

PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance: Jessica Schutte, Wendy Weiss, Heather O'Reilly, Diane Cartier, Caitlyn Gomke, Ashley, Lena, Jamie Swain, Nicole Sehn, Karla Tweten, Tara Betts, Karen Olechowski, Michelle Warmink

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Heather O'Reilly.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - Students have been working hard on land treaty acknowledgements in their respective pursuits. Wendy and Dianne have been working with the students assigned to music. The acknowledgements have been video taped, at the request of the school district, and the video from Mrs. O's (Olechowski) grade 3 class was shown.
3. Teacher Presentation - Grade 3 - Mrs. O (Olechowski) and Mrs. Warmink
Thank you to Parent Council for supporting the recent field trip for grade 3 students to Dinosaur Provincial Park. It was a wonderful way to introduce some of the concepts highlighted in the science curriculum, i.e. fossil fuels and fossils. Students visited the information center, participated in a planned hike and enjoyed a planned scavenger hunt inside the museum (in place of the expense of a guided tour). The students were so excited to see the badlands and enjoyed the experience. They represented RH so well! We are hoping to do another big field trip to Elkwater at the end of the year, to connect to animals and other curriculum items.

It is the third year for our Happy Heights Herald (HHH). The HHH was created as a way to make writing more meaningful for students, to find purpose in what they are doing. They write about what we are doing within the school. We are very grateful for the connection RH has with Boylan Imaging. They have offered to produce the HHH for free in perpetuity. There is a cost to families who wish to purchase a subscription on School Cash Online. Proceeds are redirected back into the community with give back projects. We talk a lot with students about how they can make a positive impact and to be the change in the world that they want to see. Last year students donated approximately \$600-700 to PJs for a Purpose (movable gaming system within the hospital - \$5000 total cost). The RH donation was the largest received for the project and students visited the hospital in person to deliver the cheque. Donation of wish list items were also made to the new Ronald McDonald and included a Nintendo Switch, baby clothes, stuffies and blankets. Ideas for donation are generated and students choose the recipients. Several new features were added to the HHH this year, i.e. Word Search and Weather. In addition to the school division office, the HHH is delivered to a number of different businesses and organizations around the community, i.e. Poolhouse Cafe, Veiner Center, Station Coffee House, and Inspire Cafe.

4. Approval of Minutes - Nicole made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on September 18, 2024. The motion was seconded by Caitlin. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
5. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Diane Cartier
 - i. Remembrance Day Assembly - November 7 at 9:00 am. Families are welcome to attend.
 - ii. Monday Assembly - Teachers are given a schedule to sign up for the assemblies, however, students are really taking a leadership role. There are performances and highlights of learning showcased during these assemblies. Parents are always welcome to attend and information will be posted on Edsby.
 - iii. Pursuits/Academy - These programs are in full swing, but still have lots of moving parts. Students are working with clay in Fine Arts. The kiln has been fixed and will be fired up tomorrow. Baking fun is being had in Culinary Arts. The Multi-Sport pursuit will be taking a field trip to the MHC to meet and play with the Rattlers soccer team. There are exciting things happening for STEM and Performing Arts as well! We may look at a partnership with Crestwood Elementary School in the future as they are a STEM based school. Academy students had their first three on three event and some of the RH students were on the winning team! The first Pursuits semester will finish up in December. There will be a showcase and then a reset for January after the break. The students will have the opportunity to revisit their choices for Pursuits. The third Pursuit session will run through April and May, with the hockey and ringette academies carrying over into June. Although there has been a lot of focus on the Pursuits and Academy programs, we want to recognize that there are also so many amazing things happening in K-3 too! There are a lot of plans underway and we look forward to hearing more!
 - iv. Student Led Conferences - These are scheduled for next week, Wednesday from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm and Thursday 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm. The book fair will run along side these dates and times. This is an early opportunity to connect with teachers for one on one conversations. Students will showcase their work to date and then families can connect with their teachers. To facilitate these conversations, only two families will be booked for each time slot. The sign up has been posted to Edsby.
 - v. Ski Trip - The ski trip, for students in grades 4-6, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, 2025. More information to follow.
 - b. Co-Chairs - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
 - i. Division Council of Council Meeting - Heather and Karla attended the most recent meeting. There is a newly elected Chair, Vice Chair and Policy Committee (i.e. division bylaws, Education Foundation). Anyone is

welcome to attend. See the link below for past and current agenda and/or meeting minutes:

<https://www.mhpsd.ca/division-council-of-school-councils>

- ii. Website - Both the PC and RHSCA have been exploring ways to make information more accessible to the school community. We have been posting to Facebook, however, that is not accessible to all. Jamie has created a website to help streamline everything, i.e. links to volunteer opportunities, fundraisers, events, etc. He is happy to maintain and update as well. Thank you Jamie! The site can be found at <https://www.rhparentcouncil.com>. Wendy offered to post the link to Edsby and include it the next Newsletter. We discussed the various methods of communication. The school Facebook page is RH school based and student centered. Edsby is for the distribution of information. The new PC/RHSCA website will relate more to extracurricular and fundraising. It was suggested that we rebrand the PC Facebook page. It is currently titled River Heights School Parent Council, but is often confused with a school by the same name in Ontario. We will look into the guidelines for a possible rebranding. Wendy will also check in with Lee Krasilowez, Communication Officer at the school division office for any potential conflicts or concerns with rebranding.
- iii. Outdoor Classroom - Karla indicated there was discussion at the Monday Assembly asking students to refrain from dismantling brick structures in the outdoor classroom and to stay clear. Due to a number of factors, some of the bricks have been broken or come loose. Taylor, Head Custodian, has already remedied the situation. However, Wendy will check with Taylor to see if any further supplies may be needed to maintain the structures and let us know. The RHSCA would gladly help support the cost of the same.
- iv. Book Fair - The school is still in need of two volunteers to assist with the book fair. Lena has offered to fill one spot.

6. Report from committees and council representatives:

a. RHSCA

i. Fundraising

- 1. Kernels - Orders for this fundraiser have closed. We expect delivery in about two weeks, with the date to yet to be determined.
- 2. 50/50 - This will remain open until the 30th, with the draw on October 31st. There will be posters available with QR code access throughout the book fair and student led conferences.
- 3. Mixing Spoon - Order information will be posted mid-November, with items delivered in December, in time for Christmas.

4. Annagrets - Heather spoke with them and they are happy to help us with a Valentines Day fundraiser. We will open this fundraiser mid-January.
- ii. Hot Lunch - Nicole Sehn and Jamie Swain
 1. Upcoming Dates
 - a. October 18 - McDonalds
 - b. October 25 - Taco Time
 - c. November 1 - Mr. Pretzel
 - d. November 7 - Pizza 73
 - e. November 15 - Argo's Pasta
 2. Heat/Cool Bags - These have been purchased and are working well.
 3. There has been a lot of good feedback about the new food vendors. Students have also been enjoying picking up hot lunch at the canteen and it has been easy for hand outs. Thank you to the hot lunch team for your work!!
 4. Munch-a-Lunch - We are unable to change anything for the current session. However, for the session in the new year, the "donate a lunch" will be changed to "donation amount". It is a bit challenging to administer specific lunch donations, so we will move in favor of donations to the nutrition program.
- iii. Halloween Dance - The team has met and plans are well under way. Lyle Woodward has offered his DJ services. We will be adding a photo booth this year. Concession items, decorations and lighting have been organized. Heather has spoken with Kim McDowall regarding MHC student volunteers. We have at least one student confirmed and will be reaching out again in the hopes of another five. There is still a need for more parent volunteers as well. The food bank has been contacted, information posted and donations will be accepted starting on October 25. Approximately 50 chairs are required around the perimeter of the gym for parents, however, Wendy feels there are enough onsite to accommodate that number without reaching out to head office. Access to the staff room and gym will be required at about 2:00 pm the day of the dance to start making popcorn and setting up. Details will be posted to Facebook, on the school website and to Edsby. Reminders that no facemasks, weapons or scary costumes will be permitted and children must be accompanied by an adult.
- b. Winter Village - The first planning meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 pm.

7. New Business

- a. Next Meeting - In-Person Meeting (Staff Room):
 - i. Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

8. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.