

**Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 7, 2018**

Attendance: Tara Betts, Natosha Mastel, Laura Gale, Rick Massini, Juanita Whalen, Kim McDowall, Megan Loran, Kristin Cassell, Dawn Hunt, Mercy Smith, Taneill Selinger, Larissa Kowalchuk

1. Call to order: Taneill Selinger called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.
2. Adopt Minutes: Taneill Selinger asked if there was anyone present who had read and was able to adopt the minutes from the Parent Council meeting on October 3, 2018. The minutes were adopted by Kim McDowall and seconded by Juanita Whalen .
3. Presentation - Dawn Hunt and Mercy Smith - Grade 2  
The Grade 2 classes are starting their Museum of Change project which will conclude with an exhibition of learning around the second week of December. The Museum of Change connects the past to the present and is focused on how things change over time and how our community changes over time. It launches with a field trip to the Esplanade and the Duggan House. The students compare electronics, appliances and furniture. They will visit the archive to sort and compare transportation, clothing, entertainment and locate items in a scavenger hunt throughout the museum. The required learning outcome centers on the study of a prairie community. To make it more relevant for the students, the Medicine Hat community will be used as well as the school community. As part of the project, the students are tying in fundraising to raise money for gym equipment they felt there was a need for, i.e jump ropes. They will be hosting an art sale and selling hot chocolate. The project as a whole is a vehicle for integrating different concepts, problem solving and there is continuity across all subjects. The past is abstract to students. It becomes more meaningful throughout the project as they research, learn and begin to connect the past to the present.
4. Reports from school and council:
  - a. School Administration Team - Natosha Mastel and Laura Gale
    - i. Event Calendar (See Newsletter for More Details)
      1. Thursday, November 8 - Grades 1 & 4 Skating
      2. Friday, November 9 - Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00 am
      3. Monday, November 12 - No School
      4. Tuesday, November 13 - Grades 2 & 5 Skating
      5. Friday, November 16 - Report Cards Go Home
      6. Friday, November 16 - Movie Night 6:00 pm - 8:15 pm (Gym)
      7. Saturday, November 17 - Gr.6 Volleyball Tournament
      8. Monday, November 19 - Hats Off to Leadership at CHHS
      9. Wednesday, November 21 - Student Led Conferences/Book Fair

10. Thursday, November 22 - Student Led Conferences/Book Fair

11. Monday, November 26 - Explore Session of the  
Explore-Create-Reflect Options Program

- ii. Presentation - Rick Massini, Medicine Hat Public School Division, Board of Trustees/Chair

The Public School Boards' Association of Alberta has recently launched a campaign, "Together for Students." The campaign is an invitation to engage in a conversation about amalgamating the school boards in the province, including public and separate, to create one united board. Four systems are currently funded including public, separate, charter and Francophone, with private schools receiving 70% funding. The purpose of this campaign is not to eliminate the Catholic school system, but to engage them in the conversation. The hope is to relieve inefficiencies and make better use of resources for education. By amalgamating the two governance boards and two administrations into one, the capital could be redirected to provide optimal learning opportunities to students. The choice to homeschool has been growing, with some oversight by traditional schools, but most through charter and private. Structured homeschooling can be one of the most effective learning methods provided it is supervised through a traditional school, there is a good school/child connection and it is being delivered by parents/other with supporting skills. When homeschooling is unstructured, kids are essentially non-schooled. The latter is creating a high cost now and will have a negative impact in the future. Currently, in place of a teacher, education is being delivered by correspondence or distance learning in some areas. This is not the most beneficial way to learn. It does not allow the opportunity for students to learn soft skills, work collaboratively or engage with others. These are scenarios that could benefit from the availability of funds if redundancies are eliminated and the boards merged. To reiterate, the "Together for Students" is about providing more options and choices, not about taking them away. The model that would be implemented, should the boards amalgamate, will evolve out of community conversation.

- iii. New District Report Card - Natosha Mastel - See Attached  
Natosha addressed some of the changes that parents can expect to see with regard to the new reporting format and provided a sample of same. The academic indicators have changed. Within the grade level, all children will have the opportunity to excel. Program indicators will also appear on the report card. Although we integrate at River Heights, the academic subjects will be broken out for evaluation with outcomes and concepts clustered. There will no longer be a sliding scale for skills assessments. The learner attributes have not changed. The language

used will be directed to parents instead of students, as has been done in the past. The comments section has been decreased to ensure precise and concise comments, focused on strengths and areas to improve. The report card is not the only way of communicating progress to parents. The first report card will go out November 16th, with student-led conferences scheduled for the week following. For the March reporting period River Heights will trial hosting student-led conferences with the report card to follow. The new reporting format applies to grades 1 - 6 only. The kindergarten report card comes in the form of a summary at the end of the year. The portfolio is built throughout the year using outcomes directly from the report card to show growth over the year. It is a meaningful presentation for parents, students and teachers. See the newsletter for in depth information from the Medicine Hat Public School Division regarding the reporting changes.

- iv. Family Paint Event - Laura Gale  
Laura extended another thank you to Taneill Selinger for hosting the paint event. The event was well attended and feedback was great.
  - v. River Heights Clothing Store - Laura Gale  
The store will open again on Friday for two weeks. Although intended as a community builder, this has turned into a good fundraiser. Laura has been working with families and Sports Connection to add requested items to the store. A letter will be sent home on Friday with further details.
  - vi. Community Book Club - Laura Gale  
Laura indicated copies of the selected book are still available at the public library and encourages everyone to come, whether or not they have read the book. It is an opportunity to connect over snacks. A reminder that the book club will meet after the December parent council meeting, around 8:30 pm.
- b. Report from Co-Chairs - Taneill Selinger
    - i. Shelf - It was determined that the shelf in the kitchen was not owned by the parent council. However, the origin of same still remains a mystery. It has been moved to the shed until a permanent home can be found.
  - c. Report from Treasurer - Kristin Cassell - See Attached Financial Report
    - i. The hot lunch program appears to be on track. The revenue for last October was \$2,544, with this October behind by only \$165.
    - ii. It appears the school recycling charges will remain the same going forward.
    - iii. The fundraising donation for the Humboldt School, a total of \$277.10, was sent mid-October.
    - iv. Kristin has attached a role description for the treasurer position to the financial report. This will be her last year in the role and, ideally, she would like to have a replacement by December to ensure time for training.

Megan Loran expressed interest in the position. It will be put to a vote at the next meeting.

5. Report from committees and council representatives:
  - a. Hot Lunch - Kristin Cassell for Alana Durbeniuk
    - i. Hot Lunch Menu for November
      1. Friday, November 9 - Taco in a Bag & Popsicle
      2. Friday, November 16 - Dairy Queen Combo (Kindergarten Parents)
      3. Friday, November 23 - Pizza 73 & Smoothie
      4. Friday, November 30 - Taco Time & Frozen Treat (Grade 1 Parents)
    - ii. The hot lunch program appears on track to generate expected revenue. Verified above.
    - iii. The sign up sheet has been working really well. Alana forwarded her appreciation for all of the volunteers. The December/January schedules should be posted next week.
    - iv. Hot lunch items for January - March will be sent to School Cash Online shortly, with gluten free items identified.
  - b. Movie Night - Kristin Cassell for Alana Durbeniuk

Student leadership held a vote for the movie title and Hotel Transylvania 3 won. A letter will be sent home on Friday with details, including prices for concession items. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, with the movie to begin at 6:30 pm. Everyone is reminded to bring chairs, blankets, etc.
  - c. Winter Village - Tara Betts

The first planning meeting was held on October 22nd. An overview of last year's event was given and the requirements for this year's event. The committee heads have been established with Kim McDowall looking after volunteer organization, Megan Loran will manage the raffle and Tara Betts will handle decorations and help with the classroom activities. Since the meeting, Juanita Whalen has agreed to take on refreshments and we have another parent who will also take on classroom activities. The next meeting will be held in the next week or two.
6. Old Business
  - a. Mrs. Arnold (ELP) - Taniell Selinger

Parent council wanted to honor the Arnold family and gave a donation earlier in the year for commemorative bench. The bench did not work out, however, Mrs. Arnold wrote to council, with her thanks, and enclosed a picture of the commemorate garden she had created. It is a beautiful and fitting outdoor area for reflection.

## 7. New Business

### a. Council of School Councils - Taneill Selinger for Katie Albers

- i. Standardized Reporting - there will be standardized report cards across the school district starting in 2019. The intention is for meaningful information to students and parents. This is helpful because 40% of students in Medicine Hat do not attend schools they are zoned for. Enrollment is up from last year.
- ii. Future Direction - deepening collaborative response; optimal learning environment; raising the bar on student behavior through clear expectation with consequences that always go back to demonstrating what is acceptable in schools.
- iii. Corey Sadlemyer - reported on education plan and adding a reflection portion to each strategy. On school board website you can see a simplified version that will be consistent with the district and school plans. Some of the goals for this years' education plan include First Nations education and mental health support - helping kids regulate at the classroom level. The next meeting will include discussion and review of the education plan.

### b. Policy and Procedures - Taneill Selinger

It has been 20 years since the operating procedures have been reviewed. There have been numerous changes within the school district regarding same. Taneill provided an updated copy of the operating procedures and read same aloud. Discussion followed. Several clauses will see an adjustment to wording to provide better clarity, without any fundamental changes. A clause will be added to section 9 C - Treasurer, to include that all event monies must be counted, receipted and deposited into the bank in tandem. If immediate deposit is not possible, the funds will be securely stored in the school safe. Rick Massini added the word remuneration under section 8G should be replaced with remuneration and suggested listing standing committees as a clause under section 9E. Rick also expressed how impressed he was with organization of the meeting/parent council and asked if he could relay same to the school board at their next meeting. The praise was gratefully accepted. Taneill will make the necessary adjustments to the proposed operating procedures and put same forward for vote at the next meeting.

### c. Financial Reports - Taneill Selinger

The Council of School Councils requires a yearly report of activities and financial report. Taneill has a sample of same. There is also a similar report required for the Association, which is now insured. The Co-Chairs will look after the main part of the report, with Treasurer looking after the financial aspects. The by-laws for the Association will be reviewed in January.

d. Agenda Items - Taniell Selinger

A reminder that agenda items must be submitted two weeks prior to the parent council meetings to allow time for assessment and information gathering.

Emergent items should be brought directly to the Co-Chairs or Principal, situation dependant.

8. Meeting adjourned by Taniell Selinger at 9:01 pm.

The next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th at 7:30 pm in the library.

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](http://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 the school. OUR GROUP ONLINE ID ISL 36966036