

Home and School Meeting

March 06, 2025

In attendance: Nikol Piskuric, Mike Malysewich, Caitlin Burgess, Hillary Peach, Kristina Cote, Heather Reid, Renee Maassia, S.M., Kara Jessop, Mitch Orsatti, Melanie McPhee, Emma Battiston, Ryan Belowitz, Sara Alves (vice-principal), Jennifer Hogan (principal)

Online: Meaghan Newton, Heather Ricks, Lisa Feil, Amanda Crossley, Rosalee van Staalduinen

Lack acknowledgement

Motion to approve previous minutes: Nikol Piskuric with Kristina Cote seconding

Good things we did in the past two months (Nikol)

- Sold stickers at the Chinese New Year celebration and Black History Month event
- Launched term 2 popcorn days- even more popcorn sold than term 1
- Donated funds for the Black History Month event
 - School to send receipts for HSA to reimburse
- Donated funds to the grade 2/3 class for trip to the AGH
- Submitted application for \$5000 Canada Post grant for outdoor play equipment
- Organized and launched mural club
- Recruited volunteers and solicited donations for skate and bake
- Will be donating funds for the Kindergarten trip (bussing)

Budget updates (Mike)

- Budget has been stable since January, with an influx of popcorn funds
 - Still have about \$2400 popcorn to purchase
- Need to pay for Skate and bake expendables: paying for ice and fluffing up donation prizes
- Upcoming expenditures: book swap, teacher appreciation event and year end trips
 - Have approved funds for the Black History Month event and trips that are not yet paid out
- Will likely end the year in the black (profit of \$5000), after all costs and fundraising accounted for
- Currently have a bank balance at \$24000 with a GIC of \$5800
 - Have around \$30000 earmarked for capital projects
 - Have to decide what to do with the GIC? At present it earns \$300 of interest
 - Maturity date in May 2025- need to decide then if we will cash it in or leave it
 - Will decide closer to maturity date based on capital project plans- likely a vote over email
- OFHSA has emailed offer to set up Zeffy account for use by the HSA chapter
 - It is a platform similar to Square, but they don't take a percentage of money collected, can collect fees phone to phone (don't have a reader like Square)
 - We run the account, but OHFSA runs the set up.
 - Seems like we can have it/set up the account but we don't have to use it
 - For certain things, like popcorn, School Cash Online is beneficial as it is a familiar platform for parents.
 - **Motion to get a Zeffy account: Nikol Piskuric with Caitlin Burgess seconding, all in favour**

Upcoming Mural Club with Ms. Moore (Nikol)

- Ms. Moore is partnering with Ray Bates- kids in grades 3/4/5, will spend March through June developing a vision for the shed in the back playground, and then paint a mural
 - How did we decide on grades 3/4/5?
 - Ms. Moore felt the most appropriate age range: kids have to apply as we can only have a limited number in the club, it will be a commitment as they will be working 2 days a week with Ms. Moore or Rae
 - Limited to 10-15 kids
- Request for anyone that knows a graphic designer to help move the project along?
 - The graphic designer will be able to help consolidate the ideas/put them together into a cohesive plan
 - They kids will be doing their own designs and the graphic designer will scan and make a collage of the images from the kids, then they will grid the image on the wall of the shed for the kids to paint
 - Marina, is a friend of Kristina's, she will contact and follow up,
- Is anyone willing to contact a nearby paint store for donations?
 - Note that we will need to hold back funds to buy paint
 - In the neighborhood there is Dulux, Benjamin Moore, Sherwin Williams- Melanie believes that she can get the paint donated, and if not at the very least can get it at cost
- Do we have any idea how long the mural will last? Do we need a sealant?

Skate and Bake (Nikol)

- Completed
 - Booked arena
 - Recruited hockey coaches
 - Insurance purchased
- In process of recruiting volunteers
- Bake sale, done
- Donations, done
 - Will need to approved HSA donating funds to buy filler items from Dollarama to beef up the donations basket
 - Can someone volunteer to buy this stuff and post it for the prize tickets? Kristina is already working on it, Kara is also available for basket fluffing
 - Kara has contacted Take Note, and King West books
- Games done
 - Need a few more volunteers to run games
 - Heather Reid is bringing games
- Skate lending
 - Still need volunteers to tie skates
 - Can try asking younger hockey kids- post in the FB group?
 - Or ask the MSU
 - Solicit grade 5 parents- they have been emailed and a flyer sent home, unsure if we will be able to recruit more
- Is there a sign up sheet? Yes, excel file for volunteers and donations, can resend to the HSA email list

2024/25 HSA Goals and Activities (Nikol)

- Support the Cootes Paradise food program- done
- Submit Canada Post grant, \$5000
 - Grant submitted Feb 28, 2025
 - Goal would be to use the money to buy the balancing and climbing equipment- monkey bars and balance beam
 - Unfortunately the lemonade stand was pricey, could be considered a future project
 - HSA would cover the gap between the grant and the final bill
 - Other equipment options were hanging bars, other lemonade stand, or bent balance beam
 - Ms. Feil- monkey bars would be number one ask- so long as lower to the ground, balance beam- Kristina notes that the monkey bars can be adjusted to kindergarten height
 - Questions: do we earmark \$5000 to cover the difference between the grant and the final cost
 - Keep in mind we may need to purchase wood chips
 - Do the wood chips have to come from a school approved source? Yes
 - **Motion that if we get the grant Canada Post grant the HSA will match with HSA funds: Nikol Piskuric motions, Kristina Cote seconds, all approved**
- What if we don't get the Canada Post grant? We don't find out until July or August, and we would want to install for September 2025, so Kinders can start to use the equipment
 - HSA would like to start using funds for capital projects- we should not be carrying a balance this large without it being earmarked for a specific project
 - At present we are aiming for a large equipment purchase, but we have no specific goal
 - HSA should develop a plan/goal for large equipment, or start spending the funds
 - Can we purchase the kindergarten equipment either way and then accept the grant money after the fact? Unclear. But this would allow us to move ahead now.
 - Can we install one piece of equipment now and then the other? Yes, but costs are based on reduced delivery/install by purchasing everything together
 - For now we can do the planning so that it is ready to install in september

Proposal for spending HSA Funds (Nikol)

- Currently there is 30k in the HSA bank account
 - Including if we get the Canada Post \$5000 grant
- Propose we spend:
 - 8-10k on kinder pen equipment
 - 20k on primary/junior play yard equipment
 - 2k on toys/fun stuff for the kids this year
 - Save 3k for next year's HSA budget
 - \$250 for chalk and talk in September
 - \$1500 for pumpkin hike in October
 - \$1000 extra funds to either
 - Donate for trips
 - Replacement soccer nets
 - Money for spray painting
- Question: how much do we bring in each year? Roughly \$5000
 - Have also discussed expanding out fundraising efforts to increase the money brought in

- If we are able to outline how we will spend the funds we can then move forward with actual selection of primary yard equipment
 - Note it is important to share the install/equipment costs with parents so they know where the donated funds are going (and understand how expensive it is)
 - Currently sitting on a large amount of money that was raised by previous HSA groups, need to put the money back into the school/community- by deciding on a plan now we can move forward with that
- Will there be enough money for the upkeep of what we want to install? Ie. woodchips. Need to keep this in mind for future budgets?
- There is a meeting being set up with Stay Safe (school approved equipment contractor) to get an idea of what would work for our school
 - Will have a better idea what we can install/what they think would work in that space, cost
- Has facilities signed off? Not yet, but as long as it complies with the companies that school board approves, then facilities approve
- Have we reached out to primary teachers to see what they are comfortable with? Ms. Feil has some information, similar to kinder pen just don't want anything that would lead to accidents
- For now will continue to collect more info on other equipment, and then at next meeting will discuss picking equipment and trying to finalize budget

Next Meeting:

- Monday May 12, Kristina will be chairing as Nikol is away