

Highlands Parent Advisory Council

General Meeting Minutes

Monday January 16 2023

Call to Order:

In Attendance: 7:02

Executive: Lorelle Shortridge (Chair), Natalie Brons(Vice-Chair), Virginia Escobar (Treasurer)

Partner Groups and Guests: Chris Johns (Trustee), Chris Catheral (Principal) Carmen Bergen (Teacher Representative), Brandy Cross, Jen McGovern, Kim Dudas, Julie Bond, Sally Macdonald (DPAC)

Regrets: Tifanee Wik (Secretary), Kristan Thompson (Vice Principle)

Agenda: Approved as circulated

Minutes: Approved as circulated

Principal's Report: Chris Catherall Student / School Highlights

- Students:

- o Our total enrollment is sitting at 199

- Staff:

- o Sarah Brooks has joined us as our 2nd SST (0.5)

- o Christine Atwood has joined us as an EA

- Upcoming Events:

- o Running club continues

- o Two basketball teams are up and running—thank you to parents Kali, Jordan, and John for coaching—games begin January 31st

- o Grade 5's will be participating in the MDI survey—the survey asks them about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. It gathers information about their lives both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective.

- o Skating continues

- o Summer in January activities, the p.m. of January 19th

- o Spirit Day—"Dress from the Past", January 26th

- o Talent Show at Key City Theatre, p.m. of February 9th
- Other:
- o traffic issues
- o Jerseys - Could Pac provide new Jerseys? Find out how many and sizes

Trustee Report: Chris Johns

- A cranbrook safety committee has been started
 - o They have started touring school to see issues
 - Such as speed, building capacity for parking etc

Jan no motions

Letter to request Aboriginal Meeting Place be included in area standards documents (see attached)

Teacher's Report: Carmen Bergen

- Contine looking into issue regarding devices (ipads and laptops) , the school has been allotted 39, will be divided between primary and intermediate
 - o 14 ipads had been provided by PAC are those included in the number allotted because they should be considered extra
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Financial Review:

General: \$ 23 181.42
 Courtyard: \$ 2480.93
 Playground: \$ 871.68
 Gaming: \$2851.77

Money raised
 Bingo: \$809.51
 Fruit and Veggie: \$1541 (for Fairmount Trip)
 Art Project: \$1487.40

Funds approved but not used yet
 Sept

Red Cedar (Mrs. Merkle noted she will use full amount approved): \$191.19
 Anti Bullying Buttons \$400
 Bean Bag Cornhole Game: \$600

Oct
Staff Bday Supplies \$100

Nov
Popcorn Supplies \$100
Pancake Breakfast Supplies \$350

DPAC report Sally MacDonald

Vision Zero Safety Grant - we will look into next year
Workshop on the constitutions and bylaws for PAC tomorrow night
10 open positions in the district

New Business

Outstanding hot lunch accounts - if people continue to not pay we will have to freeze account and ask them to pre-pay

Funding for SEL resources for the Kindergarten was being pulled, letter was written by PAC and sent to our Trustee Rep Chris Johns. The school has provided funding for program (see attached letter)

Committee Reports:

Funding Requests:

\$600 - Family Dance - Just music DJ

Motion to spend \$600 for DJ put forward by Natalie Brons, second by Virginia Escobar
PASSED

\$400 - Milk for Heart to heart market

Motion to spend \$400 for milk for heart to heart market put forward by, Natalie Brons
second by Brandy Cross
PASSED

\$50 - Popsicles for Summer in January Event

Motion to spend \$50 for Popsicles for summer in January put forward by, Natalie Brons
second by Brandy Cross
PASSED

\$400 - Primary Percussion instruments

Motion to spend \$400 for Primary Percussion Instruments put forward by, Virginia Escobar second by Sally MacDonald
PASSED

Fundraisers:

- Mother's Day Flower baskets - Jen McGovern will run, Virginia Escobar and Brandy Cross will help, looking into different options this year
- Dillybar fundraiser - once a month \$2 - Jen McGovern will run

Correspondence: NTR

Open question/ comment time

- Asked teachers to make a wish list of things they would like around the school

Next meeting: Feb 27 2023

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 PM

To whom it may concern

It has been brought to our attention that a program currently being used in our Kindergarten classroom is being taken away. Changemakers is a program offered by the District SEL Resource teacher. Our kindergarten teacher has been informed that our school will no longer be offered support by the District SEL Resource teacher and since the program was purchased with allocated SEL funds she is no longer allowed to use it.

We would like to understand why our school can not have access to a program that is funded by the district, a program we are currently using. Or at the very least why our teacher can not finish using the program. But we would also like to know why Social Emotional Learning is no longer supported at our school.

This program is very valuable to our students and our teacher. It is a social-emotional learning teacher resource that provides a lesson-based approach to Social Emotional Learning (SEL). It teaches the kids about their brains, self-regulation, awareness of self, understanding others, kindness, compassion, empathy, hope....etc. Social Emotional Learning has always been integral in our Kindergarten class, but coming out of covid, it is even more important for our learners to gain these self-regulation skills. All the lessons include an 'Equity Lens' and a 'Trauma Lens,' for the teacher's insight, which is huge when working within a trauma-informed practice. The program includes a manual, all the associated picture books, and everything the teacher needs to run the program. SEL is fundamental to learning and without it, all the other subjects, math, literacy, science etc can't occur.

This concern has been brought to PAC with the hopes that PAC might be able to fund the \$850 program so that our teacher can continue using it. While we value this program and want it to continue we are confused as to why a Parent committee has to be asked to fund a program our district already owns, a program our district sees the value in.

We look forward to your response and we hope an arrangement can be made.

Thank you

Highlands PAC