

**Parent Council of River Heights Elementary School**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2021**

Attendance: Taneill Selinger, Karla Tweten, Tara Betts, Tannis Bailey, Khirsta McDowall, Brielle Schmolke, Wes King-Hunter, Dayna Maloy, Claire Petersen, Laura Gale, Carolyn Freeman, Jeanine Hughes, Debbie Miller, Kim McDowall, Megan Hilgendorf, Kim Large

Note: This meeting was live broadcast via Zoom.

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Karla Tweten.
2. Adopt Minutes: Karla asked if there was anyone present who had read and was able to adopt the minutes from the Parent Council meeting on February 3, 2021. The minutes were adopted by Wes King-Hunter and seconded by Laura Gale.
3. Presentation
  - a. District Psychologist - Claire Petersen
    - i. Mental Health Supports within Division
      1. Division Psychologist, Division Counselling Supports, Behaviour Emotional Support Team, Family School Liaison Workers, Mental Health Services Facilitator, School Counsellors, Child & Youth Care Worker, First Nations, Métis & Inuit Supports, Success Coaches and Community Workers.
      2. While we are all in the same storm, “We’re not all in the same boat” - Covid has highlighted inequities and systemic issues, supports need to be intentional. We need to weather the storm with empathy and compassion.
      3. Maslow before Bloom, connection before curriculum. Students need connection before they can commit to learning. We need to focus on mental health, coping skills, language, making it okay to talk about mental health, focus on relationships and teaching resilience.
    - ii. Success Coach - Brielle Schmolke  
As a Success Coach, Brielle spends time in the classroom, providing presentations and activities centered around: social and emotional learning, mindfulness, kindness, resiliency and digital citizenship. About 90% of time addressing topics from a universal perspective and 10% targeting groups who need extra support. Covid has presented a number of challenges, particularly with community outreach. However, mental health continues to be both highlighted and celebrated through spirit weeks. Summer programming will continue to be available with more information to follow in May.
    - iii. Family School Liaison Worker - Tannis Bailey
      1. Tannis works on site at RH on Monday/Tuesday and has worked with RH since the start of the program three years ago. RH is a

- well oiled machine and well connected. Tannis supports families and students with any special needs. She helps each child feel confident and ensures their social and emotional well being. She is an advocate.
2. Connection between school and family. Families can connect if they need anything.
  3. Connection to community resources. Although some things have shifted due to Covid, we are learning and growing together.
  4. Provide one on one counselling for students and small groups. Support teachers who approach with different questions, offering information and other ways to connect.
- b. Family resources and community wellness support are available on the district website [www.sd76.ab.ca/news/what\\_s\\_new/c\\_o\\_v\\_i\\_d-19\\_family\\_resources](http://www.sd76.ab.ca/news/what_s_new/c_o_v_i_d-19_family_resources).
  - c. Moving forward, Brielle will continue to be in the classroom. The division continues its focus on social and emotional learning and ways to imbed the same in the classroom, continuing the conversation.
  - d. Laura offered thanks to the board for making mental health an intentional aim for our division and for providing the financial support for the same. Wes added that these ladies all undersell the importance of what they do. They are available whenever called and work hard to connect with kids and families. Their efforts are very much appreciated.
4. Reports from school and council:
    - a. School Administration Team - Wes King-Hunter and Laura Gale
      - i. Engagement Survey
        1. Universal Goals - providing an optimal learning environment, approaching all people with an inclusive mindset, fostering a culture of wellness, developing leadership skills, determined focus on First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success.
        2. Engagement Timelines
          - a. OurSchool Surveys - November 2020
          - b. APORI Surveys commence - January 2021 - Delayed
          - c. Engaging Administrators and School Staff - Teachers Voice - February 2021
          - d. Engaging Staff, Students and Parents - March 2021 - staff will be completing the survey on March 19 during PD day; hope to have parent surveys completed by March 12 or end of March at the latest; no date yet set for students.
          - e. Provincial Budget Release - February/March 2021 - Delayed, possibly the end of March.
          - f. OurSchool Surveys - March 2021 - Delayed
          - g. Collate Data from all Stakeholders - Teachers Voice - March 2021
          - h. Update to District Council of School Councils - March 2021

- i. Data, Feedback and Budget informs Board Decisions, School Planning - April/May 2021

3. Parent Engagement Survey - Hope, Connection, Strength

In place of going through the survey live, the administration opted to review the survey contents during the meeting and post the link to the survey. Each parent/guardian can then take the time to process each question at their own convenience. Wes indicated that the survey is not seeking solutions, but rather the benefit of the collective mindset. Laura added that it is okay if responses are not neat and clean or if they are contradictory, i.e. parents have said it is an annoyance that the school doors are locked, but the fact they are locked helps parents to feel safe. Carolyn reinforced that feedback is so important. Opportunity is bred from crisis. In a year of learning and exploration, parent input is essential. The survey should be completed by March 12 if possible or by the end of March at the latest. The survey link is <https://forms.gle/4gPvGcrqMCgjLTXp9> , but is currently accessible only through an sd76 email account. The link will be ironed out and sent to all present. The link may also be shared with other parents/guardians of RH students if interested. The items for discussion on the survey are outlined below:

- a. Discussion #1 - Positives we can leverage.
- b. Discussion #2 - What do we miss being able to do?
- c. Discussion #3 - What do we need to be mindful of next year?

4. What is next?

- a. Replicate process throughout division.
- b. Collate and share data from all schools and stakeholders.
- c. Process data with the Teacher's Voice Committee and share with the Division Council of School Councils.
- d. Process feedback and present to the Board to inform their decision making for the 2021-22 school year.

b. Report from Co-Chairs - Taneill Selinger and Karla Tweten

Taneill will be completing her term as co-chair by the end of the school year. The co-chairs have been focused on fundraising and how to make events work within the Covid environment.

c. Report from Treasurer - Taneill Reporting for Megan Loran (See Attached Financial Report)

- i. Review of report.
- ii. A shortfall anticipated for the current school year, but there is a financial buffer built in to cover.

5. Report from committees and council representatives:
- a. Hot Lunch - Khirsta McDowall and Debbie Miller
    - i. Overall, everything is good. Pizza 73 has been very easy to work with and provides hot lunch free to our sponsor kids. The last hot lunch saw 111 orders, down a bit from the average of 140. From the school perspective, Wes indicated that hot lunch was working well. Laura added that the extra pizzas come in handy, not only for those who might be missing lunch, but also for the staff.
  - b. Fundraising - Taniell Selinger and Karla Tweten
    - i. Kernels and Bottle Drive - pick up for the Kernels fundraiser is Saturday, March 6, 2021 between 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Dragons and Butterflies. The REDI bottle truck will also be available for anyone wishing to donate their empty bottles. We are still looking for additional volunteers to help with sorting between 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm and for distribution from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Laura offered to post the pick up information on the RH website, which will then direct viewers to the parent council FaceBook page. Anyone taking bottles directly to REDI can ask the cashier to have their ticket total directed to RH for donation.
    - ii. Upcoming - Taneill is currently reaching out to greenhouses for a potential fundraiser in April, in time for May planting. A second Brewmaster fundraiser will follow.
  - c. Staff Appreciation - Tara Betts

Planning is underway for staff appreciation by our team: Taneill Selinger, Karla Tweten, Dave Chow, Khirsta McDowall, Kim McDowall and Tara Betts. As in the past, staff appreciation will be aligned with student led conferences which are the week of March 22-26 this year. Although staff appreciation will look a bit different due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are doing our best to find creative ways to honor our RH staff who we truly have so much appreciation for.
  - d. Lost and Found - Kim McDowall

Since volunteers (Kim) are not permitted in the school at this time due to Covid-19 restrictions, Wes indicated Bailey has set out tables by the office for classes to do a walk by. At the break, kids took home all the items, but the pile is growing. Teachers will be asked to give students another walk by. A reminder to parents to label all items as it makes them easier to return. Laura added that, in comparison to previous years, there are very little lost and found items because of new routines.
  - e. Spring Fling - Taneill Selinger and Karla Tweten

Once the format and budget are decided, an email will be sent out looking for volunteers to start planning for Spring Fling.
  - f. Division Council of School Councils - Taneill Selinger

There was no meeting in February. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25. An update will be provided at the April PCRHES meeting.

6. New Business - Taneill Selinger and Karla Tweten

a. Recruiting - Vacancies

Taniell's term as co-chair will be complete at the end of the current school year. Megan Loran, Treasurer, has expressed an interest in stepping into the co-chair role. Should Megan move into this role, we will require a new Treasurer. The Treasurer position should appeal to someone who is reasonably comfortable with numbers and spreadsheets. However, everything has been well set up for someone to take over with the reports auto-generating and access to Megan to support the transition.

b. Gift Hero - an online gift/wish list registry that can be tailored to suit many needs.

Due to Covid-19, supplies cannot be shared between students and toys are wearing more quickly due to expanded cleaning measures. Additionally, since volunteers are not permitted in the school, parents/guardians have been looking for creative ways to contribute. Laura and Karla have been working together, using Gift Hero, to connect teachers' needs to parents/guardians. Like a gift registry, teachers can insert a link on the website with the items on their wish list, i.e. general supplies, art supplies, toys, books, etc., accompanied by where to buy them. Parents/guardians/shoppers can respond about what has been purchased. The link to the Gift Hero is [www.gifthero.com/gift-hero-239492034](http://www.gifthero.com/gift-hero-239492034) and will connect you directly with the RH page.

c. Next meeting: the next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be broadcast via Zoom.

7. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by Taneill Sellinger.