

**PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**APRIL 16, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**

Attendance: Wendy Weiss, Diane Cartier, Caitlin Gomke, Tara Betts, Nicole Sehn, Jamie Swain, Jessica Schutte, Heather O'Reilly

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Heather O'Reilly.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - The land acknowledgement created by Mrs. Thorne's first Pursuit group was read aloud.
3. Teacher Presentation - Kylie Thorne - Grade 6

The grade 6 students introduced a Christmas Market to our Winter Village event this past year, a tradition they hope to continue moving forward. To note, this has been a fabulous addition to Winter Village! The idea was born out of a presentation by Junior Achievement Business Academy about how to start business. The students were inspired and although it was last minute, the classes committed to trying the market idea. The market required a lot of planning, but students came up with some really cool things. Everything took shape for Christmas and the students raised \$1300. When looking at how to spend the money, some was allocated for donation to RH Cares, but we also wanted to look at how to make a recurring and positive impact on the school. This project perfectly aligned with several curriculum items, i.e. come up with a plan, implement and reflect. Going forward, we will also see how we can draw connections to the RH explore, create, reflect ideology.

There have been great conversations with students about leaving a legacy and what they can do for the school community. Students, both as individuals and small groups, were tasked with coming up with a legacy project idea to make use the remainder of the market proceeds. They needed to consider how to use the money, how much it would cost, how it would impact whole school and how they would make it lasting, something to look back on. The ideas generated were incredible! Each individual or team presented to both grade 6 classes and walked through the math behind their project costing and alternative funding ideas. The presentations also tied in well with the curriculum items involving voting and election, provincial government and democracy. Students voted for the best presentation, with the top four being put forward to school administration for final review. The top ideas included: a set of new jerseys for students to wear for sporting events outside of the school and possibly a mascot; 3D printer for classes or pursuits; gaga ball pit for outside (Israeli dodgeball) - an octagon set up and balls that are smacked around with the palm (similar to what they have at Whispering Pines Camp); and a water fountain close to grade 6 hall. Next year we will get students to start thinking about the legacy projects at the beginning of the year, not only to honor the school, but also how to celebrate them.

4. Approval of Minutes - Jessica made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on March 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Nicole. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
5. Reports from school and council:
  - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Diane Cartier
    - i. Vice-Principal - Congratulations to Diane! She will be moving into the Principal position at Ecole Connaught School in the fall. She will be deeply missed at RH! Interviews, for the Vice Principal position here at RH, were held this week. Both Karla and Michelle Warmink had the opportunity to sit in. Nicole Hall (OLC) has been awarded the position. She has been a teacher for 26 years, teaching at a number of schools throughout the city including Alexandra Middle School and Dr. Ken Sauer School. Her kids also attended RH, so she has a great fondness for the school. Jessica suggested inviting Nicole to the next PC meeting.
    - ii. Cultural Day - RH will be hosting its first Cultural Day on Monday, May 12. This will be part of the districts cultural week hosted at two of the elementary and high schools. The purpose is to highlight diversity and inclusion of cultures and to provide space to share cultures with the greater school communities. Tables will be set up in the gym. Wendy and Di have been instructing students in a cultural game pursuit. Grade 5 students have been working on an ancestry project and will be sharing the same during this event. The FNMI team will showcase ribbon dancing.
    - iii. Run Club - This club started yesterday and had a good showing. It will be operating along side the Junior Jays program.
    - iv. Golf Pursuit - In full swing!
    - v. Box City - On April 30th, the Grade 3 students will be presenting their Box City creations at the Esplanade.
    - vi. Field Trips - Please keep an eye out for permission forms as there are a lot of upcoming field trips.
  - b. Co-Chairs - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
    - i. Division Council of Council Meeting (DCOC) - The next meeting will be held on May 8th, in person. 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 conference is coming up on April 26th and will be held online. Please contact Karla if you are interested in the link to attend.
6. Report from committees and council representatives:
  - a. RHSCA
    - i. Fundraising - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
      1. Annegret's Chocolates - This fundraiser wrapped up yesterday.

2. True Balance - This fundraiser offers bath salts and lip balm, with a significant return, per item, to the RHSCA. Items are currently available for purchase on MAL. Information has been posted to the RH Facebook page.
  3. Kernels - We will run a second fundraiser near the end of May.
  4. Casino - The RHSCA is scheduled for their next casino event on May 24 & 25 (Friday/Saturday). This is the most valuable fundraiser our organization participates in and will supplement field trip costs over a three year period. Available positions will be posted to Facebook.
  5. RJ's Fundraiser - RJ's offers a percentage kick back for items purchased, similar to Papa John's. Heather is looking into the same. Wendy also indicated that McBride's operates similarly. They have been a great supporter of RH in recent years and would be worth looking into. Cookie Bites is another possibility as well.
- ii. Hot Lunch - Nicole Sehn
1. Upcoming Dates
    - a. May 2 - Taco Time
    - b. May 9 - Mr. Pretzel
    - c. May 15 - Pizza 73
    - d. May 23 - Argo's Hotdogs
    - e. May 30 - McDonalds
  2. Pizza 73 - There have been some complications since the change in ownership. The ordering process, in particular, is presenting some challenges. We are looking into different methods.
  3. We are exploring other vendor possibilities for next year. However, we still have not heard word from the district with regard to nutrition practices which could have an impact on our choices.
- iii. Staff Appreciation - Follow Up
- From all reports, the week was amazing! When asked, the only feedback for next year would to be to align lunch with early day for student led conferences and dinner with late night conferences. We have typically done so in the past, however, this year was an oversight.

## 7. New Business

- a. Next Meeting - In-Person Meeting (Staff Room):
  - i. Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

## 8. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.