

Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2019

Attendance: Juanita Whalen, Kim McDowall, Karla Tweten, Megan Loran, Elizabeth Kruger, Laura Gale, Wes King-Hunter, Vanessa Bonneville, Dawn Austin, Larissa Kowalchuk, Taneill Selinger, Megan Cross, Tanis Richter, Kathleen Longpre, Katie Albers, Melissa McMillan, Tara Betts

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 October 2, 2019. The minutes were adopted by Wes King-Hunter and seconded by Dawn Austin.
3. Presentation - Elizabeth Kruger and Laura Gale - Kindergarten
Elizabeth and Laura chose to speak to the partnerships that they are grateful for in the Kindergarten program, i.e. Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist. They bring a level of expertise to the program beyond teaching. The brain needs movement to thrive. As a result, more physical movement has been incorporated into classroom activities, beginning with learning stations in the morning, songs with actions, stretches, brain breaks, etc. The Star Student has been leading some of the activities. There are so many ways to get kids moving with focus on different levels and different ways to use the body, i.e. standing, sitting, lying on the floor, squatting. There has been some experimentation with the use of vertical spaces. The Occupational Therapist has been helping with pencil grasp and has introduced a variety of different grippers (samples were passed around for review).
4. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wes King-Hunter and Laura Gale
 - i. Event Calendar
 1. Nov. 8 - Remembrance Day Assembly (10:45-12:00)
 2. Nov. 11- No school - Remembrance Day
 3. Nov. 18 - ELP Family Night & Child Led Conferences (3:30-5:00)
 4. Nov. 27 - 'Spirit of Giving' - Grade 4 Bake Sale (during morning and lunch recesses)
 5. Nov. 27 - Grades 1-6 Student Led Conferences & Scholastic Book Fair (3:30-6:30 pm)
 6. Nov. 27 - Kindergarten Portfolio Sharing (3:15-5:45)
 7. Nov. 27 - ELP ISP Meetings (3:15-6:15 - by appointment please)
 8. Nov. 28 - Grades 1-6 Student Led Conferences & Scholastic Book Fair (5:00-7:00 pm)
 9. Nov 28 - Kindergarten Portfolio Sharing (3:15-5:45)
 - ii. School Reporting Documents

1. PAT Results (Grade Six) - provide a one year snapshot and reflect changes from year to year.. As a school, River Heights has shown great gains and a lot of success overall. Kudos to staff, parents and kids. The PAT results are available on the River Heights school website.
 2. Accountability Pillar Survey Results (Grade 4-6) - parents, students and teachers were surveyed. The results are available on the school website.
 3. School Plan - Students, Parents, Teachers - there is a focus on literacy even though we scored high in standard of excellence, but there is a gap forming. Scores went up in almost all areas of concern. Social/science are more content heavy and can be more difficult if students don't have a strong literacy background. A concern was brought forward by a parent regarding consistency in literacy methods between teachers/classes. Laura indicated each teacher has core curriculum pieces to cover. The administration trusts each teacher to develop their own program within boundaries the boundaries given. Each teacher may have different approaches, with new ideas addressed/discussed at collaborative team meetings. There is no intention to standardize methods at this time, either within the school or the school district. Parents with concerns are encouraged to speak directly with teachers regarding the same.
- iii. Student Leadership - Current Projects
1. WE Scare Hunger - collecting donations for the Foodbank.
 2. Recess Leaders - rethinking recess.
 3. RAK/Kindness Cops - as a follow up to RAK day, Kindness Tickets will be issued to students who are witnessed doing kind things. This is a student driven initiative.
- iv. Guest Presentations
- The following performances have been selected as part of the Parent Council \$2000 budget for guest presentations:
1. Steve Harmer - Motivational Magic: Be a Bucket Filler, Tuesday, January 14 (tentatively 1:15 pm), \$750 + 37.50 = \$787.50.
 2. Alex Zerbe - Come Alive - Literacy & Physical Literacy, Thursday, February 13 (tentatively 1:15 pm), \$975 +GST (\$200 discount if a 2nd school in MH books)
- v. Remembrance Day Assembly - Friday, November 8 (10:45 am - 12:00 pm)
- vi. Report Cards
- Report cards go home with students on Thursday, November 21. The language of the report cards was standardized across the district.

However, it was important for River Heights to maintain the language of the school that connects to explore, create, reflect. Laura worked diligently with the district and was able to gain support for our school to continue use of current language, including Learning Outcomes & Achievement Indicators (EMAB) and River Heights Learner Attributes (CUSR). As a result, there will be no change in our report cards this year. Please see the newsletter for information regarding student led conferences.

b. Report from Co-Chairs - Katie Albers and Taneill Selinger

i. Volunteer Positions

Vanessa Bonneville has agreed to take on Donuts for Dad and Rebecca Jackiw has agreed to look after Donuts for mom. We are still in need of someone to train with Jerry-Lynn Worth to take over the Casino Chair position.

ii. Shed

The parent council shed is need of repair. The hinges are backwards, putting it at risk for break in and there are shingles missing which may lead to water damage if left unchecked. The cost of proper repairs is approximately \$800-1000 with the cost of a new shed around the \$2000 mark. The question of repairing versus purchasing a new shed will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. However, the hinges/lock will need immediate repair.

Motion: Juanita Whalen made a motion to immediately repair the hinges/locks.

Second - the motion was seconded by Wes King-Hunter.

Vote - all in favor. Motion carried.

c. Report from Treasurer - Megan Loran - See Attached Financial Report

- i. A letter was received from Servus indicating the home branch for the school accounts (Downtown) is moving to Strachan Road.
- ii. A line entry will be added for Mabel's Labels income.

5. Report from committees and council representatives:

a. Hot Lunch - Dawn Austin/Karla Tweten

i. Hot Lunch Menu for November

1. Fri. Nov. 8 -- Subway
2. Fri. Nov. 15 -- Pizza
3. Thurs. Nov. 21 -- Hot Cakes
4. Fri. Nov. 29 -- Taco Time

- ii. Report - hot lunch profits to date are \$2139.26, with a cheque still to be issued to parent council for October profits. Dawn reported there was a miscommunication regarding the cheque from Pizza 73. It had been sent in July, addressed to the school, and was deposited by the school in

August. A cheque will be written to the parent council, by the school, to reimburse the same. The profit of \$361 from that hot lunch event is technically attributed to the 2018/2019 school year. Since the financial accounting for the past school year has been closed, the profit will be included for the current school year. Dawn further reported that there will not be a cheque forthcoming from McDonald's. They have discontinued their commissions to the schools, but the information had not been communicated. It is unclear if this was a local decision or countrywide. Dawn has been working hard with the downtown Dairy Queen. The owners have agreed to forgo all of their profits to supply our SP students (25 kids) with hot lunch. In exchange, they have asked only for a card of recognition they can post on their community bulletin board. The December/January hot lunch selections have been posted to School Cash Online.

iii. Refunds/Discrepancies

With certain exceptions, refunds will only be available up to the cut off date/time, Thursday at 10:00 pm. There will be communication to parents to contact the hot lunch crew directly for any discrepancies. It was also suggested that a master copy of the hot lunch orders be printed and made available to all students and volunteers during hot lunch. Laura indicated Stacey already prints a master copy and can provide same to the hot lunch crew. Within the next few weeks, the hot lunch team will trial delivery of hot lunches to the grade one classes. This will hopefully allow them a bit of extra time to eat.

iv. Food Safety Update

Dawn is hoping to complete the food safety course over the Christmas break and Larissa will look into the same after the holidays. Karla has taken the course and indicated the certification is valid for five years. Karla has also organized a discount for the other participants.

b. Winter Village - Tara Betts

A reminder that Winter Village has been scheduled for Thursday, December 12 from 6-8 pm. We will proceed with the same format and team as we operated last year. Taneill/Tara conducted an inventory count and the classroom activities have been finalized, so we can start shopping for supplies. The request for volunteer letters is scheduled to be sent home on November 18, asking for them to be returned on the 29th. The information will be included in the December newsletter as well. We will also be looking for donations again for the gift shop. Santa will be making an appearance. Thanks to Laura and Wes for their support.

c. Movie Night - Taneill Selinger/Katie Albers

Movie night is scheduled for November 14 with doors to open at 6:00 pm and movie to start at 6:30 pm. The students will participate in a vote, organized by the grade six classes to determine the movie title. This will be announced on

Friday. The movie crew is looking for help the afternoon of the 14th to make popcorn and prepare the candy bags. Dawn offered that there a significant number of Dairy Queen bags that could be used for popcorn. Lost and found will be on display on the night of the movie. Details of the movie night will be put out to the school community beginning this week.

- d. Big Box Fundraiser - Taneill Selinger/Katie Albers
Boxes of cards/orders will be due on November 18, with boxes of returned cards checked on the 20th. Parent council will be charged \$11/box for any not returned. The fundraiser will alternate between birthday and all occasion cards from year to year.
- e. Lost and Found - Kim McDowall
The lost and found is on display. Parents/students are encouraged to check through for missing items. Reminders will be posted to Facebook asking parents to ensure items coming to school are labelled.
- f. COSC Report - Taneill Selinger - See Attached

6. Old Business

- a. Babysitting/Stay Safe Course - Taneill Selinger/Wes King-Hunter
The following dates (all Friday/Saturday) are available in the new year: Feb 7/8, Mar 20/21, April 24/25 and May 29/30. All dates, with the exception of February, were acceptable. Wes will move forward with the booking.
- b. Reflex Math Follow Up - Wes King-Hunter
Carlene Keetley reported kids that hadn't previously shown an interest in math were now showing excitement about the same.
- c. Policy Amendment - Taneill Selinger
The privacy policy amendment has been completed and requires Wes and Laura to sign off.

7. New Business

- a. Attendance Codes - Wes King-Hunter
Wes indicated, when reporting absences, parents will be required to identify if the absence is related to health, family or vacation.
- b. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 pm in the school staffroom. There will be no meeting in January.

8. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

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