

**Highlands Parent Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes



**November 1, 2016**

---

*Executive Present:* Ed Desaulniers, Janelle Eisler Carr, Tracy Stirling, Jennifer Leroux (McNaught), Tracey Lebedovich, Marnie Giblin, Karyn Magnusson, Glenda Savage

*Executive Regrets:* Jason Krupa, Angela Santoro

*Next HPAC Meeting:* December 6, 2016

**Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes Approval**

- Approval of the minutes from October 4, 2016 - approved and seconded by a show of hands.

**Administrative Update (Todd)**

- Newsletter went out this afternoon.
- On December 9<sup>th</sup> you can expect new looking report cards in the format dictated by the Ministry of Education. This is brand new for our district and reflective of the new curriculum. Communication of student learning will become much more fluid – with a movement away from the “old school” 3 report cards per year format. There will be communication around this prior to delivery. One big change is that the report cards will now be online. The school is currently going through data cleansing/checking procedures to make sure this all flows properly.
- Letter went out yesterday regarding the tree work. Students on that side of the school can now use the backdoors of their classrooms.

**Fundraising**

- HT Photo and Welcome Pizza Revenue
  - The fundraiser raised in the range of \$1000. One class was impacted because of a school trip, but big picture it was a success. Feedback was provided that some parents received comically bad photos this year. The PAC intends to communicate this to the provider for future reference (it is believed that the photographer was not as engaging this year).
  - Pizza night was fabulous and it raised between \$1500 and \$1600.

- HPAC Sponsors (Grouse Mountain, Mabel's Labels, Kmuniti, Cobbs Breads)
  - Grouse Mountain sponsorship is new. If you indicate at the time of purchase that it is for Highlands, and if we get at least 10 or 15 adult passes, then the school gets 10% back. Check the newsletter and website – there is a code to use when you sign up.
  - For all our sponsors, if you mention Highlands Elementary we get a portion of the proceeds back.
  - Kmuniti will be advertised in the next newsletter. If you shop through the link, you get the same prices as you would usually but the school gets a portion back. Tracey suggested a one sheet blast on all the Kumiti partners.
  
- Parent Social
  - Ticket sales were okay as of Wednesday, but everyone came through on Friday and we are over 110 now which is in the range of what was expected. The silent auction promises to be amazing; perhaps the biggest ever. 80's dance a thon. Cash, check, credit cards, bring \$2 for toonie toss.
  - New option this year to donate if families wanted to support but not attend – already have raised \$2700.
  - A special thanks was given to several people and local businesses who went all out in getting and donating items for the action.
  
- Gingerbread Houses
  - This as been going on for a few years. On Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, beautiful gingerbread houses are delivered and people go in the gym and decorate.
  
- Christmas Hampers
  - Message to class reps will go out requesting participation in the hamper project. Coming soon. Every class gets their own box with a theme. All goes to "Santa's workshop" where parents can come and "shop" for their children. Amazing community experience. We are one of the largest donor schools.
  
- Christmas Market
  - In last couple of years we alternate between x-mas concert and x-mas market. Last year was concert, so this year is market. Notice will go out seeking items – children then get to go into the gym and shop for gifts their families. The money collected from the market is donated. Traditionally grade 7's help out with the market. It will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - There will be choir this year – grades 4 to 7. Notice has just gone out.

- December 9<sup>th</sup> – delivery of poinsettias. Link will come out in this weeks' newsletter.

### **DPAC Update**

- Karyn went to DPAC meeting last week. She was really impressed and quite comforted by the meeting. Representatives from many age groups and sectors were present on the panel.
  - What is inquiry based learning?: Notion that children should be able to use curiosity to explore interest areas – teach core competencies based on student's interest. Much less about rote memory and more about learning problem solving skills and about being good people. Teachers supported – have been doing this for a long time and the curriculum has finally caught up.
  - What can parents do?: This new curriculum provides opportunity for parents to help in the classroom. Some concepts can really use extra hands, ears, etc. Second thing is to put pressure on government to support the new aids and tools that would be useful with the new format.
  - The Ministry site has a lot of good information. The link will be in the next newsletter.

### **After School Programs**

- Angela is open to feedback about what parents would like to see.

### **Financials Update**

- We have to have a vote tonight for safety signs. The cutoff was missed for this item (just an oversight). The executive is looking for a special vote tonight. Safety signs are the little yellow signs "we love our kids" – they get pretty beat up. Highlight that they are school routes for drivers in the area. We are missing a sign and a lot of them are broken. \$400 will replace about 3 to 4 signs. New signs were purchased 2 years ago. Discussed location of the signs. General feeling is that they are worthwhile. Moving them in and out is not feasible. Parent asked question about the possibility of a crossing guard program. Erin responded and told about the last program where a parent got hit and the kids were not able to execute to an appropriate level. Would cost estimated \$80,000 to hire professionals and hard to find volunteers. At another school (Canyon Heights), they were able to get a grant of \$2,000 to help rectify the top 3 safety concerns. This has happened at Highlands with some positive changes resulting.
- The vote for \$400 for new signs was passed by show of hands.

### **New Business**

- Discussion about Actor workshop and online payment. Talk to teacher about specific days.
- Chess club Thursday at noon (grades 2 to 4).

Meeting Adjourned