



MINUTES

School Council Meeting

R.A. Riddell Elementary

Thursday October 16, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Library Learning Commons

Attendance

- Kelly - Principal
- Aaron Puley – Vice Principal
- Heather – Teacher rep
- Ashley B
- Ashley M
- Erin
- Lara
- Jessica
- John
- Maria
- Holly
- Brooke
- Sueheir

1. Call to Order at 6:10pm
2. Land Acknowledgment read by Erin
3. Principal report from Kelly Sweeting and Aaron Puley

Ms. Sweeting's Report

- We have a school/student “Improvement Plan” with five goals
- The first goal is to improve literacy – Acadience screening has been completed. During the next PA day staff will dig into literacy and plan small group instructions (YouFly, Haggerty – purchased these resources last year), plan tier two intervention using in class resources such as Lexia and plan for tier three intervention such as Empower.
- The second goal is to improve numeracy. Specifically targeting grades 3 and 6. Will be introducing manipulatives into teaching. Will use real life scenarios and discuss strategies.
- Third is to support the grades 7 and 8s as they begin their introduction/transition to high school. Our student success teacher has 11 classrooms to work with to build pathways, well-being and

engagement. The grade 8s just went to McNab High School to watch a football game. Ms. Sweeting will discuss next steps with our student success teacher in January. Any grade 8 parent or even other grade parents are welcome to attend high school open house/information nights – see Board website for dates.

- Last two goals grouped together – well-being and engagement improvement. HWDSB created a Healthy Peer Relation Survey for grades 4 to 8 to complete last year. This covered “Belonging and Mattering”. We had a large number (almost all) complete the survey. 22% in the intermediate grades replied with a lack of belonging and mattering. Ms. Sweeting and Mr. Puley are working to break the numbers down to circle in on whether this response is from one specific group. Staff are to discuss “Belonging and Mattering” in class instruction. Ms. Sweeting and Mr. Puley are looking at ways to continue this conversation within the school throughout the year.
- The afternoon of the next PA Day will be spent with mandatory board training.
- October 17 is the grade 7 and 8 vaccination clinic in the library
- Mad Science after school is ready to go. They have 3 rooms booked and will run from October to December.

4. Teacher Report – Ms. Smiley

- Sports Teams: Volleyball seasons have begun (Jr/Sr boys & girls)
- Gr.3-5 Swim Team: practicing Tuesday after school; meet @ Jimmy Thomson Pool October 27; Gr.6-8 swim team starts in March
- Run Club: Tuesdays @ 8am till it snows! All welcome!
- Terry Fox Run- met fundraising goal (\$4000)- collection just under \$4500
- Electives Day (Gr.6-8)- ran on October 10; students select an AM activity and a PM activity supervised by all Middle School teachers
- Black & Orange/Halloween Celebration Oct.31- parade on back playground 9:30am (parents & caregivers welcome!); LipSync Battle periods 3&4; Gr.6-8 dance/KG-Gr.5 classroom celebrations periods 5&6
- Library shelving- planned install in Dec/Jan
- Laptops for library- ready to go but waiting on anchor locks
- Ms. Smiley and Ms. Christie looking at putting together a primary choir

5. Today's Family

- Has its own PD day and will be discussing ways to continue to build connection, will discuss their new and improved mission statement and review same with staff. There will also be a presentation for staff on pedagogical documentation.

6. Pro Grant

- Discussed a speaker on well-being and resilience from Mingle and Marvel – group discussed that this topic is being covered in school
- Children's International Learning – Festival of Lights – is a small event that might be better used during another event as an add-on
- Rocks & Rings – not a lot of interest in further discussion on this topic

- Literacy Night – discussed the staff running a literacy night as was done a couple of years ago, in January, 2026. Using the funds from the grant to offer snacks, provide some take-home resources for students, and resources for students in the school. Perhaps having some tables with activities in the gym while a HWDSB reading specialist speaks to parents briefly in the library providing resources for reading at home.

7. New business – n/a

8. Next meeting **December 11, 2025 at 6pm**

9. Adjournment at 7:10pm