

**Minutes**  
**ROYAL SCHOOL PARENT CONNECTION MEETING**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:30 – 7:30pm**  
**Online Meeting by Teams**

In attendance: Tanis T, Sara G, Natasha G, Monica G, Julia O, Kara S, Jani S, Danae T, Joe T  
New Attendee: Heather M, Sichan L, Steven G.

Items for Tonight

1. Welcome and Approve February minutes (2 min)
  - Monica Approved
  - Natasha Seconded.
2. REPORTS (20-25 min)
  - Treasurer's Update - Joe T
    - Allocated \$900 towards field trips
    - Fun Lunch Fund is growing rapidly
    - Accounts have a healthy balance
  - Fun Lunch Update - Danae T
    - This Friday is the Boston Pizza fun lunch. A parent is helping with set up. This is a bigger order with ~\$1,600 in
  - Old Business - SKIES Idea update - Sara G
    - Sara met with Tanis – STEM space/coding type program. Parent connection will not be involved. Tanis will be teacher support and Sara will be the person to initiate/run the program. Will be run during the noon hour. It will be set to start in the fall.
  - School Report - Tanis T (15-20 min)
    - Looks like the constitution was mainly from 2005 with some revisions.
    - Royal school Parent Connection is a parent council.
    - You can have a parent council or and advisory council, not both.
    - Parent council guided by school and divisional policies. Advisory council is guided by legislation.
    - Question from Joe and Danae about inviting community members to meetings: Tanis response: Parent council not required to open meetings to the community. Advisory councils are required.
    - See presentation from Tanis for additional details.
3. Tonight's Topics of Discussion (40-45 min)
  - Constitution Update from Feb/Mar Google Form submissions - Kara (15 min)
    - Lots of comments about the voting
    - Executive officer questions – outreach/education position
    - Confusion on financial thresholds. When do we need to vote and when can an executive just do it.
    - Don't want a lot of red tape. Want it reflective of our community now and in the future.
    - Sara, Kara, Monica and Natasha will come back with recommendations for the April meeting for comments and then come back in May for final vote.
    - Jani proposes that changes be discussed at April meeting. Changes "determined" be sent to parent student body with the constitution and it be discussed/voted on in May meeting. Joe proposes to add summary of changes

to it too. Tannis suggests sending out one document with the changes highlighted or strike-through.

- RSPC Survey to Families - review points and finalize - Sara (15 min)
  - Hoping to get this out prior to spring break.
  - Change date to be completed by April 3.
  - How likely are you to support the following fundraisers:
    - Dance with fundraising component and dance without? Keep both. Community event and Community event with fundraising component.
    - Do we need to be more clear. What we want to do with the funds raised. Should it be saved for a large future project that is undecided or should it be spent while the kids currently there are attending? Decided that this survey is not concerned with this yet. May be a future survey topic.
      - Comments from chat:
        - See bottom of minutes for chat
  - Julia brought up idea during constitution review to survey the kids about what they would like to see for their playground. Look at this post constitution review as something to pursue either near the end of this year or early next year.
- Question for Tanis - funding changes with NDP in power; neurodivergent students/teacher & EA training - Kara (5-10 min) - **move to future agenda**
- Follow-up on past topics (5-10 min)

Each Topic of Discussion will include the following:

- a. DISCUSSION: discuss any points of agreement or non-agreement
- b. DECISION: further review at next meeting / integrate any feedback / objections / decide by vote
- c. NEXT STEPS: 1) what next steps need to be completed? 2) Who will be leading/sponsoring/responsible for the project? 3) Due dates?

#### 4. New Business (if time permits)

- Any new initiatives or ideas for the next meeting - they can be verbalized here.

**Next meeting: April 16, 2024, 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Have a happy Spring Break and Easter!**

Comment collection from the chat:

[7:25 PM] Jani

I agree with Danae and Joe (Unverified) - a summary in the email and then the details of what's in and what's out in the attachment.

[7:31 PM] Jani

Everyone can see a Survey draft here: <https://forms.gle/wjxtFKtgLeZu2jDa9>

[7:33 PM] Tanis Thiessen

For those who asked whether there are any impacts to school funding with the change in provincial government, the short answer is "not yet".

[7:37 PM] Tanis Thiessen

as well, the government generally sees Pembina Trails as a "have" division, and they did reduce the funding they gave to us, compared to other metro Winnipeg divisions. (We have a larger tax base with Ikea and outlet mall, for example)

[7:35 PM] Kara (Guest)

Thanks Tanis! any policy changes that you are aware of?

[7:37 PM] Tanis Thiessen

Nutrition program funding will be coming.

[7:43 PM] Jani

Tanis Thiessen - side note, what has the feedback from the teachers been on \$100 per class to bring in a guest speaker? Will they be able to do anything with that amount? Or is it too low? Do any already know how they will spend it?

[7:45 PM] Tanis Thiessen

we have one class that has already asked Sandy to use this. Feedback was general gratefulness for flexibility to use as guest speaker reimbursement too.

[7:40 PM] Steven Goldstine

It also doesn't hurt to slowly build up the kitty proactively for if/when the next "mega" project like the playground comes along

[7:40 PM] Heather (Guest)

I agree with what Steven said

[7:42 PM] Steven Goldstine

The flip side is that the families who fundraise should benefit before they leave the school (exactly what Monica is saying right now)

[7:43 PM] Heather

I think Monica brings up some great points.

[7:50 PM] Julia

For new parents - you heard us discussing the playground structures/equipment. That is a parent council responsibility not a school responsibility. If it gets broken and we don't have the funds to repair it then it gets shut down to the kids until we can repair it. At least that's my understanding. Tanis, please correct me if I'm wrong.

[7:51 PM] Tanis Thiessen

this is per provincial requirements, which i have always found strange. new schools find this incredibly stressful (naked fields, nothing to play on)  
so both new equipment, as well as fixing the equipment, is the purview of parent councils and ACSLs

[7:56 PM] Tanis Thiessen  
more basketball hoops has already been a legitimate request

[7:56 PM] Kara (Guest)  
Thanks Tanis - that is very good to know!