

## Highlands Parent Advisory Committee

### Draft Meeting Minutes

**December 2, 2014**

*Executive Present:* Erin MacNair, Dana Cave, Jennifer van Eijnsbergen, Brandy Hughes, Kirstie Pirie, Marnie Premont, Tracey Lebedovich, Marnie Giblin, Jason Krupa, Anna Archer

*Regrets:* Eric Stodt

*Next HPAC Meeting:* Next HPAC Meeting February 3rd, 7:00pm, Highlands Elementary

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#### 1. Welcome and Executive introductions

#### 2. Approval of November 4th HPAC meeting minutes

#### 3. Administration Greeting and Updates (Todd Henderson and Blair Martin)

Todd Henderson –

Friday's newsletter re-cap and some reminders:

- Report cards come out Monday, Tues/Wed is 2pm early dismissal for teacher conferences
- Teachers are doing their own scheduling sign ups
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – student choir performance at Park Royal North 10:30am
- Lost & Found – items are currently on display in front hall. Dec 11<sup>th</sup> is the cut off date to claim, then they will be donated to charity.
- January – back to regular newsletter schedule – first Friday of the month

Blair Martin –

- We have 5 volleyball teams starting in January – using some Grade 9 student volunteers for coaching and they make great role models for the Highlands kids
- Highlands teams will be getting new uniforms with their logos

#### 4. DPAC Update

Jason Krupa update –

- DPAC Carmen Farrell had a presentation about Club G and how to expand program idea to other schools

- North Van School District has an Outdoor School in Brackendale and also have 100s of acres of property. Kids in Gr 3, 4 6 from Highlands will get to go. Open House is on the first Sunday in May for families to check out the facilities.
- Outdoor School recently renamed as the Cheakamus Centre.
- Director of the Centre is a Highlands parents

#### **5. World Kindness Day Re-Cap**

Presented by Dana Cave –

- Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Kindness Committee wanted to do something for World Kindness Day – so they came up with kindness fortunes, which were little notes with 200 different kindness ideas that kids could do during the day (ie: hold the door open for someone, say hi to someone...)
- It was a hit with the kids
- Student council executives helped out with the event
- Carmen/Melody/Todd received some feedback from the student council for next year and added some new ideas
- Students council is also very excited about future ideas

#### **6. Natural Playground**

- Tracey Lebedovich gave a brief update
- Todd Henderson is going to be the go-to person to work with the Natural Playground Committee and the School District contacts
- Tracey was given the written proposal outline to start working on that will be presented to the School District with playground sketches
- Call to interested parents for assistance, input and ideas
- Any parents interested in joining the committee should contact [tracey@gloriousday.com](mailto:tracey@gloriousday.com)

#### **7. Risky Play**

- Parent is looking into bringing Dr. Ian Pike (UBC Professor) to the school for a talk
- Topic is about how research points to benefits of removing the “bubble wrap” from our kids and letting them have some “Risky Play”
- This is will a no cost event for parents at the school

#### **8. W.O.W. Program – Carol Sartor – Guest Speaker**

- Carol is part of the North Shore safe roads to school advocates, from Montroyal Elementary
- Possible grant money from the Heart & Stroke Foundation
- W.O.W = Walk on Wednesdays (be for Highlands it might be “Walk and Wheel” on another day of the week)

What Montroyal does:

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- They separate the kids into one of four “House Teams” – “Lions”, “Canucks” etc...
- WOW – Walk to School Wednesdays – kick starts during iWalk Week – where they close off the road in front of the school and have all sorts of fun activities (Zumba, Street Hockey, Hula Hoop contests etc...)
- Get free healthy snacks donated from local grocery store
- Visitors – Police, Fire, Trustees & MPs
- How do you keep up the momentum throughout the rest of the year:
- Kids each get their own W.O.W. card to put on their backpacks
- Card has a QR code with their team information, where in general they are walking from (which helps to get information of where crosswalks might be needed in the future)
- Volunteers (3) scan with their smart phones and it goes into a spreadsheet
- It tells how many kids walked, and from which teams
- Security questions did come up – but the “which walk zone did they come from” is general and can provide great data about why kids that live in certain zones aren’t walking to school
- Keeping up the Spirit – ongoing team scoreboard – weekly announcements, small prizes (donated from Particip-action, ICBC... then you can look at the data to see if giving out prizes made a difference)
- Parents should obey the safe driving and safe pedestrian rules
- Each child gets a pamphlet about safety and the benefits of walking to give to their parents
- Elmer the Elephant comes to talk about safety
- Now the school can go to the district with all their information
- Ministry is working on a new 10 year transportation plan. Google – Ministry of Transportation – and on the side bar is a survey you can fill out (by Dec 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Ask for a provincial “active transportation” plan, and to think of pedestrians first
- The link for this survey will be in the upcoming HPAC newsletter link
- HUB – A bike advocacy group that also helps to advocate for bike lanes

## 9. Open Discussion

- Parent – class rep for two classes – she’s heard from new parents saying that they find it hard to join the Highlands community and get started with playdates etc... Especially when you are coming from a different country or speak a different language.
- Dana – mentioned they started in the summer with group play dates for new Kindergarten kids so they can get to know each other
- Maybe group playtimes after school can be arranged for other age groups too

## 10. Next PAC Meeting February 3, 2015