

PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance: Rick Massini, Wendy Weiss, Diane Cartier, Tim Watrin, Allison Jeal, Jan Reiniger, Nicole Sehn, Tara Betts, Heather O'Reilly

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Heather O'Reilly.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - the land acknowledgement from Mrs. Reiniger's Pursuit Performing Arts Pursuit (first semester) was read aloud.
3. Teacher Presentation - Grade 4 - Mrs. Jeal and Mrs. Reiniger

Mrs. Jeal and Mrs. Reiniger previously team taught grade 6 are new to grade 4 this year. They have been exploring the curriculum and how to draw connections between each theme across literacy, numeracy, social studies and science.

In the first theme of the year, students explored constellations and stars. They investigated how stars were used as navigation tools and built compasses. They learned about explorers and how they came to Canada.

In January, discussion began surrounding traditional literature, i.e. fairy tales, and led to learning about Father Time. Curriculum objectives for this theme include: Social Studies - I can create a timeline and put important events in chronological order; Literacy/Reading - I can identify different types of traditional literature, like myths, legends, fairy tales, and fables; Numeracy - I can communicate how long things take using standard units of time, like seconds, minutes and hours; and, Literacy/Writing - I can understand and use figurative language, such as personification, to make my writing more interesting. Time is a hard concept for young students. Timelines are a way to connect thoughts. Those present were taken on a field trip to view personal timelines created by students and showcased other work on their current theme about time. Personal time lines were used to support the theme and promote engagement. Students also compared and contrasted number lines and timelines.

4. Approval of Minutes - Nicole made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on January 22, 2025. The motion was seconded by Tim. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
5. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Diane Cartier
 - i. Ski Trip - Approximately 68 students will be heading out to Hidden Valley for the ski trip next week and so far, the weather looks good! Most of the grade 4-6 staff will be participating, with a couple staying back to support those students that will not be going. Although we currently have enough volunteers to support the day, parents are more than welcome to join on

the hill to assist. The bus will depart RH at 8:15 am and return around 4:45 pm. Students will be required to take a lesson, regardless of skill level. They will be evaluated on skill level early in the day. Beginners will be first to get a lesson so they can go back for reevaluation if needed. Those with higher level skills will not need to take a lesson until later in the day.

- ii. Read-a-Thon - RH will be hosting its first Read-a-Thon from March 10-20th. Mrs. Thomson will be speaking with students about the same at Monday's assembly. The hope is to instill a love of literacy, with both individual and class goals. Students will be given a log to track their reading throughout the duration of the event and teachers will provide ongoing communication. Mrs. Thomson is also working hard to gather donations from local businesses for individual prizes and is hoping to arrange either a pizza or ice cream party for class prizes. Nicole is working with her to arrange pizza through our hot lunch Pizza 73 connection.
- iii. Student-Led Conferences - These will be scheduled during March 26 & 27, with a book fair to run alongside. Report cards will be available on Edsby on March 28th.
- iv. Assurance Surveys - Parents and/or guardians of students in grades 4 will be receiving email communication on Friday regarding the assurance survey. The school survey will also be coming shortly.
- v. Pursuits - The admin team was looking at a way to create EDSBY Pursuit groups for communication with families. However, they have not been able to find a way to make that work and have opted to use Google Classroom in its place.
- vi. Fundraisers for Tayler Grant - Tayler is the Head Custodian at RH. He shared with the school community on Monday that he is battling cancer. He has been very transparent and upbeat about his journey and views it as an opportunity to share with kids. The school wants to do everything possible to support him and in view of that, have scheduled several fundraisers!
 - 1. February 26 - Smoothie Sale - This took place today and was a huge success, raising over \$700.
 - 2. March 20 - Movie Night - Scheduled for Thursday, March 20, the night before PD day. Doors will open at 5:00 pm to give families an opportunity to purchase food/snacks and shop, with movie to begin at 6:00 pm. The movie has not yet been chosen. During the event, RH Staff will host a bake sale and the Grade 6 students will set up a market similar to Winter Village. It will be open to other teachers for ideas as well. Grade 3 students have ordered over 50 pounds of candy to offer at the concession. They will sell the candy and have used proceeds from the Happy Heights Herald to

purchase the same. Although some popcorn has been donated, we will be looking for more. In the past, for the Halloween Dance, the movie theater has donated popcorn. We will look into the same for this event. Generally, if you let them know ahead, the theatre will provide large bags of popcorn that can then be individually bagged. Heather offered to connect with Dayna regarding popcorn. Pop and water will also be offered at the concession. The admin team is also hoping to offer pizza. Nicole offered to look into the same and the possibility of donation. It was suggested a Google form be used to gauge numbers. Wendy will be speaking with staff to finalize details of the event and will then send out communication to the school community. The admin team is happy to have parents or volunteers to assist with concession sales and monitoring. PC will advertise for volunteers once we have a better idea of need.

3. March 17-31 - Facebook Auction - The hope is to have donation items secured March 10. The auction will be live from March 17-31 and will be open to anyone who is able to access Facebook.

b. Co-Chairs - Heather O'Reilly

- i. Division Council of Council Meeting (DCOC) - DCOC include representatives from all schools in the Medicine Hat Public School Division, generally led by an elected Chair and the SD76 Superintendent or their proxy. Meetings are both informational and feedback seeking with agenda items that may include: discussion of school calendars, budget, policy, parent feedback, and information from Alberta Education and/or school division to parent councils. Opportunities are also available to sit on committees. Rick reinforced that your voice does matter and has significant weight in our school district. All stakeholders, i.e. parent, teacher, students and administration are all consulted when making policy changes. The last meeting was held virtually in December. The next meeting, virtual, is scheduled for March 13. Although it is typically the PC Executive that attend, any PC member may attend. Rick did suggest that PC members wishing to attend please advise the PC Chair in advance. See the link below for past and current agenda and/or meeting minutes: <https://www.mhpsd.ca/division-council-of-school-councils>
- ii. The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) - "The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) provides support and resources, including knowledge and skill development, consultation and learning opportunities, to enhance meaningful parent contribution and participation in school councils and COSCs across the province." They include members of Parent Councils from all divisions in Alberta. The ASCA conference will be entirely virtual this year on April 26th and is a great opportunity for anyone who is able to attend. You can register for the same by visiting

their website at

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/about/annual-conference>. In the past, the school division has offered reimbursement to a specified number of attendees. Rick also indicated they will be holding a group viewing at the district office and you could attend through there as well. He suggested the \$500 Alberta Education grant could be used to pay for attendee registration fees. The RHSCA will supplement as well.

- iii. Staff Appreciation - As in the past, we are hoping to hold staff appreciation during student-led conferences the week of March 24-27. A planning meeting date will be set and sent out to those interested in helping out.

6. Report from committees and council representatives:

a. RHSCA

i. Fundraising - Heather O'Reilly

- 1. Annegrets Chocolates - We are exploring a fundraiser for chocolates, with the intention of delivery in time for Easter. Heather met with Annegrets today. They will be sending pics of each item to add to Munch-a-Lunch (MAL). We are hoping to have everything finalized within the next couple of days and the fundraiser will run for approximately two weeks. Annegrets will package each individual order. Heather will connect with Karla about who will be adding the fundraiser to MAL. There will be a nice mix of items: caramels, truffles, bark, bunnies and small chocolates and easter bars. Wendy indicated Diane and Danielle still require access to MAL. Nicole will add them to the same.
- 2. Kernels - We will consider running another Kernels fundraiser after Annegrets closes.

ii. Hot Lunch - Nicole Sehn

1. Upcoming Dates

- a. This Friday - Taco Time
- b. March 7 - Dairy Queen
- c. March 14 - Argo's Pasta
- d. March 20 - Pizza 73 - Overall everything is going well, although there have been a few hiccups with the change in ownership. Hot lunch orders now have to be called in as you would for an order from home.
- e. March 28 - McDonald's

- 2. Parking Lot Discussion - Follow Up - All volunteer spots filled up as soon as email went out and is now covered through the end of the school year. Nicole has also ensured that volunteers have her contact information in case of emergency. Distribution working well.

7. New Business
 - a. Next Meeting - In-Person Meeting (Staff Room):
 - i. Wednesday, March 19, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
8. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.