

PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance: Wendy Weiss, Nicole Hall, Heather O'Reilly, Tara Betts, Karla Tweten, Brielle Schmolke, Dayna Maloy, Amanda Hobson, Michelle King, Caitlin Gomke, Nicole Sehn, Christina Hull, Raquel McNamara

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 created by the Grade 5 students was read aloud.
3. Approval of Minutes - Amanda made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on November 26, 2025. The motion was seconded by Brielle. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
4. Teacher Presentation - Grade Five - Carlene Keetley and Kaitlin Skuban
The current theme for grade 5 is a Treasure Hunt through ancient civilizations. Project based learning really helps students with heavier content, like the ancient civilizations currently underway, and ensures better engagement. Students are learning about empires including Greece, Rome and China and are now building their own civilizations to reinforce knowledge. See attached for criteria students must meet in the execution of their project. All of the necessary instruction is given in the morning with the opportunity to apply the same in the afternoon. Students must meet a budget to purchase supplies, with higher charges for supplies that we want to see used less. They are also allowed to buy one 3D printed item for their civilization. See the attached sheet highlighting cross curricular outcomes. Once their civilization has been built, students will present the same and explain their choices. As an extension to the discussion of empires and civilizations, part two, students will be studying trade routes. They will engage in live trading and have an opportunity to present at the showcase of learning.
5. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Nicole Hall
 - i. Kindergarten Open House - Although higher in other areas, the numbers for Kindergarten enrollment are dwindling at RH. Current enrollment for the school, K-6, is 316 students. In order to attract new Kindergarten students, we will be hosting an open house prior to registration for the 2026-2027 school year. The event will run approximately one (1) hour and we will speak to our RH philosophy.
 - ii. 2026-2027 School Year - Registration will begin for all students on February 3rd.
 - iii. Report Cards - These will be published to Edsby at the end of January.
 - iv. Education Foundation Grant - RH has been awarded a \$7000 grant from the Education Foundation. This will help RH create a Maker Space in the room vacated by the ELP program. Teachers are in design and dream mode, thinking of items and tools for students to get creative and build.

Keeping in mind that this room may be needed for future growth, we will not purchase anything too permanent. Some of the items under consideration include: storage, moveable/foldable chairs, cardboard saws, etc.

- v. BBQ and Indigenous Day - This has been scheduled for Friday, June 19th. As a result, the hot lunch scheduled this day will be moved to Thursday, June 18th.
- vi. Ski Trip - The ski trip is booked for Thursday, March 5th. All forms must be returned and payment made by February 13th. We are in need of volunteers to help out on the ski hill, inside the lodge and with set up and rentals. There are new, division wide, policies this year governing volunteers. A police and intervention check are now required, along with a form that must be completed. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the Admin team and they will email out the required information.
- 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 - Nicole Sehn and Brielle Schmolke
 - 1. January 22 - Pizza 73
 - 2. January 23 - McDonald's
 - 3. January 30 - Sobeys
 - 4. February 6 - Dairy Queen
 - 5. February 13 - Pizza 73
 - ii. The hot lunch team may have to speak with Pizza 73 management as the ordering process is very cumbersome.
 - iii. There is another PD day in April that is now an instructional day, due to the strike. We may look at doing a second hot lunch in that week.
 - iv. If there are challenges recruiting volunteers to assist with hot lunch dates in February, the team may send information directly through teachers. This method has often been successful. There are some parents/guardians who may be able to help out on a lunch break for an hour, but could not commit to two hours. It was asked if this would be helpful and/or possible. The team indicated that they could likely make that work, depending on the hot lunch itself. With a pizza hot lunch, since it is quite simple for distribution, would easily work for someone with an hour to spare. Where some of the other hot lunches may require more of

a commitment. Please connect directly with the hot lunch team if you are interested in volunteering.

v. Fundraising - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly

1. Opt Out Fundraiser - Posters are now posted around the school with information relating to the Opt Out Fundraiser. Posters will be changed regularly to keep it fresh and also posted to Edsby. There was discussion about the frequency to send information out. It was suggested the Opt Out Fundraiser could be added to the monthly newsletter and an agenda message with accompanying QR code, as long as it does not run alongside other information and get lost. It was agreed that February, after the break, may be a good time to push information out.
2. Kernels - There have been requests for this fundraiser. We will look at the same, possibly for the spring.

7. Old Business

a. Valentines Day Dance - Heather O'Reilly

Planning is underway. The dance has been scheduled for Friday, February 6th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. We will add a reminder to Edsby on Friday and also to FB. Lyle is booked for DJ services and there will be a photo booth available. Kim McDowall has been contacted in the hopes of securing education students to help with supervision (requested four). Volunteers are also needed to assist with decorating and concession (\$1/item) We will meet in the gym at 3 pm on the Friday to set up. The Admin team will look after student artwork and will arrange for the gym to be available afterschool. No food donation will be required for entry, it will just be a fun evening! Please connect with Heather if you would like to help.

b. Winter Village - Follow Up - Tara Betts

This year's Winter Village was amazing. Everyone really appreciated the change of location for the grade 6 market. Karaoke back up worked out really well and was a lot of fun! We will get a speaker for next year for Here Comes Santa Claus.

8. New Business

a. Staff Appreciation - Tara Betts

We would like to run Staff Appreciation alongside the Showcase of Learning, as in previous years. The Showcase of Learning is currently scheduled for March 11th (5:00 pm - 7:00 pm) and March 12th (3:30 pm - 6:30 pm). Wendy will check in with the staff for feedback on timing of meals and get back to us.

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

i. Next Meeting:

1. Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 pm
- 2.

9. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.