymously approved)

Fall Planetarium Community Night

A proposal was brought forward to book an inflatable mobile planetarium dome for an early October evening event. The dome inflates inside the school gym, accommodating 80 people per 20-minute show. The vendor will run curriculum-linked sessions for students during the day (cost absorbed by the school) and a family night in the evening. A Google Form will be sent out in September for families to sign up for specific evening time slots. The projected evening budget is 2,000 dollars. Approved by the committee members.

"Bruin" School Logo Update

The current school logo (the slashing bear claw) is roughly 9 to 10 years old. Feedback indicates it is perceived as slightly aggressive/scary and is highly difficult to cleanly print on spirit wear. A formal rebranding process is being initiated to transition to a cleaner, more simplistic, athletic-style team logo.

The Process: The Principal initiates → HDSB School Board approves → The Board's internal communications department graphic designers will create drafts at no cost to the school → Draft options will be brought back to be voted on by the School Council, staff, and students.

School Colors: The school colors will not change. Keeping the traditional Burgundy and Gray prevents the school from having to replace all team sports uniforms, which costs roughly 3,000 dollars per set (totaling over 36,000 dollars for all 12 school sets).

Fun Fair Planning — Committee Update (Brenda)

Volunteers & Ticketing: Donation bags for the "Surprise Bags/Bags of Chance" have been sent home in student backpacks. The volunteer sign-up sheet was released to the committee and school staff first and will go out to the wider community next week. Advanced ticket sales will launch shortly on School Cash Online. Hallway posters featuring 3 QR codes (Volunteer, Buy Tickets, Ask Questions) will be up in time for the school musical.

Logistics & Safety: Permits are pre-approved and awaiting final payment. To prevent chaos and ensure safety, the school parking lot will be completely closed to vehicles during the event. High school volunteers (specifically grade 9 students who recently graduated from River Oaks) will be recruited to assist.

Attractions & Food: The fair features bouncy castles, field games, a caricature artist, a henna artist, and a new balloon tier. To streamline volunteer tasks and eliminate the hassle of food preparation, all food will be pre-packaged or pre-frozen (pre-bagged popcorn, pre-bagged cotton candy, and pre-frozen freezies). 25 vendors are confirmed (including 4 non-profits), and 20 silent auction items have been collected.

Financials: The projected operational cost for the Fun Fair is just under 9,000 dollars. The committee has already secured 13000 dollars in profit purely from vendor fees. Historically, the fair brings in double its operating costs (projecting ~18,000 dollars in total revenue).

Other Services: The fire department cannot bring a truck due to a regional scheduling conflict with multiple fun fairs on the same day. However, Halton Waste Management will set up an interactive table to educate

families on recycling. A response is still pending from the paramedics and local police.

Future Business

Welcome Breakfast Initiative: The Principal proposed bringing back a "New to River Oaks Breakfast" or school tour during the first week of September. This will allow new families, community transfers, and kindergarten parents to connect and tour the facility before the first day of school.

Council Recruitment: The council plans to actively recruit new parent members during the May 13 Kindergarten Orientation and the early September Open House to expand council membership for the upcoming school year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30.