

Highlands Parent Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes



May 2, 2017

Executive Present: Jennifer Leroux (McNaught), Tracey Lebedovich, Marnie Giblin, Todd Henderson, Karissa Rennie, Karyn Magnusson, Glenda Savage Janelle Eisler Carr, Angela Santoro, Jason Krupa, Tracey Stirling, George Polymenakos

Executive Regrets: Jason Krupa

Next HPAC Meeting: June 6, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Minutes

- The minutes from last meeting were passed.

Administrative Update (Todd)

- A newsletter went out last week. This is a very busy time at Highlands – we have 147 kids involved in track and field right now. The whole month of May is track and field. The next newsletter will have information regarding school placement (no change for current students).

Teacher Presentation (Marika Posnikoff and Erika Quee)

- The teachers presented on behalf of a group of teachers regarding enhanced learning tools. They showed and discussed the benefits of these items – such as; wobble chairs, wiggle pillows, bike desk, elastics. The new curriculum is going away from the single desk model and encouraging students to find different ways to learn that works for them.
- The presenters polled the teachers to find out what is working. Bike desks are very popular. They read quotes from teachers and students to illustrate how effective the enhanced learning tools are and showed a picture presentation of kids learning/working in different ways.
- It seemed clear from the presentation that the teachers and students were benefiting from the resources that PAC allocated to these items and that future funding into enhanced learning tools would be appreciated and worthwhile.

Fundraiser Update (Tracey and Marnie)

- Plant Sale – (Brandy) - Raised just over \$500 (about \$150 less than last year but there were lots of different activities going on at the same time). There are a few plants left over – contact Brandy if you are interested.
- Card Project – (Meghan) – Artwork turned into digital image. Raised \$1,500 for the school. Great fundraiser!
- Spring Event – June 9th – We got lots of sponsorships this year from families and community partners. We will have “fun passes” this year which will let kids use all rides, events, activities. There will also be a kids spring/summer clothing sale and “jolly jars”. Decorate and fill the jar with something kids will want and we will sell them for \$4 each. Information flyer will be going home to explain. Still need a few volunteers for the event; please contact Tracey L or Marnie if able to assist.
- Whitecaps – (Marnie, Verna, Karissa) – Coming up on May 27th. 136 tickets have been ordered for this year. Will raise just over \$900 for the school. Some lucky students will be drawn to participate in different ways at the event (take a shot on the mascot, watch the warmup from the bench, high-five the players as they go on).
- Highlands Shirt Swag – (Marnie, Verna) - We sold 100 t-shirts (made \$640).
- Reviewed fund-raising budget – We are ahead of projected efforts for the year.

Natural Playground (Tracey L)

- We were selected to be part of international conference. One of our grant sponsors ran a tour of natural play spaces and our school was chosen. Over 50 people from the USA and all over the world attended. People seemed really excited about it.
- We really need every family to take a turn weeding throughout the year. The parents wanted the playground and paid for it via donations and we are all responsible for the ongoing upkeep.

Social Media For Parents Event (Janelle)

- April 4th – Highlands mom from BCTF came and spoke. Very informative and enlightening.
- Looking at having something similar for next year. Recommendation to see if we can get Jessie Miller to come next year.

Treasurer (Tracy S)

- We have a lot of money. There is so much cash. Our books are super tight. If anyone has questions about how money is spent, they can ask. We are going to post a report at the Spring Fair to show how much money has come in and how it has been used.

- This money allows us to have a large budget for spending. The PAC spent \$65,000 this year. We bring in a lot of money but we also spend a big chunk every year. A lot was spent on technology and enhanced learning tools. Also for events such as bike week, EcoFest, Saleema Noon, etc.
- Gaming Grant: Applied for this today. Comes from BC Lottery money. Very specific things that we can use this for. Metric: \$20/student.

HPAC Executive Positions Available for 2017/2018

- Fundraising Coordinator X 2: Discussed these roles and what is involved. Please consider stepping up.

Bike Week (Karissa – for Christine Shandro and Alison Raes)

- Everyone should have received notices that came home asking for permission. If anyone has lost their sheet please get a new one. Bikes can go in racks and also along the fence.

Attendance Call Backs (Julie D.)

- Julie organizes a team of parents who check on children who are absent and track them down and do call backs. This is Julie's last year doing this so a big thanks to her. This may be the last year that this is run as a parent volunteer role (if that is the case, the school will take over this important safety role).

Emergency Supplies

- Julie Waltz coordinates our large C-Can and emergency backpacks that exist at the school and in the classrooms. Big thank you to her for doing this job.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Karissa – for Laura Clarke and Marnie Beaton)

- Laura Clark and Marnie have this under control. They will manage and ask for a small food donations from parents.

Home Alone Safety Course (Karissa for Jackie Hoffer)

- Jackie Hoffer hosted a program (before they are old enough to babysit) on how to be home on their own. She ran two programs (37 grade 4 and 5 students attended). \$5 from every student fee came back to the PAC. \$185 was raised. Jackie is prepared to host for next year as well.

Kindergarten Meeting and Summer Playdates (Janelle, Karissa and Tracy S)

- On May 29th at 3:30 the school will be hosting a get together for parents in the music room. Will coordinate play dates over the summer and give them some tips to be aware of during the school year. Invitations were mailed out today – so if you are a parent of a kinder who has been accepted to the school you should be receiving the notice in the next number of

days. Two parts: parent meeting on Monday, the Friday of that week (June 2), the kids will come for a short visit and see the classrooms.

Kids Club Summer Program (Elsie Webb)

- Elsie has been working at Highlands for 15 years with Kids Club. She is waiting for two confirmations to finalize schedule but in general there will be 3 in-days and 2 out-days per week over the summer including things such as: Fly Over Vancouver, PNE, Stanley Park, etc. They will also have people come in (reptile guy). \$63/day for a single day – less if you book by the week/month.

HPAC Dates for 2017/2018

- Dates for next year have been charted and this will be circulated. We want parent reps to come to the meetings so that they can communicate to other parents about what is going on. Word of mouth is the best form of communication. We need to be at the meetings to really make this happen and be effective. There are typically 10 meetings per year. If this is split between two reps, it is basically 5 meetings a year.

Restoration Meeting April 25, 2017 Recap (Marnie)

- There was a public meeting held at the school board office on April 25 regarding the restoration of some of the language from the 2002 Teacher's Contract. Certain contract language that was removed is being put back into the contract:
 - Smaller class sizes (K - 20 students; grades 1-3 – 22 students; grade 3/4 combined class – 23 students; grades 4–7 – 29 students; grade 4-7 combined classes – 27 students)
 - District is looking at hiring in the range of 43 new classroom teachers next year
 - No more than three (3) students with special needs shall be integrated into a single regular classroom. Only one (1) of these may be from a low incidence category
 - There will be approximately the same number of students in the district, but more classroom space will be needed at nearly every school. Portables can only be used where there are no other viable options (multi-purpose, art, music, etc. rooms will be considered).
- A Parent information meeting will be held on May 11 from 7:00-8:30pm (ending promptly at 8:30) in the Highlands Gymnasium where parents can learn more about changes to come in September of 2017.

New Business

- Ready, Set, Learn – is 11:00 to 11:45 this Friday (for 4 year olds - pre-kindergarteners)
- PAC Chairs are getting together at Capilano Grinds this Friday at 9:30 am to discuss what is working and what isn't working – anyone is welcome to attend.

Next Meeting: June 6, 2017

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