

HOME & SCHOOL

River Woods Elementary School
RIVER WOODS HOME & SCHOOL

GENERAL MEETING **MINUTES**

April 17th, 2025 at 7 PM

I. Student Council Representatives

- A. Avery Chaidez (4th grade)
- B. Emily Paturzo (4th grade)

-Student council plans events for donations to the community and plans end of the year events like Spirit Week

-\$412 was collected for the California fires

-Student council placed posters around the school to motivate students

-Spirit Week was explained by Avery and what would be celebrated throughout the week

Question: What grade does student council begin?

-Starts in 3rd grade

Question: How often do you meet as a student council?

-Once a month

Question: What do you each want to be when you grow up?

-Emily wants to be a teacher

-Avery is still thinking about it

Question: How many students are in the Student Council?

-Two from each grade level classroom and after meetings we go to our buddies' classroom to share information discussed in Student Council meetings

Question: During Spirit Week what teacher will you dress up as?

-Mr. Carius and Ms. Alonso

Question: What is your favorite memory from being a student?

-Going on lots of field trips and field day

II. Secretary's Report - Becca McIlwee

A. [Review Minutes from General Home & School Meeting on 2/13/2025](#)

Approved Minutes: Both Laura Naab and Alisha Waters

III. Treasurer's Report - Becky Wolski

A. [Mar 2025 monthly budget activities](#)

-Different categories of the budget and what was spent was looked over

-Year to current date what we have in each category

-March is complete and closed out

-Carnival had a fantastic year and brought in a lot of money!

-Paid for a couple field trips this month

-Long term project fund which we are saving up, there is a committee forming to see it through

-Bank accounts, checking account, money market account were looked over

B. [Mar 2025 notes to share](#)

C. [Mar 2025 reconciliation summary](#)

D. [Mar 2025 reconciliation detail](#)

E. 2025-26 Budget Proposal

-We were really trying to avoid using the carry over funds for our next year's budget but it looks like we will be taking 5K from carry over funds. The good news is that we are using less carry over funds for next year than we have in previous years.

-Raised the net for certain areas

-Dance Fit will be added into next year's fundraising instead of Adult Social (we will skip a year for Adult Social)

- Other ideas for increased fundraising since we will be skipping Adult Social next year include: Mother's Day plants and Penny Wars
- Alisha Waters: 50% back for popcorn sales as a possible fundraiser (we don't do kids fundraising) Doesn't have to be kids selling but could send flyers home
- Hospitality expressed the need to increase their budget for next year and a better way of budgeting for all the events they provide throughout the year.
- Hospitality has received around \$785 in donations this year and there was a discussion on how to promote even more family donates for next year

IV. Vice President's Report - Dawn Gambini

V. President's Report - Meredith Pollack & Jacki Chaidez

A. 25-26 Executive Slate

- Still in need of a treasurer for next year
- Becky shared how previous treasures helped guide her in her position and how she would do the same for the next treasurer
- Becky shared a little bit about the position and talked about how documents/templates have been created that make the position much more manageable
- Laura Naab had an idea of someone who might be a good fit and would reach out to that person and report back

B. 25-26 Committee Chair Openings

- 90% of current chairs are coming back next year!
- Gift Card Chair is open as well as Dance Fit Chair (Booster), Beautification Co-Chair, and Cougars Reading Co-Chair

C. Long-Term Project

- Read-a-Thon and Glow Run were fundraisers for this project
- Meeting April 23rd at 7 pm
- Working with the grounds committee etc.
- It is known that our school is in need of more space and if there ever is an addition to our school it would not be in the place of our

long term project

D. Car Magnets

- Will be sold for \$5
- Will be brought out during open house, carnival, picnic etc.
- Many seemed excited about these

VI. Principal's Report - Gina Baumgartner

A. Volunteer Appreciation Reception - May 15th at 6:30

B. Class Placement Process

- It is a very careful and lengthy process with many looking over class lists and making revisions
- Parent input surveys as well as teacher surveys are considered
- Once a class list is created teachers meet to discuss and collaborate, students may be moved based on the balance of the strengths/needs of students across subject areas and SEL needs
- Student personalities and teacher personalities are also considered
- Special area teachers then look at class lists and they provide input as well which may require revisions

C. Dismissal

- Staff wanted to improve our process for bad weather dismissal
- Staff met to discuss and make changes
- Mrs. Baumgartner even interviewed students to get their input on it
- Safety factors were also considered
- Revising plans for next year for dismissal including inclement weather days
 - Will use family numbers to post on cars for clear

communication

D. River Woods Home & School [Input Form](#)



VII. Teacher Liaison - Lisa Huston

- Mrs. Huston spoke about the blended specials in 2nd grade that started in the third trimester
- Some of our students don't know students outside their classrooms especially our dual language students
- Second grade has piloted this new blended specials idea. All second grade students go to specials with students from all four of the classrooms in second grade
- Students have been surveyed
- So far it has been a positive experience for the students
- Teachers have found an easy way to gather students and get them to where they need to be
- It has become an easy routine for students
- Looking to expand this for next year into other grade levels
- Special area teachers have mindfully placed activities into their curriculum that help foster relationships among students
- A big thank you from the school's facility to the hospitality committee was given

VIII. Committee Chairs

Erin (Adult Social): 42 tickets sold and lots of families they know are coming and haven't bought tickets yet so they are expecting

more ticket sales

- looking for volunteers for the night off and clean up
- they have volunteers for setup
- looking for a few other basket sponsors
- around a third of ticket sales goes to our net profit and the other two thirds goes towards the event itself
- social media would like to provide a Q&A for the event

Laura Naab(Carnival): New Co-Chair is Rachel Stacey

Alisha Waters (Teacher Appreciation): Pamphlets have been sent out sharing how teacher's will be celebrated during Teacher Appreciation Week which includes the following

- custom clipboards and gold metals
- water bar and health snacks
- taco bar lunch
- popcorn bar
- dessert provided by Thor Rose Treats

Alisha Waters (Social Media): Send a flyer in the beginning of the year for parents to follow Home & School on social media or can send teachers a QR code to add to their weekly newsletters

Ice Cream Social: May 8th, 50% return

Adjourn: Alisha Waters and Laura Naab