

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

Attendance: Nicole Sehn, Karla Tweten, Tara Betts, Quinn Skelton, Megan Hilgendorf, Ashley Spitz, Dayna Maloy, Amanda Hobson, Wendy Weiss, Nicole Hall, Raquel McNamara, Heather O'Reilly

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Karla Tweten.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - The land acknowledgement created by the Grade 6 students was read aloud.
3. Approval of Minutes - Amanda made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on September 17, 2025. The motion was seconded by Caitlin. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
4. Teacher Presentation - Grade 6 - Kylie Thorne and Celina Batsel
Grade 6 students started a new tradition with its Winter Market at last year's Winter Village event. Planning has begun for this year's event. The market aligns with social studies outcomes to plan a project and follow it through the process. Funds raised through the market are being used for a legacy project(s) decided on through democratic process. Last year students worked in teams to generate project ideas to be presented to Wendy and Diane in the style of Dragon's Den and included proposals to purchase a 3D printer, jerseys and the idea of a mascot for RH. With regard to the mascot, students collected ideas and data from all grades and shared the same out at an assembly, ultimately deciding on an Otter. The process was complete when the Otter received its name, Ollie. Funds raised last year were used to purchase a 3D printer for use in the school. Dave Van Leeuwen, MHPSD Education Technology Coach, met with the staff this week to instruct and highlight different applications for the printer. Students are actively preparing for this year's Winter Market. Groups have been formed, planning is underway and students have been working hard to create items to showcase and sell. The new 3D printer has been put to good use! Connecting to math outcomes, students have also been learning about pricing. Students have chosen new jerseys, featuring the new mascot, as their legacy project and have set fundraising goals to achieve the same. The location of the market last year in the hallway created some bottle necks. To alleviate that and improve the experience, the market will be moved to the library with entrance at one end and exit with an all cash pay station at the other side. No food or drinks will be permitted in this library. All agreed that the grade 6 Winter Market has been a welcome and exciting addition to our Winter Village event!
5. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Nicole Hall
 - i. Public School Board Trustees - a warm welcome to two of our Trustees Quinn and Megan! Megan indicated, in place of being assigned to a

- particular school this year, Trustees are being encouraged to attend meetings at a variety of schools as their schedules permit.
- ii. Student-Led Conferences - The admin team extended their thanks to families for coming out to support students last week and noted that it was a great turn out! It was wonderful to see students so proud of their learning.
 - iii. Book Fair - We achieved a school record for the book fair and raised \$6839!! Lauren will be putting new book packages together for classrooms and will use some of the funds for Read-a-Thon prizes.
 - iv. RH Clothing Line - The RH clothing line now features our new mascot, Ollie the Otter. Although the deadline for the current order was Sunday, the store will open again in spring and possibly February as well. The response has been very good with easy ordering and reasonable prices. Delivery is expected before Christmas with the date yet to be determined. There has been discussion about possibly setting Monday's as spirit day in the new year to coincide with the assemblies. It would be an opportunity for students to either wear green (school colour) or showcase their new Ollie the Otter clothing!
 - v. Mascot Name - Selection of the name for the new RH Otter mascot, Ollie, was 100% student driven. Students proposed potential names and was then selected by vote.
 - vi. Christmas Activities - December 15-19 will be spirit week for students. The 19th will be PJ day, with staff serving pancakes and fruit breakfast and dismissal at 12 noon.
 - vii. Earth Rangers - Students will enjoy a presentation from Earth Rangers at 9:30 am on December 17th. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend!
 - viii. Frosty Day - The school will be offering in-house made frosties to students on Friday for \$2/per.
- b. Co-Chairs - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
- i. Division Council of School Council Meeting (DCOSC) - The next meeting is scheduled for December 11th 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>
 - ii. Field Trip Opportunity - Tara brought forward a new field trip opportunity created and funded by the Kiwanis Club and specifically, member Paul von Huene. With the exception of transportation, all costs are covered including a hot dog lunch cooked over an open fire. Grade 4 & 5 students are invited to Paul's ranch to enjoy a variety of experiences centered around the environment, conservation, water management, beaver dams, etc. Kiwanis has also partnered with several different organizations including You Betula Environmental out of Lethbridge and the Southeast Alberta Water Alliance (SEAWA).

6. Report from committees and council representatives:
 - a. RHSCA
 - i. Hot Lunch - Nicole Sehn
 1. Upcoming Dates
 - a. November 27 - McDonalds
 - b. November 28 - Dairy Queen
 - c. December 5 - Taco in a Bag
 - d. December 11 - McDonalds
 - e. December 18 - Pizza 73
 2. The hot lunch team is always in need of volunteers and will be posting for December shortly. Now that several days originally scheduled for PD are operational days, the hot lunch team may reach out to vendors to occasionally hold a second hot lunch in a week.
 - ii. Fundraising - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
 1. Purdy's - This fundraiser will be open until December 1st with delivery before Christmas. We are already seeing significantly more interest in this fundraiser over the same last year.
 2. Opt Out - Information about the Opt Out fundraiser has been sent out and is available on MAL. This fundraiser is a bit unique and intended to attract those families that would like to help support opportunities at the school without having to commit to purchasing physical sale items. It was agreed this fundraiser would be open through the full school year with seasonal reminders. With fundraising in general, it has been a challenge to find the most effective ways to reach the school community. We will be trying a number of different methods, including the Edsby banner, RH Newsletter, posters, etc. Raquel offered to create a poster, with QR Code, including highlights about where funds raised will be directed. Wendy & Nicole offered to add seasonal graphics and distribute the same. We have found that communication is most successful when run through Wendy or the school rather than coming directly from PC or RHSCA. Megan suggested putting up the posters at Winter Village.
7. New Business
 - a. Halloween Dance - Heather O'Reilly

Due to the strike and school closure, we were unable to proceed with the Halloween Dance as scheduled. In place of the same, we will be having our first Valentine's Dance, scheduled for Friday, February 6th, 2026.
 - b. Winter Village - Tara Betts

The event has been scheduled for Thursday, December 11th. Planning is well underway. We will be shopping for supplies for the classroom activities on Tuesday next week and setting up the display case in the main entry way with raffle prizes on December 5th. Thanks to Karla and Nicole for all of their work gathering the same! Thank you to Michelle for agreeing to come on board to partner with Tara for all things Winter Village! For those that have indicated they would like to help support Winter Village, the sign up link has been emailed out. We will reach out through the PC FB page if additional volunteers are needed.

- c. Meeting Dates - All meetings will be held In-Person Meeting (Project Commons)
 - i. Next Meeting:
 - 1. Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm - Grade 5 Teachers will present.

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