

# HOME & SCHOOL

River Woods Elementary School  
RIVER WOODS HOME & SCHOOL

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 13th, 2025 at 7 PM

## [SLIDES](#)

- I. Secretary's Report - Becca McIlwee
  - A. [Review Minutes from General Home & School Meeting on 11/14/2024](#) Displayed to review. Approved: Alisha, Becky
  
- II. Treasurer's Report - Becky Wolski
  - A. [Jan 2025 monthly budget activities](#) Things have been relatively slow. All reconciled.
  - B. [Jan 2025 notes to share](#) The "details" report shows everything up through January. Gift card sales were great! The gift card program is open year-round. Alisha showed "live" how use Raised Right for purchases - thank you!
  - C. [Jan 2025 reconciliation summary](#)  
[Jan 2025 reconciliation detail](#) printed out January
  
- III. Vice President's Report - Dawn Gambini
  - A. Friendship Celebration tomorrow - last one of the year. All ready with plans and volunteers.
  - B. Carnival update: 1.5 weeks away. All set, great decorations. Flier home for pre-sale tickets, Fri 2/14 final day for early bird pricing. Great auction items. Ivan's cage, 50/50 raffle.
  
- IV. President's Report - Meredith Pollack & Jacki Chaidez

- A. 25-26 Executive Slate presented in April voted on in May, can fit a working parent schedule
- B. Long-Term Project outdoor learning center...bigger project than we anticipated, so we are creating a planning team/committee. Surveying teachers/students/parents for what they want to see. There will be a call out for a committee to take over this project.

V. Principal's Report - Gina Baumgartner


- A. eLearning Day Appreciation little different format and class meetings with extra staff member to help. Kids seemed to enjoy the meeting. The office hours were helpful. More manageable amount of work. Go at your own pace. Good to know early that it was called. Set the tone. Might see a feedback form coming
- B. Carnival ~ Ivan's Adventures continue Carnival is coming, please come
- C. Trimester 2 Report Cards ~ February 28 day off school
- D. Parent-Teacher Conferences ~ March 6-7 wizard opening soon.
- E. Integration of Students during Specials 2nd grade will be piloting the initiative. Created new "classes" mixing students from all 4 classes, embedding SEL. Students will start 2/24 and they will offer feedback to help roll it out to other grade levels.
- F. SEL Continuum of Learning From Mrs. Las and Mrs. Zuffrano. 6 min presentation. The presentation will be linked so that you can revisit the various links.
- G. River Woods Home & School [Input Form](#)



Offer feedback and provide input

- VI. Teacher Liaison - Angie Matteson Book raffle and staff experiences - all ready to go tomorrow. Teacher experiences are always very popular.
- VII. Committee Chairs - Denise, thank you Alisha for helping with social media posts for spiritwear.
- VIII. Hospitality decorated doors. Poster and doors - one activity will be a note to their teacher. There will be suggestions/examples. Breakfast and lunch will be provided during conferences. Hospitality has a Zeffy account, looking for donations (ex. \$100 Costco gift card). Planning ahead for teacher appreciation. Families can “give a gold” to a teacher. Working with Kinders and student council to better coordinate.
- IX. Car magnet to have at events to help supplement the budget.
- X. Veggie/Flower/Plant ahead of Mother’s Day
- XI. Innovative School Experience - Elementary Presentation



RW Input Form . Links directly to the District website. Link previous presentations. Next board meeting is 2/18. The process started in 2017 - there were more minutes in the curriculum than were in the school day. A few years ago, it was proposed to add minutes. Either adjust the district’s minutes down or add more to the day. Last year, the Innovative committee again. Paths for struggling, as well as high achieving, students in order to keep striving. More teacher collaboration time. Teachers used to PLC (example:

Meadow Glens was a “sister school”). Students have changed, so practices need to change. Reflect on the engagement of students and their behaviors. Looking at instructional minutes (State, District). How do we limit transitions, how do we schedule so we don’t have an outlier “chunk” of time that doesn’t work. Team collaboration time, teachers may need time for IEP and coordinating with specialists.

Specific for Elementary....*still a proposal*, trying to get input from community/teachers. Currently have a 15 min morning meeting. Right now, 4th grade goes straight into specials at the first bell. Would be good to pad transitions, because some minutes get spent from instructional time due to transitioning. Showing an example for first grade, for example it is like a passing period. WIN time: What I Need time. The proposed change is going from 8:15-2:30. So starting at 7:45-2:15. Alisha questioned: additional after school time? Typically Thursdays are 2 staff meetings, leadership team meeting, then committee meetings. Usually 1 meeting a week...contract stipulates the 105 minutes of meetings. AM running club - how early would that start? Afterschool doesn’t provide the same benefits. Earlier start has a lot of considerations.

Please use the link to offer input and that will go to Katie Matthews, Asst. Superintendent for Elementary.

The proposal also addresses the staggered starts.

The election is during Spring Break, so early vote if you want to vote.

Circling back about “academies” with Mrs. Zuffrano. Seeing gains with skills re: conflict resolution. Nice to see them

coming together as a group, how they talk about problems and feelings. Kids are benefitting.

Adjourn: Alisha, Dawn