

Ecole Robert H. Smith Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Amy Young (Secretary), Stacy Kovnats (Vice-Chair) Adam Dyck (Principal), Sarah Arnold (Vice Principal) and 7 parents.

Date: March 3rd, 2026

Call to Order – 6:05 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda – motion by Craig, seconded by Jill, motion passed.
2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – motion by Jill, seconded by Craig, motion passed.
3. Administrators Report
 - Projected Enrollment/Class Configuration
 - Enrollment estimates show being down ~15 students from 2025 (not including nursery). It is anticipated there would be a half time nursery teacher again.
 - Based on projections, class sizes could range from 16-24, assuming there are 2 teachers per grade. If allocated one less teacher, there may be a need for a multi-age classroom, likely in the older grades. Traditionally French Immersion has a higher student to teacher ratio than English schools, however the division overall has the lowest ratio in the metro area. There is some flexibility within the overall staff complement in terms of how many staff are learning support vs classroom, which can factor into classroom composition.
 - The school staffing complement received in the coming weeks will determine the overall class configuration which is approved before staff hiring goes out later in March.

Action: Adam will email class configurations later in March, following approval.

- Playground Safety
 - There have been a few safety issues observed on the playground/school yard related to climbing over structures and playing on snowbanks.
 - There was a recent incident where a student found a container with rolled marijuana in it and turned it into staff.

Action: Adam will email parents, specifically about drugs on the playground.

4. Chair's Report – N/A
5. Treasurer's Report – No Updates
6. South District Advisory Committee – Next meeting – April 30th, 2026
7. French Immersion Advisory Committee – No date announced
8. WSD Environmental Committee Update

- Sarah provided an update from the committee, submitted by Will B., who is our school representative.
- The report shares finding from a division energy audit that will be used for planning around resource reduction. RHS is one of the most energy efficient schools in the division.
- There is an opportunity for the Director for Climate Justice and Sustainability to visit with RHS teachers and/or students to learn about their work on environmental education and see how their work/office can support initiatives.
- The final committee meeting will be held in May. If parent council has questions or issues they would like to raise with the committee, they can be submitted to the school to pass along to Will.
- Further details are attached.

9. Previous Business

- Grade 6 Farewell Committee Update – provided by Sarah
 - The committee will be doing a combination of donations from the grade six parents as well as fundraising efforts.

Action: Sarah will remind the committee they need a representative present to report in to parent council.

- 2026/27 Fun Lunch Coordinator
 - Motion to appoint Stacy K. as the Fun Lunch Coordinator beginning in 2026/27. Motion by Craig, second by Barb. Motion passed.

10. New Business

- Bike Bus
 - A Bike Bus takes a group of children to school in the same way a regular school bus does, except everyone is on bikes. The “bus driver”—an adult on a bike—guides a slowly moving group ride along a predefined route. Kids and their parent/guardian join the group on their own bikes when the pack rolls by. A parent/guardian is required to supervise their child(ren), in case of a mechanical or other issue.
 - [Bike Winnipeg](#) has information on getting started, volunteer roles, safety and training available. We also can learn from some well-established programs from other schools.
 - A Bike Bus doesn’t have to be every day, it could just be once a week, or even just a couple of days during May/June and can grow over time. The initial goals would be community and capacity building.
 - It is recognized that parents are not always able to start work later/leave early, but overall, parents are interested and think it’s a good opportunity. It would be open to all grades (students who are still learning to ride independently without training wheels can still participate in bike trailers, cargo bikes etc.)

- May 14th is the MPI Bike Safety session for RHS students. The Bike Bus is a way to practice the skills learned and gain experience riding safely on the road with adult support.

Action: An information package and survey will be sent to parents to gauge interest.

- Street Fest

- Date has been set for June 11th, 2026. A staff committee will be struck and there will be a call out for volunteers. Recommendation for volunteer shifts to be scheduled, not just for the entire event.

Action: Sarah will put the Street Fest date in the next Week at a Glance.

- Guest Speakers

- There has been a lot of discussion this year about how we can support our kids and each other when it comes to cell phones and social media.
- One parent recently attended a session hosted Katherine Martinko (Canadian author of Childhood Unplugged: Practical Advice to Get Kids of Screen and Finding Balance) to discuss values around screen time etc. at another school that was informative and well done. There was general interest in looking into doing something similar at RHS.
- If there is a student component, this is something the school could potentially support and partner with other schools in the area to share costs. If that is not possible, parent council can explore the opportunity further.

Action: Adam will explore opportunities through the school and advise.

- Staff Appreciation

- Staff Appreciation week is May 4th to 8th. Last year, there was a google docs sign up for parents to bring in lunch/treats etc. for staff each day. This was very appreciated by staff.
- Further planning for this year will be deferred to the April PAC meeting.

Next Meeting: April 14th 6 p.m. in the library

Motion to adjourn – motion by Jill, second by Craig. Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.