

PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance: Wendy Weiss, Nicole Hall, Heather O'Reilly, Tara Betts, Karla Tweten, Tim Watrin, Caitlin Gomke, Michelle King

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Heather O'Reilly.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - The land acknowledgement video created by the Grade 4 students was played.
3. Approval of Minutes - Tim made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on January 21, 2026. The motion was seconded by Caitlin. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
4. Teacher Presentation - Grade 4 - Allison Jeal and Jan Reiniger and 3rd Year Education Practicum Students Mrs. Reimer and Mr. Jangula

Those present were taken on a field trip to the display case near the main entrance of the school to showcase the grade 4 theme. There is a year long Explorers theme in grade 4 that integrates different classes and includes lessons on historical explorers, New France, Indigenous cultures, confederation and exploration as it relates to learning new things.

There are ties between all concepts and focus on the Growth Mindset. This is the belief that abilities, intelligence and talents can be developed through effort, learning and persistence rather than being fixed traits. Challenge is seen as a positive and necessary part of learning used to teach growth mind set. The productive struggle is more worthwhile. Students learn strategies to help them navigate "The Learning Pit", that apply to all subject areas. "The Learning Pit" explores the different stages of learning and feelings of the student at each stage. A student moving through the stages, from the start of a challenge until the end might include the following thinking: Problem, "I think I know the answer", "This is not as easy as I thought", The Pit, "I am confused", "I need to work hard at this", "I think I'm getting it" and, finally, Success.

Learning means exploring, failing and persevering:

FAIL - First Attempt In Learning

Science - *I can practice perseverance while I try non-digital coding by coding a friend!*
Non-digital coding teaches fundamental computer science concepts through physical, hands-on activities without screens, I.E. cards, LEGO bricks, robots and games to build thinking and problems solving skills. The grade 4 students created a special coding project using cups. Alongside lessons and strategies surrounding mistakes, that float through all subject areas, non-digital coding also satisfies some of the socio-emotional curriculum content.

Numeracy - I can use my "Math Super Powers" when I'm going through a Productive Math Struggle

Students are asked to identify their own math superpower to help them better engage with challenging problems.

PEW - I can describe strategies for building resilience through personal challenges.

Strategies are introduced and developed in conjunction with our HUG (Help Us Grow) Coach.

Social Studies - I can identify the Explorers and settlers in New France and explain how they both needed a Growth Mindset to get there!

Students are asked to put themselves in the shoes of the explorers and fur traders and relate to the 6 Thinking Hats from their perspective. They also connect to the Explorer Characteristics of leadership, courage, curiosity and perseverance.

Literacy - I can make connections to a variety of texts. I can learn word meaning by looking at synonyms and antonyms.

Students read the book "The Dot" and explore the importance of trying and how one dot can make a difference.

5. Reports from school and council:

a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Nicole Hall

- i. Grade 4-6 Ski Trip - There are 71 students registered for the ski trip coming up on Thursday, March 5th. The admin team will be meeting with non-academy students tomorrow to go through the code of conduct, pick up and drop off schedule, etc. For those who are not participating, it will be a be regular school day. Students not attending either school or the ski trip, must be excused on Edsby for that day by a parent/guardian.
- ii. RH Clothing Store - Clothing items, featuring Ollie the Otter, will be available for purchase from March 9-22. The link to the online store will be in the monthly newsletter posted to Edsby and on posters around the school.
- iii. Grade 6 Legacy Project - Last year, fundraising proceeds were used to purchase a 3d printer for the school. The legacy projects are all kid driven, they have a voice and a choice. This year, students have chosen to purchase RH school jerseys to wear when attending multi-school sporting events. The jerseys have been ordered and feature the new mascot, Ollie the Otter.
- iv. Showcase of Learning - Students will be creating a project, highlighting the importance of connections between subject areas, to present to their families. In addition to the student presentations, families will still be given the opportunity to speak with teachers. The showcase will be held on

Wednesday, March 11th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm and Thursday, March 12th from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm.

- v. Box City - Grade 3 students will be unveiling their Box City project on Wednesday, March 11th at RH from 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Several special guests have been invited including the Mayor and SD76 Board Members. Students will deliver speeches, unveil their city and close out this special event. Box City will also be available to tour during the Showcase of Learning on both March 11th & 12th.
 - vi. Read-a-Thon - Mrs. Thomson has generated a lot excitement surrounding the Read-a-Thon! Reading logs must be submitted by March 5th to qualify for prizes.
 - vii. Registration - Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is now open and is going well for RH. The admin team asked that families get re-enrollment forms in as soon as possible. Early numbers guide staffing and planning for supports for students. Near the end of March or beginning of April, the admin team will meet with head office to decide staffing based on enrollment to date.
 - viii. Juggling Club - Education Student Jackson Jangula will be starting a Juggling Club at RH and running the same until his practicum is completed around Easter.
 - b. Co-Chairs - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
 - i. Division Council of School Council Meeting (DCOSC) - The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026 and will be held virtually. All council members are 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>
6. Report from committees and council representatives:
- a. RHSCA
 - i. Hot Lunch
 - 1. February 27 - Taco Time
 - 2. March 6 - McDonalds
 - 3. March 13 - Mr. Pretzel
 - ii. Fundraising - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
 - 1. Opt Out Fundraiser - A QR Code link for information related to the Opt Out fundraiser has been distributed in agendas. For a soft fundraiser, it is performing better than expected, although we will continue to review the same.
 - 2. Kernels - Considering a possible spring run.
 - 3. Purdy's - We may look at this in time for Mother's Day.
7. Old Business
- a. Valentines Day Dance Follow Up - Heather O'Reilly

The dance was a hit and had a really good turn out! While Wendy agreed that the kids had a lot of fun on the actual night of the event, there were challenges for some students leading up to the event, i.e. attire and pressure to take a date. Going forward, we may look at an alternative to Valentines Day as a theme or return to Halloween. Feedback from families included the need for a few extra chairs and that it was nice to have an event to break things up over the winter, a less stressful time of year than Halloween. Staff also suggested, if the dance were held at an earlier time such as 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm, more of them would be likely to participate. Kids do really enjoy seeing their teachers at these types of events and we may consider a Thursday evening, prior to a Friday PD day in the future.

b. Staff Appreciation - Tara Betts

A planning meeting was held yesterday. We have a theme and while we don't want to give away all of the surprises, we are looking at continuing with a similar format to last year. The staff room will be decorated on Monday, March 9th, with some type of treat available and Tuesday will be a morning snack. Snacks will be available for staff during the Showcase of Learning on Wednesday and we will provide a meal during the show case on Thursday. There will also be special messages to the RH team on the display board outside of the staff room.

8. New Business

a. Meeting Dates - All meetings will be held In-Person Meeting (Project Commons)

i. Next Meeting:

1. Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm

9. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.