

Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Attendance: Katie Albers, Taneill Selinger, Coral Garrecht, Carolyn Freeman, Kim McDowall, Catherine Donner, Kathleen Longpre, Karla Tweten, Laura Undershute, Wes King-Hunter, Cortney Pahl, Sher Avinou, Melanie Henry

1. Call to order: 7:32 pm.
2. Adopt Minutes: The minutes from November 6th were adopted by Catherine Donner and seconded by Wes King-Hunter.
3. Presentation: Cortney Pahl, Sher Avinou and Melanie Henry - Grade 4
 - a. The Grade 4 teachers shared with us the 12 Days of Christmas Theme that they adopt during the month of December. They demonstrated how they integrate creativity, history, poetry, mind maps, numeracy, science, classroom community and may other educational aspects through a different holiday theme each day.
 - b. They also brought samples of the food wraps the grade 4 students have been making and selling, as well as updating on some improvements they have made to the product this year.
4. Introduction of Carolyn Freeman
 - a. Katie introduced Carolyn Freeman to the group. She is our Medicine Hat Public School Board Representative and will be joining our Parent Council meetings, when possible, throughout the remainder of the school year. The intention is to gather input from the parent/family community base at River Heights - hoping to get clear input of values for what to protect in future budget discussions.
5. Reports from School and Council
 - a. Admin Team: Wes King-Hunter
 - i. Professional Learning
 1. The last PD day included work with deBono's Six Thinking Hats as a guiding principle of our school and worked toward integrating these concepts further into everyday language. Another focus was Reciprocal Teaching - using the Fab4 (Predict, Clarify, Question, Summarize).
 2. Four River Heights teachers attended a workshop on literacy strategies from the International Literacy Conference.
 3. Working with Conceptual Understanding, which is a transfer of deeper learning vs rote memorization where the goal is to equip our students to transfer understanding of concepts across situations.

- ii. Student Leadership, Initiatives & School Activities
 - 1. Grade 4 Bake Sale (SPCA & APARC), Grade 6 Candy-grams (World Vision), Grade 1 & 4 Hot Chocolate (River Heights Cares), Tree of Hope (Salvation Army).
 - 2. Christmas Spirit Theme Days (Student Leadership)
 - a. Dec 16 - Christmas Character Day
 - b. Dec 17 - Crazy Christmas Hair at
 - c. Dec 18 - School Sing-Along (11:15-11:45) & Primary Choir and Christmas Musical Presentation (2:00-2:45)
 - d. Dec 20 - School Sing-Along (11:15-11:45)
 - b. Co-Chairs: Katie Albers/Taneill Selinger
 - i. Dawn Austin has stepped aside from her role as co-hot lunch coordinator. Thank you to her for her hard work and dedication over the past few months.
 - ii. Parent Council Shed - issue with the hardware has been fixed and bill has been submitted and paid for. The remainder of shed repairs to be done in the spring.
 - c. Treasurer: Megan Loran
 - i. Budget sheet handed out with highlighted surplus of \$360.27 from the 2017/18 school year. Motion put forward by Kim McDowall to free up those funds to be released for this school year's spending.
 - ii. Recycling fees have increased significantly - Megan plans to look into this and will be carried to the next meeting.
6. Reports from Committees and Council Representatives
- a. Hot Lunch: Karla Tweten
 - i. Currently working on compiling information to help streamline and provide healthier lunch options for hot lunches, while still maintaining a profitable fundraising vehicle for Parent Council.
 - ii. Our current school kitchen does not allow for hot lunch volunteers to provide in-house cooking, which presents a challenge to improving the system.
 - iii. Food safety certification is completed for the lead.
 - b. Casino: Jerri-Lynn Worth (unable to attend this meeting)
 - i. Taneill Salinger expressed the need for a casino lead to take over from Jeri-Lynn's term, with the emphasis that Jeri-Lynn will be available for the next casinos to fully mentor and train the upcoming lead. Kim McDowall has volunteered for the position.
 - c. Council of School Councils: Katie Albers
 - i. Next meeting dates will be March 5th and May 14th (7:30 pm at the board office). These meetings are open to anyone to attend.

- ii. Alberta School Conference is coming up April 24-26. There is money in the budget if somebody would like to attend (Katie will not be attending, as her term as co-chair will be finished at the end of this school year).
 - iii. Budget will not be increased - the changes will be absorbed through reserves, which will be depleted after this school year. Projected \$3.8 million shortfall for next year. Mrs. Freeman spoke to the local impacts that this may have in coming years, with the board position clear that they are committed to the student and the classroom despite budget shortfalls.
 - iv. Policy updates and revisions have been made in regards to banned substances.
 - d. Winter Village: Taneill Selinger
 - i. Preparations ready for upcoming Winter Village.
 - e. Movie Night: Taneill Selinger
 - i. Very well attended - profit reported of \$192. Candy and popcorn sold out quickly.
 - ii. Recognition that communication needs to be clear for the next movie night that children must be accompanied by an adult.
 - iii. Some families have suggested a school dance instead of movie night. Positive reception by Parent Council - will be looking into this for the next family event. Donations suggested as admission to the dance.
 - f. Big Box Cards: Taneill Selinger
 - i. Over 470 boxes sold with some still left to purchase.
 - ii. Winners picked for the fundraising prizes - to be announced at school and distributed this week.
 - g. Lost and Found: Kim McDowall
 - i. Large amounts of unclaimed items noted. Old items from last year are in bags to be donated. Winter items in good condition will be donated to Ken Sauer school's families in need, and Ken Sauer school will be donating to families in need at our school.
7. Old Business: Katie Albers
- a. Casino Position still available. Kim McDowall volunteered for the position.
 - b. Spring Fling Committee to be discussed in February. Still looking for committee members.
 - c. Fundraising - new ideas brought forward (Little Caesars, Orange Boxes Bacon Boxes, Hanging Flower baskets) and to be discussed further at the next meeting. Save-On-Foods has offered a kickback fundraiser to be launched in January.
 - d. Babysitting Course/Stay Safe Courses (one day each) to be held March 20 & 21 through Stay Safe.

8. New Business
 - a. No meeting to be held in January. Next meeting will take place on the first Wednesday of February at 7:30 pm

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm motioned by Kim McDowall.