

**Highlands Parent Advisory Committee**  
APPROVED Meeting Minutes

**March 8, 2016**

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*Executive Present:* Moira Cregan, Ed Desaulniers, Verna O'Neill, Tracey Lebedovich,  
Marnie Giblin, Angela, Jason Krupa  
*Executive Regrets:* Tracy Stirling, Amber Zhao  
*Next HPAC Meeting:* Tuesday May 17th, 7:00pm, Highlands Elementary

**1. Welcome and Executive introductions**

**2. February meeting minutes were approved**

- meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands

**3. Administrative Update (Todd Henderson)**

Todd – School district announced that a Mark Pearman was hired as the new District Superintendent, will be starting in July

**4. Curriculum Update (Mr. P and Ms. Ham)**

- HPAC parents were asked the qualities and/or attributes you want your children to leave grade 12 with:
  - o Parents and teachers seemed to have a lot of similar ideas:
    - Critical thinking
    - Independence
    - Organization
    - Self-motivation
    - Leadership
    - Globally aware
    - Effective communication
    - Collaboration
    - Information and media literate
    - Financially & economically literate
    - Innovator
- New curriculum – more about the overarching understanding of concepts and seeing the big picture
  - o Thinking/communication/personal & social
  - o Big Ideas
  - o Learning Standards
  - o Concepts & Content
  - o Curricular Competencies

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- All kids will be learning at different paces – new system will allow kids to have their own experiences
- Guiding Principles:
  - o Allow flexibility
  - o Innovative & personalized learning
  - o Focus on “Big Ideas”
  - o Focus on higher order learning
  - o Cross-curricular competencies
  - o Life-long learning
  - o Aboriginal world views & knowledge
  - o Evolving assessment & evaluation
- Example: Grade 5s were learning about Body Systems and how they would improve a particular body part (for example – give people 2 hearts, using one for back up). They were able to present their projects in the matter they felt was best (via poster, or video or Powerpoint presentation etc).
- Example: Grade 7 – normally the students would learn about Egyptian times through the facts and the content. Now there is a big idea that the learning is focusing around such as “How trade can create a rise or fall of a civilization” – They research through different methods (books, online etc).

Question from parent: How will teachers assess the students differently?

Answer: students will still be assessed, but in a slightly less rigid way (ie every subject might not be assessed based on a multiple choice type of test)

- Ministry of Education has not put out anything that would change the current letter grades
- Rubric system of assessment – the Ministry of Education is still using performance standards (approaching expectations, meeting expectations, exceeding expectations)
- New curriculum has a lot of similarities with the IB school of project-based learning
- Students will still have to have the basics before they move up – students will still be building upon their knowledge base in primary years and then will be building upon their skillsets in higher grades
- Lots of teachers having been working this way for years, and now best practice is being put into the curriculum

Parent question: Will the educational assessments from learning in this new BC system translate across other parts of Canada?

Answer: Education is a province-based system

Parent: What happens for kids that are naturally self-motivated?

Answer: Teachers will help

Parent: How do kids get a wider view of the world versus just being allowed to focus on what they are interested in?

Answer: For Genius Hour with Ms. Ham, she allows the kids to create their own topics that they are interested in and they have to ask a question to expand their views.

Its not so much about the topic or the subject, but how they are gaining the skills to the learn more about the topic from multiple sides.

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- To learn more: visit the website - curriculum.gov.bc.ca  
All of the curriculum is available on the School District's website (it is still a work in progress)

**5. DPAC Update**

Distributed learning program at the School District;

- Mountainside – interactive and flexible learning for families wanting alternatives to traditional learning (online learning, traveling etc)

**6. Fundraiser**

- Movie night – made over \$800 and kids had a great time

**7. Natural Playground update**

- Tracey provided a general update. Construction may be beginning soon, awaiting final approval to start from the School District

**8. After school**

- K to 3 programs coming up after Spring Break:
  - Sport Wed/Fri 3pm (2pm on early dismissal days)
  - BrainSTEM – Science Experiment learning on Mondays after school

**9. Events**

- Spring Fair – Marnie and a few other parents had been working together to do a modified version of the Spring Fair event and have decided to put that particular event on hold for this year.
- Instead of the Spring Fair we'd like to do an end of the year Family BBQ and have a grand opening for the Natural Playground - Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> – possible date
- Marnie has also organized a Highlands Family Whitecaps Saturday game that families can go to (Either May 7<sup>th</sup> or May 28<sup>th</sup>). There may be something special for possibly the Grade 7s to do a high-five line with the soccer players
- Ecofest – Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> - schedule is 95% ready. It involves all of the school for most of the day. There will be 18 stations (25 mins each) with a variety of topics (animals, art, drum circles). Todd and a number of teachers have put in lots of time. Lots of parent volunteers will be needed. Contact Kirstie to volunteer - [kirstiepiere@yahoo.com](mailto:kirstiepiere@yahoo.com)

**10. Opening HPAC Positions for September 2016**

- Communications (split into 2 people)
- Co-Chair role
- Secretary
- Class Rep Coordinator

**11. April 5<sup>th</sup> HPAC meeting – voted to skip it**

- May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the next HPAC meeting

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**12. Open Discussion**

- Parent asked about what's happening with the Kindergarten playground fencing
- Answer from Todd – the School District is actively working on it and has to deal with neighbouring homeowners. Todd does not have a timeline of when the issue might get resolved as there are legal issues ongoing that need to be dealt it.