

Highlands Parent Advisory Committee

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2016

Executive Present: Moira Cregan, Ed Desaulniers, Verna O'Neill, Tracey Lebedovich, Marnie Giblin,
Executive Regrets: Tracy Stirling, Jason Krupa
Next HPAC Meeting: March 8th 2015, 7:00pm, Highlands Elementary

Welcome and Executive introductions

- Executives introduced themselves to attendees as some new parents were present.

1. Approval of last meeting minutes

- December 1st minutes were approved and seconded

2. Administrative Update (Todd Henderson and George Polymenakos)

- Introduction and welcome to new Vice Principal, George Polymenakos
- Todd Henderson and Cheryl Ham (Teacher) presented an admin update on "School Planning." The 2015/16 school year is the final year of the "old" school plan model which is very focused from directives from the top-down with template in place. The 2015/16 school year is also a year of transitioning into a "new school plan" which has no plan with directives attached. The "new" school plan is will be flexible, more meaningful to each school and collaboration by various groups (ie. Administrators, teachers, students, parents and more). The upcoming 2016/17 school year will be the start of the planning stages of implementing a new school plan and then the years 2017 to 2020 school years will be school years under the "new" school plan.
- The new school plan is about Collaboration, Communication and Community → Values and Vision → Engagement and Learning.
- At the next HPAC Meeting, George and Cheryl will talk more about the new school curriculum.

3. DPAC update (Ed for Jason)

- Brief discussion/mention of Jason's attendance at the January DPAC meeting where the new curriculum was discussed. The following links to

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be provided to the community via website and newsletter.

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/transforming_curriculum.php and
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

4. Fundraiser Update

Gingerbread Event (Lead Organizers: Dana Cave and Angie Foulds)

- Over 215 gingerbread houses sold
- Raised over \$675.00

Poinsettia Fundraiser (Lead Organizer: Brandy Hughes)

- Raised over \$540.00
- Poinsettias donated to Office and Kids Club

Scholastic Book Fair (Lead Organizer: Christina Carrick)

- Shorter book fair (2 days and 1 evening for parents) compared to a 4 day event in the past.
- Shorter event still a success and earned \$1900 in Scholastic Canada products for Ms. McGee and school library to use.
- Parent volunteers needed for book fairs to continue. If any parents are able to assist, please contact HPAC or Christina Carrick.

Holiday Elves (Lead Organizer: Marnie Giblin)

- Number of books donated by various families to the school library. Ms. McGee very thankful for the donations!

Creative Packs – School Supplies

- Donated school supplies to several refugee families in the New Year. Due to Creative Packs generosity, we would like to keep supporting Creative Packs for the upcoming school supplies order.

Grants – Natural Playground (Lead Organizer: Marnie Giblin)

- Over \$7,000.00 in grants received from Evergreen, TD Friends, Canadian Wildlife Organization and Learning for Sustainable Future for the Natural Playground.

Natural Playground (Tracey)

- Ground breaking date tbd. Waiting for final stamp of approval from the School Board.
- Funds for annual maintenance of the natural playground to be set aside for the first year as new trees and plants will require water checks throughout the summer. Great Canadian Landscaping will be taking care of this maintenance on a quarterly basis for the first year. Parent volunteers to assist with maintenance in between.

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- Will require fundraising specific events per school year specifically aimed for maintenance of natural playground.

5. Upcoming Events

Saleema Noon (Moir)

- Body Works Parent Info Session March 1st at 6:30pm.
- March 3 for primaries and March 4 for intermediates.
- All information provided will be age appropriate.

Movie Night (Marnie)

- Inside Out on February 19th at 6:30pm
- Parent chaperoned event
- Ticket price includes water, popcorn and glow bracelets
- Grade 7 will be selling baked goods for Grade 7 Farewell fundraiser.

Spring Event (Marnie & Angela)

- Working on a scaled back Spring Fair
- Needing feedback on possible activities to attract the intermediate grades to the event. If you have input, then to speak to Marnie or Angela.

Eco Fest (Kirstie Pirie)

- Eco Fest started in 2013 and held every second year.
- Scheduled currently being put together by Eco Fest committee
- Many volunteers will be needed for the day.
- Potential art and craft station where rocks will be needed. Further details to come if assistance is needed.

Food Days (Meredith Kennedy)

- Deadline for round 2 is tomorrow – Feb 3rd.
- On target to hit \$20,000 mark in fundraising
- Will be changing frozen yogurt vendor from CoCo Froyo to Menchies. The Menchies products are bigger and a little more money but prices will remain the same and costs will be covered from payment received for missed CoCo Froyo orders.

6. Treasury Report (Ed)

- Straight forward and nothing new to report.

7. New Business

Traffic Safety Study (Erin MacNair)

- This study is happening because of the NVSRA who meets with the Mayor,

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District, etc. The NVSRA is getting things done. It may be happening slowly but progress is being made.

- Safety point person will be needed at the school level whether it is an Executive on the PAC or a Safety Advocate with a sub-committee to champion the safety concerns of Highlands for the upcoming school year.
- District really needs to have a point person who handles all safety concerns for the community, schools, etc. Hopefully this will transpire.
- Feedback for the study is needed by next Wednesday, February 10th. Focus will be on Queens. Possible suggestions include signage, reduction of speed limit and/or safety corners. Also continue push to have a flashing pedestrian sidewalk by St. Catherine's Church on Ridgewood Drive.
- We need to weigh all safety options to make sure all schools and everyone is benefitting.

W.O.W. (Brandy Hughes)

- First year we have done W.O.W. on a weekly basis with tags and QR codes which are linked to a Division.
- 12 total so far. The first surprise W.O.W. day was held today with lowest turnout to date with only 33% of the kids walking to school. Approximately 288 kids driven today.
- Highest participation to date was 64% and lowest was 39% (regular Thursday tabulations).
- QR codes are funded by the NVSD for this school year. If we are to continue for following years, then proposal for funding will be needed from HPAC.

Communications (Verna)

- Deadline for second round of directory is coming up on February 5th. Revised directory will be out as soon as possible.

After School Programs (Angela)

- Various after school programs such as Sportball, Dance4Play, Brickz4Kids have been very successful so far. Would like to see if there is potential interest for the above programs for the older grades – possibly Grade 4 & 5. All feedback to be sent to Angela Santoro.
- Pedalheads may be an after school program in April.

Hot Dog Day (Brandy Hughes)

- Hot dog day will be taking place on Pink Shirt Day on February 24th. All monies raised by this event will then be donated to host a Hot Dog Day at another North Vancouver Elementary School.

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8. General Questions and Comments

- Parent asked for update on tree situation near playground and when the play area will be accessible to the students. No further updates at this time and still being handled by the School District. The delay is in part due to trees located on private home owners property and not the school. Once an update is received, Todd will share with the community.

9. Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: March 8th, 2016, 7:00pm, Highlands Elementary