

Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School
Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020

Attendance: Taneill Selinger, Katie Albers, Karla Tweten, Megan Loran, Kathleen Longpre, Tara Betts, Wes King-Hunter, Kim McDowall, Juanita Whalen, Karissa Parsons, Tanis Richter, Laura Gale, Larissa Kowalchuk

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.
2. Adopt Minutes: Tara Betts asked if there was anyone present who had read and was able to adopt the minutes from the Parent Council meeting on February 5, 2020. Correction required - section 5.a.i. of the February 5, 2020 minutes should read February/March in place of November. Subject to the change, the minutes were adopted by Wes King-Hunter and seconded by Kim McDowall and Karla Tweten.
3. Presentation - Dawn Hunt - Grade 2
Dawn chose to present on literacy and specifically, the way spelling is addressed in grade 2. Spelling is not a subject on its own, it is integrated. The students are unafraid at this age. We want to promote fearless readers and authors, inspiring our primary students to read with confidence and to write freely without inhibition. We work together to create stories, with support as individuals or as a class. At the beginning, when they don't know what to write about, it is hard because they feel vulnerable. The focus is not on correct spelling as we start out. Throughout the year more structure is added, i.e full sentences, dissection, how to use more descriptive words. Stories improve when allowed that freedom, starting to recognize when punctuation is needed, without structure initially. We use inventive spelling and logic. Some use other ways to communicate until they come to that level. Words are best learned in context rather than using rules or memorization. When discussing stories, we go through the process and try to derive meaning. When they are writing, they want to spell correctly. As a teacher, they are only corrected if feedback is requested. As alternatives to weekly lists we read aloud, complete word hunts, use word sort/blind sort, switch it and writers workshops. Everything is completed to a child's comfort level. Patterns are foundational and serve as conceptual framework. As vocabulary and experiences grow, students start to connect to previous experiences.
4. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wes King-Hunter and Laura Gale
 - i. Event Calendar
 1. Wed. Mar. 4 -- Parent Council Meeting (7:30 pm)
 2. Wed. Mar. 11 -- Ski Trip to Hidden Valley (Gr 4-6 bus leaves at 8:00 am sharp)
 3. Fri. Mar. 20 -- No School - Professional Learning Day

4. Fri. Mar. 20 -- Stay Safe! Course (9:00-3:30) - Gr 3-4 students (pre-registration required)
5. Sat. Mar. 21 -- Babysitting Course (9:00-3:30) - Gr 5-6 students (pre-registration required)
6. Fri. Mar. 27 -- Report cards go home
7. Wed. Apr. 1 -- Student-led Conferences
 - a. Gr. 1-6 (3:30-6:30)
 - b. K1 & K2 (3:15-5:45)
 - c. Usborne Book Fair (3:30-6:30)
8. Thurs. Apr. 2 -- Student-led Conferences
 - a. Gr. 1-6 (5:00-7:00)
 - b. K1 (3:15-5:45)
 - c. ELP (times TBA)
 - d. Usborne Book Fair (5:00-7:00)
- ii. We wished farewell to Mrs. McFetridge and welcomed back Ms. Stuber.
- iii. Parent feedback was/is welcomed regarding the following:
 1. MHPSD Town Hall (Budget Consultation)
 2. Safe Arrival Absence Reporting
 3. Accountability Pillar Survey (Parents of Gr. 4 Students)
 4. OurSchool Survey (Parents of students K-12)
 5. On-line Registration for 2020-21 School Year
 6. RH Facebook Postings
 7. RH Community Book Club

Wes asked, if there are things that could be done better, to please let the administration know. He also encouraged as many parents as possible to get involved in the feedback process.

- b. Report from Co-Chairs - Katie Albers and Taneill Selinger
 - i. Spring Dance - currently scheduled for Friday, May 8th (the same day as Muffins for Moms), from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. The price of the DJ is \$250 +GST and includes music and lights for the two hour duration. There is also discussion about an outdoor patio.
 - ii. Alberta School Council Association - hosting a mini-conference this Friday/Saturday. Although the date to register has passed, they may allow last minute attendees. If you are unable to commit to the full day, Wes recommended attending a specifically chosen session(s).
 - iii. Volunteer/Fundraising Coordinator - in an effort to disperse some of the responsibility, Parent Council would like to open up a Volunteer Coordinator position. This position, with the support of the co-chairs, would organize volunteers for all Parent Council events, i.e. Spring Fling, Winter Village, Staff Appreciation, etc. Some of these duties could also be delegated to a team. Kim offered to assist with volunteer coordination for Staff Appreciation, but would prefer not to take on the coordinator

position at this time. A Fundraising Coordinator position is also being requested/offered. Both open positions will be advertised on RH social media. For those parents who are interested in helping out, but are unable to attend monthly meetings or participate in other volunteer capacities, this would be a great way to contribute!

- iv. Social Media - to streamline the social media platforms, the Parent Council is looking at changing the online name to Parent Community and possibly placing a link to the same on the RHES website. A reminder that Parent Council meetings/media are open to everyone in the RHES community and not limited to the Parent Council Executive.
 - c. Report from Treasurer - Megan Loran - See Attached Financial Report
5. Report from committees and council representatives:
- a. Hot Lunch - Karla Tweten
 - i. Hot Lunch Menu for March
 - 1. Fri, Mar 6 - Farros Pasta & Veggies
 - 2. Fri, Mar 17 - Argo's
 - 3. Thur, Mar 19 - Pizza 73 & Veggies
 - 4. Fri, Mar 27 - TBA
 - ii. Report - Thank you to Local for stepping in to help us out when Heartwood Cafe shut down. Local will supply another hot lunch in June.
 - b. Staff Appreciation - David Chow (Taneill Selinger Reporting for David Chow)
The information/parent volunteer request forms have been sent out and we are awaiting results of the same. Donations for gift cards, food, time for supervision, etc. have been requested. Tuesday we will offer lunch (5 varieties soup). There will be a coffee break Wednesday morning. Thursday will be an afterschool dinner. Tara/Karla are looking after the decorations/gifts.
 - c. Growing Smiles Fundraiser - Taneill Selinger
The website, riverheights.growingsmilesfundraising.com is available for preview. There is still hope to tie payments to School Cash Online. The fundraiser is set to start April 6, with cut off on April 23 and delivery May 6. Kim and Juanita offered to help with distribution on delivery day.
 - d. Lost and Found - Kim McDowall
Items are currently on display and will be available through Student Led Conferences. Laura offered thanks to Kim and Katherine for coordinating between RH and Roy Wilson for exchange of unclaimed items. Items will be on display again for the two weeks at the end of June with warning to parents, through School Messenger, that all unclaimed items will be donated at the end of that time period. Kim will make arrangements with St.Lewis and Elm Streets Schools for donations of the remaining unclaimed items.
 - e. Skate-a-thon - Karissa Parsons

Proceeds from the Skate-a-thon have been deposited. Total was \$2365, the lowest in three years. Of the proceeds, 42.5% goes to the school for a total of \$1005.13 and a cheque will be written to the Kinsmen for the remainder, \$1358. All student winners will be included in the announcements, with individual class presentations in place of an assembly. Karissa will check into the flexibility for the date of Skate-a-thon next year with the hope of pushing it back to March.

6. Old Business

- a. Stay Safe and Babysitting Courses - Taneill Selinger - The courses are scheduled for March 20 (PD Day) and March 21 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. The Stay Safe course is currently overbooked. As a result, registration is on hold, with further information to follow.
- b. Recycling Update - Taneill Selinger - While not completely resolved, there will be a forthcoming reimbursement to the Parent Council for a recycling bill mix up.
- c. Save On Foods - Taneill Selinger - The school kick back program will be applicable to the remainder of this school year and the 2020/2021 school year. Parents should retain receipts from purchases at Save On Foods, record their child's name on the top and submit the same to the school office. As a group, the receipts can be submitted periodically to Save On Foods for a 5% kick back to the school. For purchases related to Parent Council/school events, the store is offering a discount of approximately 15%. Check in at the front desk of the store to claim the same.
- d. Surplus - Taneill Selinger - There are outstanding surpluses that need to be spent before the end of the current school year. Taneill asked for ideas for a future meeting date regarding the same.

7. New Business

- a. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 1 at 7:30 pm in the school staffroom.

8. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.

Note: We encourage every family to participate in our online QSP renewal program. All funds raised will support our school. Shop at www.qsp.ca. This year we have opted out of the magazine fundraising campaign, but if you were to reorder, place a new order or shop, the profits will still come to the school. OUR GROUP ONLINE ID ISL 36966036