



**Rosaryhill Secondary School
Parent-Teacher Association (2022 – 2023)**

17th September 2023

Letter to School Sponsoring Body (SSB) and Education Bureau (EDB)

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing this letter with a very heavy heart in response to the letter issued by School Supervisor Fr. He Yousun on 15-09-2023 afternoon through eClass to all parents and also in response to the town hall meeting that was held at school hall on 16-09-2023 at 1430 hours.

Ever since we first received the letter from school supervisor concerning the future of Rosaryhill Secondary School, all of our students, teachers, and parents were in immediate shock. Due to the gravity of this news, we were unable to immediately digest this sudden sad news and anger, discontent, frustration and a feeling of betrayal were immediately kicked-in. Our teaching staffs' morale and normal routine of our students and personal lives of all families were immediately affected and disrupted.

Immediately after this sad news, students were counselled by both parents and teachers so as to calm them down. Teachers were in such a low morale and miserable about their future, parents were comforting each other and answering as many queries as they could but we could never understand the real reasons behind such a huge and serious decision. We all have to face this outrageous news with a very heavy heart, however, the news was too overwhelming and sudden and it was impossible to convince each other that, as mentioned in the letter that, it is in the best interest of both our students and school. It is totally not true.

On 16-09-2023 during the town hall meeting, although parents were informed very late and only through the eClass and without any printed handouts, which shows the lack of sincerity and seriousness of the SSB towards the parents. As all are working parents, we may not be able to timely and regularly check our eClass and make arrangements to attend on the next day, but still with the efforts of our students, parents and teachers, which I wholeheartedly and highly praise them, many were able to attend and raised their voices at the meeting with great courage and many were not able to attend due to such a short notice. Those students, parents and teachers who attended were all emotional and many even cried, they all felt abandoned and betrayed. However, we all showed our support towards each-other and raised our voices so as to show our dissatisfaction and discontent towards the SSB for making such an irresponsible decision without any consultation.

Once again, if the decision to discontinue the school is in the best interest of both our school and students then why not all the stakeholders were not informed well in-advance with sufficient time to address our concerns. This is totally lack of sincerity and due respect towards all the students, teachers and parents and under-estimating and under-mining the impact of such a decision will have on all of us.

Although, the list goes on and on and to cut short, I would like the SSB and Education Bureau to take serious note of our concerns that we collectively raised on behalf of our students, parents and teachers.

The points listed below are not exhaustive but are some main issues that needed to be addressed immediately as mentioned in the letter issued by the Supervisor.

Declining number of secondary students in RHS

This is not currently an issue with RHS secondary school. We have all classes running with sufficient number of students and meeting the requirements of EDB. The statement made was totally untrue and also what are the changing government regulations that had to force you to abandon us. Why we were not informed before-hand?

And please kindly explain why you mentioned in the letter that, “.....*declining local secondary school enrolment and changing government regulations,.....*”.

Thorough deliberation and careful consideration

No student, parent or teacher were involved in any deliberation or careful consideration. We are the real stake holders and no one ever consulted us before any decision was made. This statement is totally untrue as no deliberation, consultation or careful consideration was made before coming up to such a drastic decision. With whom did you deliberate, in closed doors?

And please kindly explain why you mentioned in the letter that, “.....*After thorough deliberation and careful consideration,.....*”.

In the best interest of both our students and the school

This is definitely not in the best interest of our secondary school or our students. Our secondary school had been improving day after day, more and more students are showing their interest in joining our school in coming years in Secondary 1. Parents are very satisfied with our school environment and the way that the teachers and school staff teach and care for our students. Principal and Deputy Principals were doing their very best to maintain such a high standard of RHS and it had been improving drastically day after day. Their efforts and hard-work that shaped our school to new heights are the in the best interest of our students and the school but not your destructive plans to abandoning us. Your statement is totally untrue and doesn't reflect the real situation of RHS.

And please kindly explain why you mentioned in the letter that, “.....*in the best interest of both our students and the school,.....*”.

Gravity of this decision and the profound impact

If you would have understood the gravity of this decision and the profound impact it will have on our school community then you would have consulted all of us in-advance even before thinking of such a plan, not to mention that you informed us in such a rush and only after you had made an agreement with Dalton School. Do you understand how much impact it had on our students, parents and teaching

staff? If you would have taken into account the gravity of your decision and the so-called profound impact then you would definitely not had made such a decision.

Did you ever thought about how our students feel now, especially those of S1 to S3. If those registered now in S1, would have known that RHS would not operate after year 2026, then they would have been well prepared and would have chosen another school. Did you ever care about their psychological well-being or mental status and that of their parents?

How about the teachers feeling and impact on them, can they now teach freely without any pressure of losing their jobs, they too have a family to raise and under current situation knowing that they only have 3 more years at RHS, how will they be able to continue their teaching?

You certainly didn't understand or under-estimated their feelings, showed no compassion for them and totally disregarded the gravity of this decision and its' immediate and long-term impact that will have on our students, parents and teachers.

Financial Status

As RHS is government subsidized school and after clarification with the school, I found out that there are no financial difficulties facing our secondary school. But why the fathers keep on saying in the meetings that we are facing financial problems.

Please kindly explain what financial difficulties our secondary school is facing?

Demands from students, parents and teachers

On behalf of all the stakeholders, I would like to address the following point and demands to SSB and EDB and request for immediate attention and prompt actions to resolve this issue before more harm is done to our students, parents and teachers.

- 1) All S1 students to S6 students that are currently studying in RHS should remain at the same school campus until they all completed their secondary education, until the end of 2028-2029 school year.
- 2) All S1 to S3 students that are currently studying in RHS should be allowed to promote to next classes at RHS, not through Central Placement Arrangement, but instead at their own school. Most importantly is that all S3 students will be promoted to S4 until all current S1 students are promoted to S6.
- 3) All teachers and other teaching staff including Principal and her deputies will remain until the end of 2028-2029 school year at RHS with no deduction of salary or other benefits and allowed to continue their teaching with full support.
- 4) All non-teaching school staff including, but not limited to, all janitors, security guards and general grade staffs will remain until the end of 2028-2029 school year at RHS with no deduction of salary or other benefits and allowed to continue their normal work with full support.
- 5) Priority and preference will be given to all current staff to continue their teaching or work at RHS until the end of 2028-2029 school year, if they wanted to.
- 6) To continue their current curriculum for both NCS and local students and maintain the same teaching method and medium of instruction until the end of 2028-2029 school year.
- 7) To maintain all the associations, such as PTA, OSA and IMC and allow the normal operation of RHS student councils and other committees to operate as usual until the end of 2028-2029 school year.
- 8) To promptly and timely inform all the stakeholders of any major changes well in-advance and consult them before making any decisions if they are involved or will be disrupted with any such decisions.
- 9) To issue hard copies to parents and teachers if any urgent matter is needed to be addressed or informed, in parallel to the eClass, well in advance.

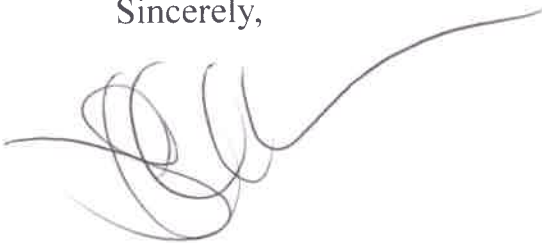
Finally, I hope that the School Sponsoring Body and Education Bureau will carefully consider our demands and for the sake of all our students, parents and teachers, and will make a wise decision taking into account all the sufferings that this news has caused us and will continue to haunt us in the coming years.

Moreover, all our parents are also very concerned and would like to know why the EDB did not actively inform the parents about such a change, which definitely would not have happened overnight. EDB should have taken an initiative in this matter and would have explained to all parents well in advance of such a big decision and why failed to inform us timely or before the start of school year. Your bureau bears a heavy duty and should come clean and make a detailed explanation.

Should you require our presence at meetings or have face to face discussion please feel free to contact me at 5148 7695 or through the secondary school section.

We, students, parent and teacher, all stand united and are patiently waiting for your prompt reply. In the name of GOD, please don't disappoint all our souls and may GOD bless us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baljinder Singh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Baljinder Singh

PTA, Chairperson

Rosaryhill Secondary School



LETTER TO PARENTS (Secondary)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with heavy hearts that we share this announcement concerning the future of Rosaryhill Secondary School. In the face of evolving challenges in the educational landscape of Hong Kong, including declining local secondary school enrolment and changing government regulations, we must make a difficult decision.

After thorough deliberation and careful consideration, in the best interest of both our students and the school, we must inform you that Rosaryhill Secondary School will operate until the end of the 2025/26 school year. We understand the gravity of this decision and the profound impact it will have on our school community.

Starting from the 2024 school year, no new students will be admitted to Rosaryhill Secondary School. Students that are currently studying in Rosaryhill Secondary School will continue their education under the original mechanism. Existing students that are enrolled in Secondary 1, 2 and 3 will participate in Central Placement Arrangement after completing Secondary 3 and will be transferred to other subsidized schools to continue with their senior secondary curriculum. We will do our best to identify and match students with suitable schools based on their circumstances and subjects of study. Current S4 to S6 students can complete their senior secondary curriculum at Rosaryhill Secondary School with government funding until graduation. We will continue to operate the aided secondary school until 2025/2026 school year.

We wish to emphasize that there will be no major changes in the operation of the secondary school during the current school year. Any adjustments to our operations will be communicated to you in a timely and transparent manner. A dedicated steering committee will be established to oversee all matters related to the secondary school and the transition of our kindergarten and primary school, which will continue under the operation of Little Dalton Kindergarten and Dalton School Hong Kong, respectively, starting from the next school year. This committee will also oversee phased upgrades to our school facilities.

In this challenging moment, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support and loyalty to our school. We understand that this change may be unsettling, but we believe it is in the best interest of our students.

We will hold a town hall meeting at 2:30-3:30 pm on September 16 at our school hall to address your concerns. We encourage you to join us to get first-hand information from us. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the senior leadership team if you have any questions or concerns.

Please reply to the eCircular.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Fr. He Yousun
Supervisor

For more information, please visit:
<https://dshk.edu.hk/daltonrh/>

