



Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council

Monday, November 18th, 2024

7:00 – 8:15 pm

MINUTES

Attendees

Present: Krista Luks, Tanya Fraser, John Daides, Violet Zeng, Emily Chen, Ruby Thind

Student Reps: Adele and CeCe

Land Acknowledgement - Krista Luks

Student Report - Adele & CeCe

- Spirit weeks scheduled (Pyjama day, November 18th, others are scheduled)
- Club fair was a big success, clubs are also running fundraisers
- Semi-formal held on November 14th, more than 500 students attended
 - DJ was alumni of the school 😊
 - Students and staff has a lot of fun
- Holiday food drive - run in collaboration with Special Education department
 - Will be held between December 4th - 11th.
 - Students are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items for donation - these can be dropped off in the bins provided in the homeroom classroom.
- WinterFest market - December 18th
- Winterfest showcase - December 20th
- Working with Eco-club on thrift drive to sell used clothing, books, food etc.
 - TBD - funds raised will be donated or used towards the school

Teacher Report - Tanya Fraser

Departments highlights attached

Guidance Presentation - John Daides

Presentation attached

Discussion points:



Alexander Mackenzie High School

School Council 2024-2025

Administration

Krista Luks

Principal



@janedoe

krista.luks@yrdsb.ca

Themis Drekolias

Vice Principal (A - L)



@janedoe

themistocles.drekolias

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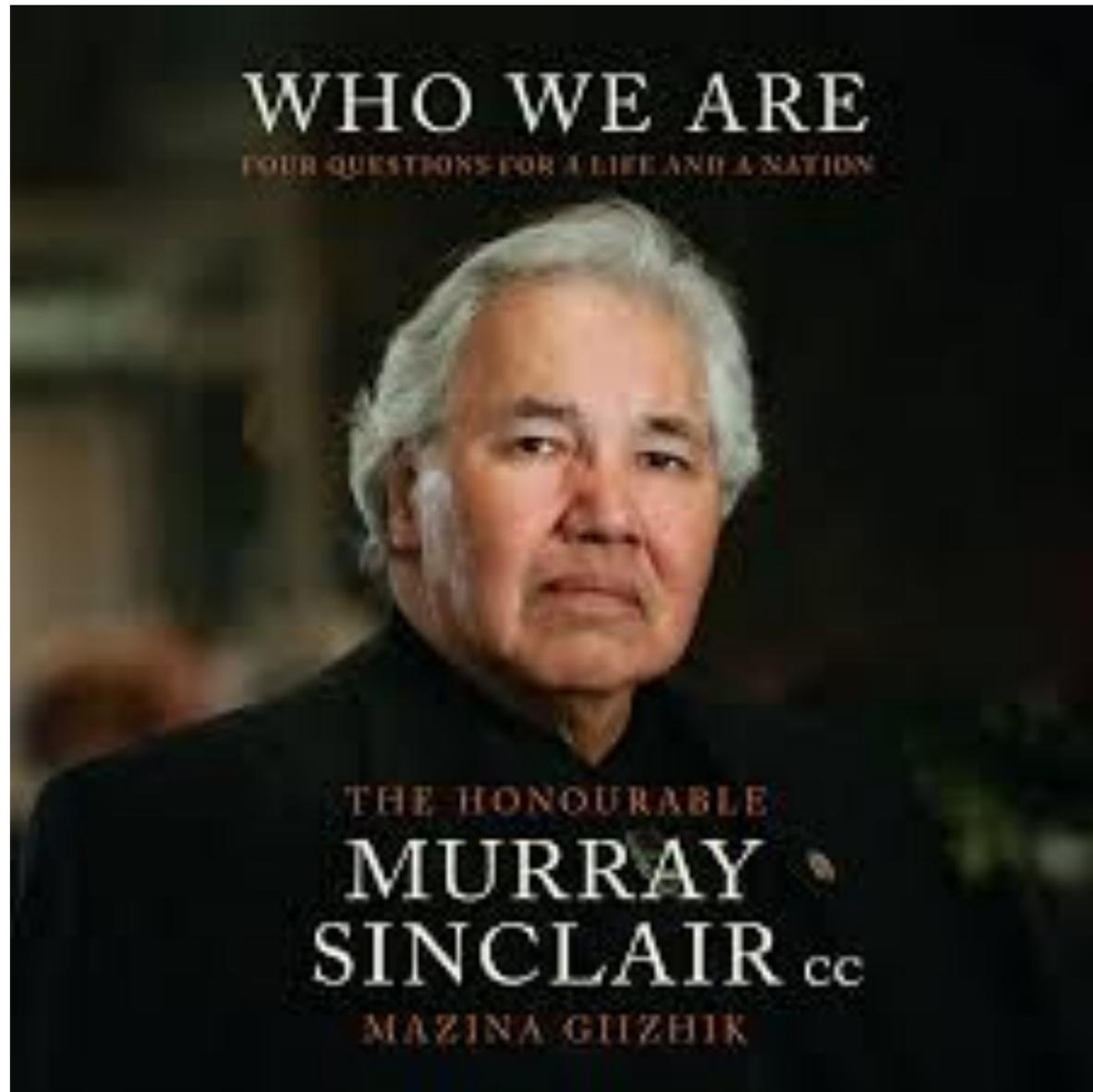
Helen Ho

Vice Principal (M - Z)



@janedoe

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Who We Are: Four Questions for a Life and Nation

1. Where do I com from?
2. Where am I going?
3. Why am I here?
4. Who am I?

Land Acknowledgement

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

Land Acknowledgement

Agenda

Student Report

Teacher Report

Guidance Presentation

Administration Report

School Council Report

Student Report



Student Council



Richmond Hill Food Drive–Dec. 4th-11th

Winterfest Market –Dec.18th

Winterfest–Dec 20th, Showcase

Teacher Report



Teacher Report

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

[2024_11_18 | AMHS School Council Report -
Google Docs](#)



Guidance Presentation



AMHS

Preparing for Canadian College and University Post-Secondary Studies



College and University for Fall 2025 Admissions

Agenda

- AMHS Guidance Office
- How to ensure a good post-secondary choice
- Is a “Gap” year worth taking?
- Nature of College Education
- Nature of University Education
- General Costs
- Scholarships and Awards
- Key Dates
- Q & A



Guidance Services at AMHS

- Committed to supporting students in their journey to identify, develop passions and strengths
- Make connections to future plans
- Work in partnership with you and your parents or guardians
- Stress the value of good research, honest reflection and one's individual desire to forge his or her own way forward

Is a Gap Year worth taking?



A Look Back in Time

- Typically, Gap Year defined as a bridge between high school and university
- Usually involves a combination of work, study (credit or non-credit), service, development of an interest, travel
- Widespread in Europe since the 1960s; in the UK about 7% of undergraduates undertake a Gap Year
- Increasingly North American students and universities/colleges now recognize the value of time

Benefits of a Gap Year

- An opportunity for students to broaden their personal, educational, and professional experiences
- Provides an opportunity to reflect, evaluate goals, and refine plans for the future
- Permits a young person to mature and become more focused
- Increases independence and self-reliance
- Allows a student to avoid “burn out” and often renews love of learning
- Generally enhances post-secondary achievement

Typical Concerns of a Gap Year

- Will I fall behind my peer group?
- Will I lose touch with my friends?
- Will I have a difficult transition when I return to formal education?
- What will a Gap Year cost?

Who Would Benefit Most by a Gap Year?

- Students who are seeking to gain further experience in a specialized field or pursue a particular passion
- Students who need more clarity about which post secondary and career path
- Students who have changed their post-secondary plan and need to earn additional qualifications
- Students who are not yet fully prepared for post-secondary studies

Gap Year: Process and Planning

- Lots of choices so research is vital
- Establishing goals and clear structure is essential
- Proceed with applications to post-secondary studies while at AMHS
- Accept an offer of admission and then submit a request for a deferral to the following year
- Expenses will vary depending on plan, but there are a number of cost-effective options available

Useful Websites:

- www.mygapyear.ca
- www.cisontario.ca/page.cfm?p=294
- www.gapyear.com



Nature of System

UNIVERSITY:

- 21 Public Universities in Ontario
- Vast majority publicly funded (only major exception is Quest University)
- Some universities have more than one campus (e.g. UBC)
- Some incorporate a collegiate system (e.g. U of T)
- Institutions are governed by Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

COLLEGE:

- 24 Colleges in Ontario alone
- All Publicly funded
- In 2019, The province lowered tuition costs by 10% - \$2400.00
- In more localized communities
 - Like Seneca, King Campus
 - George Brown, Casa Loma Campus

Nature of Academic Program

UNIVERSITY:

- Students apply directly to a faculty
- Some specialized 1st year programs are available
- In most cases, don't have to declare a major until 2nd year
- With the exception of professional programs, students generally take about half their courses in a major

COLLEGE:

- Students apply directly to a Program
- Most Programs are specialized beginning in 1st year
- Less flexibility in changing Program than in University

Nature of the Program

UNIVERSITY:

- Most degrees in Canada are 4 year programs (IB students may gain advanced standing)
- Teaching conducted through lectures, tutorials, seminars and labs
- Class hours average 15-30 hours per week (highest in Sciences & Engineering), with the expectation that students engage in much independent study
- Typical load is 5 courses; courses may run for a semester or full year

COLLEGE:

- Program length varies:
 - Certificate = 1 year
 - Diploma = 2 year
 - Advanced Diploma = 3 Year
 - Bachelor Degree = 4 Year
- Ability to Transition to University provided good academic standing and good GPA
- Typical load 4-5 courses per semester
- Class hours average 15-30 hours per week (Health, Science and Technology)
- Co-op or internship options are popular

Who is a Good Fit?

UNIVERSITY

- Students who are fairly focused in their academic interests, but still want flexibility & choice
- Students who want to shape their own academic program without large numbers of distribution requirements
- Students who are mature, self-directed learners
- Large campuses tend to focus more on lecture-style presentations; smaller schools offer more discussion-based classes

COLLEGE

- Students who want to focus on interests and specialize in a specific field
- More fine tuned to industry and course largely taught by industry professionals past and present
- Smaller class sizes and more focused on hands-on learning

Application Process

UNIVERSITY

- In Ontario, applications are processed through centralized OUAC system
- Outside Ontario, students will apply directly to the university
- Offers made on a rolling basis with multiple rounds
- Generally the more selective the program, the later the offers

COLLEGE

- In Ontario, applications are processed by OCAS
- Offers are made in a rolling basis like universities
- Generally there are no early offers

Grades Submitted

UNIVERSITY and COLLEGES

- FY grades uploaded to OUAC in 1st term of Semester 1 (end of November)
- First set of IB and regular grades are sent in early February at end of semester 1
- Updated grades for all students sent in Semester 2, end of term 1 (mid April)
- Final grades submitted in July after diploma results
- We provide universities with IB and converted % grades for the OSSD
- Most out-of-province universities draw grades from the OUAC database, but we also send transcript directly if necessary

Admission Criteria: University

- Applications are evaluated initially on the basis of academic grades – either a set cutoff or a floating minimum
- Some universities and more selective programs also require supplementary applications outlining extra-curricular leadership, and in many cases, personal essays or video responses
- Some admission decisions based 100% on grades; others weigh supplemental applications and grades equally; some place great weight on supplements
- There are no standardized tests for 1st year programs (except Waterloo Accounting)
- Interviews may be required for select Programs: Like Schulich Business, U of T Engineering Programs, etc.

Admission Criteria: College

- Applications are evaluated initially on the basis of academic grades – either a set cutoff or a floating minimum
- More selective programs also require supplementary applications outlining extra-curricular leadership, and in many cases, or video responses
- Some admission decisions based 100% on grades; others may weigh supplemental applications and grades equally; or portfolio of work
- There may be some standardized tests -- Bachelor of Aviation at Seneca
 - Proficiency in math and medical test

General Costs: University

A range depending on school and program and citizenship of applicant:

- Quest (private) \$45,000 tuition + room/board
 - Queen's – Room/board \$17,500 (incl. Books + supplies)
1. Arts & Sci tuition--\$7423 (domestic); \$35,505 (international)
 2. Commerce tuition - \$16,288 (domestic); \$51,275 (international)
 3. Engineering tuition - \$14,180 (domestic); \$67,370 (international)

Example: Waterloo University

COST (FOR 8 MONTHS)



Academic expenses

TUITION, BOOKS AND SUPPLIES
\$9,000 - \$18,800 (varies by program)



Living expenses

RENT & GROCERIES OR RESIDENCE WITH MEAL PLAN
\$8,000 - \$12,800



Other expenses

TRANSPORTATION, PHONE, ENTERTAINMENT ETC
\$3,600

General Costs: College

- Average cost of tuition for one academic year in an Ontario college program:
 - Diploma Programs - \$2,400
 - Graduate Certificate Programs - \$3,600
 - Bachelor's Degree Programs - \$6,100 -7,500
 - Collaborative or Joint Degree Programs - \$5,000
- You can also expect an average of \$800 in ancillary fees (student activity fees, athletic fees, health insurance, etc.) and \$1,300 for books and supplies.
 - **Note:** that these figures do not include living costs, such as rent, utilities and transportation.

Helpful Websites for Further Research

- www.electronicinfo.ca
- www.schoolfinder.com
- www.macleans.ca
- www.osap.gov.on.ca
- www.yconic.com



Scholarship & Award Information

Scholarships and Financial Aid at Universities and Colleges in Canada:

- Direct Application & Automatic Entrance Scholarships are available at all Canadian universities
- Students may also apply for bursaries based on financial need
- New Ontario Student Grant system & OSAP

Key Major Scholarships:

Scholarship:	Deadline for application:
● Loran Scholarship:	<i>October 13th</i>
● University of Toronto Book Prize*:	<i>October 14th</i>
● National Scholarships (UofT various awards)	<i>October 19th</i>
● TD Community Leadership Award	<i>November 15th</i>
● Queen's Chancellor Scholarship *	<i>December 8th</i>
● Schulich Leader Award *	<i>January 26th</i>
● Western National Scholarship*	<i>February 14th</i>
● <i>...and much more!</i>	

*Requires school nomination

Monetary rewards vary from \$20,000 to \$100,000 over the course of 4 years!

Scholarship Search Engines

Scholarshipscanada.com

Studentscholarships.org

ScholarTree.ca

CAREER & SALARY INFORMATION

CAREER QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

CAREER VIDEOS



StudentScholarships.org

Largest Collection of Scholarships on the Web

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GET A SCHOLARSHIP TODAY

[View All Scholarships](#)

Using Google

1. **Google:** (activity/interest/sport) + (geographic location) + (scholarship)
2. **Google Alerts**
 - Scholarship high school Canada
 - Scholarship university Canada
 - Scholarship high school (name of your city)
 - Scholarship high school (name of your province)

Other Resources to Checkout

- Guidance office / School Board Website
- Employers
- Community Groups
- Social Media
- Try searching on social media similar to you would on Google

Scholarship Tips

Create a schedule and stick to it

Research who is offering the scholarship

Reference letter

- Give them enough time and let them know the deadline

Scholarship Tips (cont.)

Essay

- Be sure to answer the question they are asking
- Feelings – use descriptive language that conveys emotion
- Review and edit – no spelling or grammar errors
- Have someone else edit – parent, friend, teacher
- Reuse your essay
- Many scholarships ask the same or very similar questions
- Don't start from scratch on every application - Reuse and tweak previous applications

Other Scholarships Tips

- **Contact Info** – be sure to include your contact info so the provider can let you know if they won or not
- **File Formats** – be sure to only submit the format they requested. If one isn't listed use DOCX or PDF. DO NOT use google doc or .pages
- **Word Count** – don't go over
- **Optional Questions** – no such thing, answer every question on the application

OCAS Important Dates

1. Early October 2024: Online Application Opens
2. Mid October - November: Attend Virtual and In-person College Fairs
3. November 1, 2024: Earliest Offer Date
4. February 1, 2025: Equal Consideration Date
5. May 1, 2025: Deadline to Confirm Offers of Admission
6. June 2025: Tuition Deposit Due at the Colleges

Check Out: www.ontariocolleges.ca for more information

OUAC Important Dates

1. **September to November:** Attend University Fair - ontariouniversityfair.ca
2. **October:** Students can start applying
3. **November 17th:** Ontario universities to receive Mark information from AMHS
4. **January 15:** Final date to submit application for equal consideration for university admission - submit earlier for competitive programs
5. **February 17:** Ontario Universities to receive final Semester 1 grades from OUAC

OUAC Important Dates (cont)

5. **May 1 - 6, 2025:** Ontario Universities to receive student Mid-Term Marks from OUAC;
6. **May 27th:** Latest Date by which a student will receive an Offer from a university
7. **June 1st:** The last date to accept an Offer from an Offer from a University

Other Key Dates:

November 13-16th: Deadline for potential grads applying to college or university and do not wish to have the course mark shared with OUAC/OCAS

November 23rd: Full Disclosure (Last date to drop a course before it will remain on your transcript)

IMPORTANT: Pay careful attention to key date on the University ONLINE Portal for additional documents, supplementary application materials, advising sessions, tuition deposits, and selecting housing choices.

Q & A



Administration Report

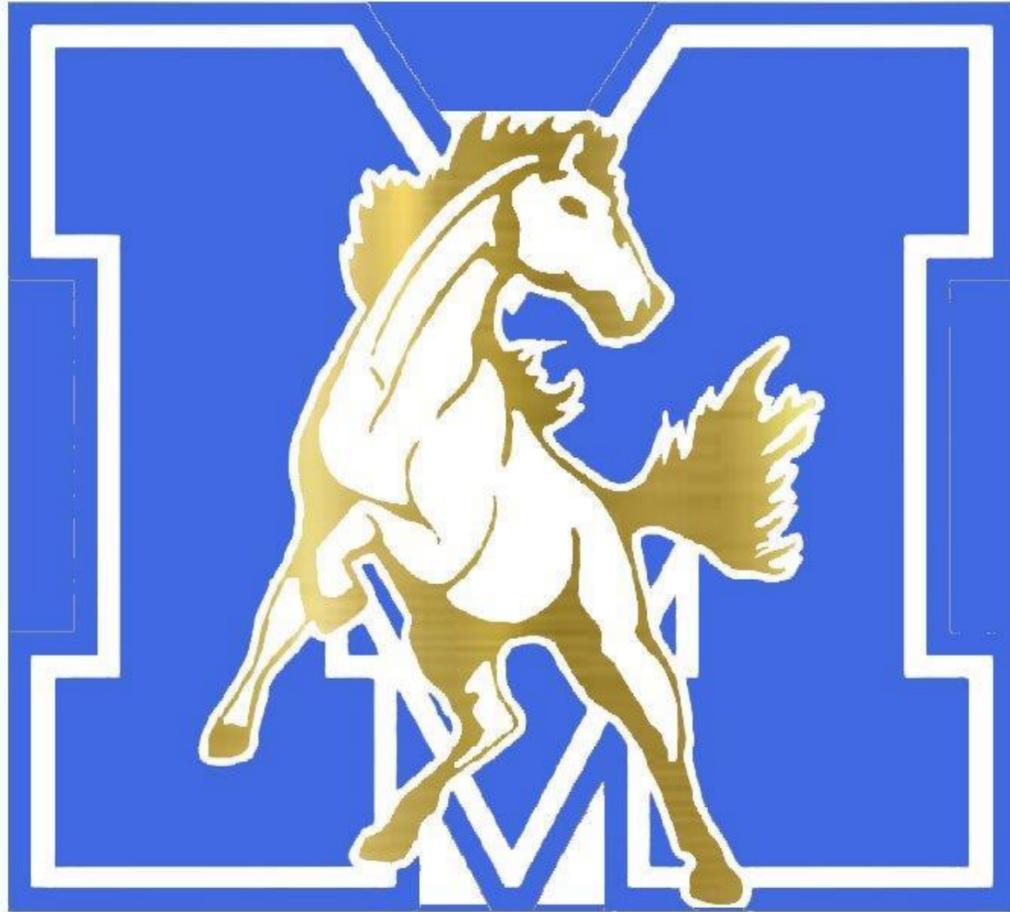


Administration Report



1. Staff Professional Learning
 - October 21 PD Day:
 - Supporting Student Learning: Personal Mobile Devices, Vaping, Bullying Prevention
 - November 15 PD Day:
 - Homelessness Awareness, Fostering Empathy in Educational Spaces

Administration Report



2. School Updates:

- student parking - new contract with Mackenzie Health; 19 additional parking spaces for students
- Midterm Reports - issued November 18-20
- OSSLT - November 20/21

Administration Report



3. YRDSB Family Dashboard:

- secure, one stop access to information and applications related to your child's education
- phase one: secure access to report cards and links to useful information

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/family-dashboard>

School Council Report



School Council Report



1. Budget Update:

- starting balance: \$1166.13
- current balance: \$2206.75
 - Fresh From the Farm Fundraiser: \$609.74
 - Krispy Kreme Fundraiser: \$430.88

2. Upcoming Fundraisers:

- poinsettias - Nov/Dec
- MacMillans - mid-winter
- Flowers - spring

School Council Report



3. School Council Funding:

- graduation awards
- financial aid for students
- mental health supports (student success)
- school projects (seating, extra curriculars)
- technology
- staff appreciation

School Council Report



4. PRO Grant

In 2024-2025, PRO Grant projects will:

- Address social inclusion, racism, hate and discrimination toward racialized and marginalized groups.
- Support identity affirming, culturally responsive and healing centered mental health strategies.
- Engage parent and community voices, in particular those voices of historically marginalized groups.
- Build knowledge for parents on the opportunities for students in a de-streamed classroom and/or a comprehensive literacy program.

Future Meeting Dates



Monday January 20, 2025

Tuesday February 18, 2025

Tuesday May 20, 2025

Open houses/presentations can be attended by any grade and provide useful information.

Pathways is good resource to help students determine what credits/courses are required for their field of interest

Lots of resources to get more information on scholarships

Admin Report - *Krista Luks*

PA Days

- Agenda/topics covered are sent out to all parents
- Some of the topics are required and mandated by Ministry of Education

Raising Awareness on Homeless in York region

- 500 students across the region that have experienced homelessness

School Updates

Additional Parking for Students

- Board has negotiated new contracts with the hospital for parking spaces, now having additional 19 spots for student parking.
- Student parking fee covers admin and tag required (\$10/semester)

Midterm report cards will be distributed week of November 19th, 2024

OSSLT - November 20th and 21st

- for grade 10, and students in grade 10 or 11 who many have missed it

Launch of Family Dashboard - onestop dashboard for access to all school related applications (Edsby, Report cards etc). Only one login required per family.

School Council Funds - balance of \$2206.75

Pro-Grant - school can apply for up to \$800 to use towards speakers for specific topics

- Speakers can be selected from provided list
- Messaging must align with board priorities

School Council activities - *Violet*

- Krispy Kreme fundraiser - need volunteers for November 21st for donut selling and pickup
- Poinsettia fundraiser - families can purchase poinsettias for pickup on Thursday, December 5th.

2024/2025 School Council

2023-2024 Council Members

Chair: Karen Wu, Violet Zeng, Shufake Virani
Secretary: Ruby Thind

2024-2025 Meeting Dates (@ 7:00 p.m.)

Monday, September 23th, 2024
Monday, November 18th, 2024

Monday, January 20th, 2025

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

