

**Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2020**

Attendance: Taneill Selinger, Karla Tweten, Wes King-Hunter, Tara Betts, Juanita Whalen, Dayna Maloy, Alisha Henderson

Note: The meeting was also live streamed on the Parent Council of River Heights (PCRHE) Facebook page.

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Taneill Selinger.
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 September 2, 2020. The minutes were adopted by Wes and seconded by Karla.
3. Reports from school and council:
  - a. School Administration Team - Wes King-Hunter (Laura Gale unable to attend)
    - i. Lanyards - thank you to Parent Council and volunteers for making breakaway lanyards for masks for upper elementary students.
    - ii. Federal funding - while there were not enough funds to provide for another full time teacher to reduce class sizes, additional time was added for our Classroom Support Teacher (CST) and Educational Assistants (EA) to support literacy and purchased several portable plexiglass barriers for speech/language work.
    - iii. Nutrition Program Funding - the funding allows for the addition of 15-30 minutes of Nutritional Assistant time for four of the current EAs. This will ensure the required coverage for the breakfast and lunch programs and time for these team members to make connections and build relationships with students. The funds will also allow the purchase of food, equipment and consumable items (i.e. plastic cutlery)
    - iv. Timetable Revision - although it will not affect the school start or end times, starting in October there have been some adjustments to the timetable in order to rebalance the same. Cohorts will remain intact and lunch and recess will continue to be staggered. However, the lunch break will be combined with the afternoon recess.
    - v. Assessment Plan on School - there is now a draft up on the website that includes: report card dates, reporting periods and student led conferences information. The Collaborative School Plan and Accountability Pillar Survey results will be posted by the end of October and will speak to the focus on literacy, leveraging digital resources and the collaborative response model.
    - vi. Facility update- the painters will be moving on to Room 16 (Grade 4 - Ms. Avinou) & the library next. The new paint and lighting have made a real difference. The school is a lot brighter.
    - vii. Fire drills - it is purposeful that the alarm bells are not ringing during the fire drills. The efforts are to balance safety of the covid precautions and

safety of learning routines. There are designated gathering locations on the field. The team is working to reduce response times and quickly identify anyone who might be missing.

- b. Report from Co-Chairs - Taneill Selinger and Karla Tweten
    - i. Meeting Feedback - the co-chairs are looking for feedback regarding the continued use of Facebook to stream meetings versus Zoom. If the consensus is to move to Zoom, the gym could still be used, but the meeting would need to be reconfigured. The live stream has been helpful for both record keeping and for those who are not able to attend in person. It was noted that the low attendance for this evening's meeting may be due to the virtual mental health meeting offered by the school district.
  - c. Report from Treasurer - Taneill Selinger for Megan Loran- See Attached Financial Report
    - i. The REDI bottle drive held in September yielded \$1425.66.
    - ii. The big box cards offered during the bottle drive generated \$200 in revenue.
    - iii. There are receipts outstanding for the lanyards and kindergarten gifts.
    - iv. Some of the budget revenue amounts removed for the time being due to uncertainty, i.e. hot lunch.
4. Report from committees and council representatives (see attached):
- a. Hot Lunch - Karla Tweten
    - i. The first hot lunch date is set for November 6th, although we will not be holding it every week as in the past. We will be starting with Pizza 73, as they have covid protocols already in place in conjunction with our school division expectations. School Cash Online is not accessible until next week. We will announce when it is available. Ideally there will be a second hot lunch before the end of November. Any food coming into the school must be commercially prepared and delivered. The pizza will come in individual boxes and be delivered to the school with minimal contact. The boxes will then be set out in front of each class by a school team member. Pizza 73 has also offered the option of chips and juice, however, we will start off with pizza only at this time.
  - b. Fundraising -
    - i. Brewmaster - Karla  
The Brewmaster fundraiser is set to begin mid-October and run for one week. The options will be bacon (fresh, not frozen) 5kg - \$55; Dave's burgers (6 oz. gluten free) - 30/\$55; breaded chicken fingers 4kg - \$45; and boneless skinless chicken breasts 4kg - \$40. Details will be announced once School Cash Online is available. Delivery will be made from the home of a parent council member. If the fundraiser is successful, we will run it again in the spring.

- ii. Growing Smiles - Taneill (See Attached Price List)  
The offerings will be posted on the Facebook page and sent home by email. This fundraiser will begin after the Brewmaster fundraiser. Distribution will be available from the home of a parent council member on December 4, details to follow.
- iii. Bottle Drive - Taneill  
As indicated above, the bottle drive netted \$1425.66. There is now an account (River Heights School Community Association #47) set up at REDI. If you would like to have funds forwarded to RHSCA, when recycling bottles, let them know to attribute to this account.
- c. Lost and Found - Kim McDowall - Taneill  
Kim has been connecting with the principal at Dr. Ken Sauer school, working to donate the leftover bags of lost and found items. However, Dr. Ken Sauer does not have any bags to donate at this time. Remaining items were donated within the community. There are a few new lost and found items available at the front entrance of the school.
- d. Winter Village - Tara Betts  
Due to the current pandemic situation, we are unable to offer our much loved Winter Village festival as in the past. Those of us connected to the Winter Village planning and parent council have gotten creative and will be distributing Christmas/winter themed goody bags to all students in December, including those attending the HUB.
- e. DCOSC (District Council of School Councils) - Taneill Selinger (See Attached)  
The DCOSC is a representation of all school councils in the district (elementary and junior/senior high). It meets 4 to 5 times per year and also includes board trustees, school administration and district office representatives. The district is able to use this form to present policy updates/information and provides a voice for parents to share input or feedback. Every fall, a new chair (Bob Burgess stepped down) and secretary are voted in. This year, there will be co-chairs Rebecca and Chelsey. One is a parent of a student from Medicine Hat High School and the second has children at both Connaught Elementary and Crescent Heights High School. Taneill indicated she has accepted the position of secretary. The Alberta Council of School Councils is the governing body for all DSOSC.

Carolynn Freeman (attending virtually) indicated through the comments that if you wish to attend the Alberta School Council Association meeting on October 17th, you must register on the ASCA website [www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca](http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca).

Carolyn also offered the following:

A very special thank you to all parents, guardians, and families for your continued patience and trust as we carry on in this “new normal”. It has been a learning experience for all of us. Please know that, as a trustee, all of our decisions are made with students at the center. These students are your children

so your role in our division is essential and your voice matters! Please feel free to contact me or any other trustee if you have questions or concerns!

5. New Business - Taneill Selinger and Karla Tweten
  - a. Next meeting: the next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 at 7:30 pm. Parent Council meets the first Wednesday of every month, with the exception of January (no meeting).
  
6. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm by Taneill Selinger.

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 to the school. OUR GROUP ONLINE ID ISL 36966036