

Highview School Council Minutes

Date: Monday, October 23rd, 2017

Chair: Mrs. Sandi Horton **Principal:** Mr. George Gould

Attendance

Parent Reps: Sandi Horton, Melissa Noble, Melissa Wagner-Wong, Charissa Low, Pamela Wilson, Mike Merifield, Jackie Zip-Labreche, Elaine O'Donnell, Michelle Lawrie, Ann Pearce, Kendra Beckman, Amanda Knowles, Jenny Bognar, Julia Zimmer, Tom Stewart, Sandra Askew, Christine Wagner, Sandy Finlay, Ruth Toskas

Absent: Ashraf Al-ibraheem, Caitlind McVey, Melissa McGinnis, Paula Wardle, Lincy Patel, Stephanie Baschiera, Muhammad Bahaaddin, Jodie Bocek, Jenilyn Santos,

Staff Reps: Mr. George Gould, Mr. Ian Pellizzari, Mr. Paul Denomme

Proceedings

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:14 p.m. Mr. Gould introduced Highview's new Principal, Mr. Ian Pellizzari and Superintendent, Mr. Paul Denomme

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept September's minutes called; minutes were accepted by Mrs. Askew and seconded by Mrs. Beckman

Superintendent Paul Denomme:

Mr. Denomme apologized for the food truck being pulled from the "Meet the Teacher" event on such short notice. There was a Complaint of Equity, which the HWDSB takes seriously, whether it comes from one person or many. We have to ask, "Are we being equitable?" Questions were brought up regarding the history of the truck (Confederate flag and the name, specifically "Dirty South"). Working with the Equity Dept., if you put "dirty" in front of any word, how inclusive is that?

Highview School Council voted to keep the truck, but the Board has the final say. It was a quick decision, but the Superintendent of Equity, Sharon Stephanian, is continuing to work with the food truck to come to a solution and resolve the problem.

“Dirty” has many meanings, including racist ones.

Mrs. Toskas mentioned that the truck has catered Board events two times/week and they stand to lose \$20,000 to \$30,000 revenue. What about Subway, a food provider that supports schools that had a pedophile as its spokesperson? Other School Councils upset by this.

Mrs. Horton asked how we can move forward. How do we know this person won't have the same affect again? Who was it? Why are we overruled? Why does one person speak for all of Council?

Mr. Denomme will follow up with Mrs. Toskas and Mrs. Stephanian. Council works hard, and the Board understands that we are upset.

Mr. Denomme paid Dirty South the owed fees and stated that new guidelines are needed. He would like to be invited back to another meeting to follow up. He is happy to come back and hear our voice, as we need to find middle ground. Vendors must meet Board policies.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Gould shared that he has been keeping Mr. Pellizzari up to date, cc'ing emails, etc.

Acknowledged pizza and sub sales. Secretaries used to do it, but now volunteers are in place. Money raised is for School Council, but spending must follow school's plan and Board expectations. Looking for parent advice.

Mrs. Collier reported that there were \$6,703.29 for risers and \$605.00 for FDK equipment available.

Highview hired a number of new teachers; quality teachers now in the classrooms. We're on track, with good teachers, good things happening. New secretary as well.

Progress Reports go home October 30th, 2017. The teachers that left Highview, left good information for the new teachers. Interviews to follow.

Also on October 30th, grade 7 vaccinations.

Swim Meet – Swimmers travelling to McMaster. Problems with bussing, parent drivers, and early races.

Terry Fox Run – Raised over \$600.00. Nice weather for the race.

Picture Day – Successful picture day, with retakes on November 16th, 2017.

Remembrance Day – No assembly last year, but teachers want it this year. Mrs. Askew asked why Remembrance Day isn't a PA Day, and Mr. Denomme answered that the calendar falls in line after Progress Reports.

Orange Day – Mrs. Beckman questioned why students were asked to wear orange and why there was a lack of explanation. Goal for next year, teachers want to take on role, Grade 6 teacher wants to move forward. Native goals for environment and respect.

Purple Day – Ms. Noble mentioned Purple Day (Children's Wellbeing).

Mrs. Beckman asked if teachers get the same emails from the Board. Are teachers informed of upcoming events? Mr. Denomme says it is the Principal's responsibility to relay messages.

Revisit Portable Stage:

Mr. Merifield reminded Council that money has been raised to purchase the risers. School Council voted in agreement to purchase risers; previous administration was supposed to purchase them. Mr. Gould has concerns about it, but it is Council's decision. Concerns include: Where do we put the risers? How do we store them? Who will set them up?

The Junior Department would like more assemblies (Personal Traits, Behaviour, etc.), but the stage wouldn't be used for this (why not?).

Mr. Stewart said there would be accessibility issues with the stage.

Mr. Denomme – go through facilities. Board approved.

Raise issue with the public. Mrs. Bognar to send out letter.

Mrs. Horton called a motion to send letter to community to see what everyone wants to do. Motion seconded by Mrs. Askew. All in favour except Mrs. Noble (opposed) – "We voted for this, we are forgetting why we voted."

This needs to be in place by next meeting, Mrs. Horton will draft a letter.

We need to understand limitations of a stage. Mr. Stewart has other options, Mr. Merifield will send out information, and Mrs. Horton questioned how we handle decision reversal.

Would custodians be responsible for risers? We will be getting a new custodian as Kevin is retiring mid-November.

Spirit Wear:

Mr. Stewart questioned how Spirit Wear sales were handled (pre-order). Mentioned Camp Trillium's online ordering process, available 24/7. CT makes 10% of what is sold, paid out twice a year. Less work, less inventory, shipped directly to you.

Mrs. Noble added that we did two sales last year. Mrs. Collier did not want parent, but parent does not take commission. Mrs. Collier had increased prices.

Mr. Stewart mentioned ordering samples and Mrs. Noble explained that we had done that for Open House. Mr. Stewart would like to help with Spirit Wear.

Originally monies raised were for new pinnies and athletic wear. Mrs. Beckman suggested money be spent on goggles and swim caps.

Money should be spent before school year is over.

Pizza/Subs Update:

Mrs. Wagner-Wong shared the following numbers for October's pizza days: we collected \$4,244.30 (in cash and on SCO). We paid Toppers \$1,454.50 and Mike's Subs \$770.00, leaving us with a profit of \$2,019.80.

We have had a good response to food days, although proper payment and filling out forms completely and properly, are on-going problems.

Would like to look at how raised money is spent: perhaps subsidizing field trips and athletic trips?

Fundraising Ideas-Pita Pit:

Mrs. Zimmer introduced the idea of adding a Pita Day and provided samples for Council to try. One 6" pita would cost us \$4.00 and smoothies, \$2.50.

Mrs. Horton motioned for a trial Pita Pit Day, Mrs. Beckman seconded. All in favour.

Bullying Policy – HPS Liaison:

Mrs. Askew requested a Police Liaison assembly on bullying. Mr. Gould informed Council that our Police Liaison has already visited the Grade 8s this year. Is he willing to do a couple presentations for different age groups? What is bullying? What does it look like?

Mrs. Bognar shared an idea for a bullying presentation with magicians Brent and Sarah, who perform two different presentations, one for JK – Grade 3, and one for Grades 4 –

8, with another performance in the evening. Show is expensive, but the PRO Grant could be used toward it.

Brent and Sarah prices - \$1,250.00/Full Day, three presentations (suitable for a large school), \$1050.00/Half Day, two presentations (JK – 3, 4 – 8), \$725.00/One Presentation (JK – 8).

Mr. Gould says our students tend to socialize with violence, pretending to hit, do karate chops, etc. Mr. Gould is out at recess trying to stop them and offer other activities instead. Other solutions include extending the play area past the path, with a soccer field on the other side (if safe and properly supervised). Mr. Gould asked for more balls to be purchased, perhaps a classroom ball.

Mrs. O'Donnell asked how many teachers are on duty for Outside Play. Mr. Gould said 3 for intermediate and 4 to 5 for Primary.

Would like more whistles.

New Business:

Mrs. Beckman and Mrs. Zimmer would like to see dances and fundraising events. Mrs. Beckman recommended Jamie's pre-bagged popcorn. Fright Night, milk program. Mrs. Beckman will lead a fundraising sub-committee.

Eighteen new iPads went to the intermediate classes and a test projector to Kindergarten. Technology is to increase curriculum, not so much on how to use it.

Mrs. Beckman raised the question about online books vs. actual books. Mentioned how Mrs. Corbin-Harper talked about Apple TVs. School budget will buy some, but we can use some Council funds as well.

Coding Clubs, Spelling Bees.

Mrs. Askew asked about a full time Librarian, but that is not possible.

After school, how long is office staff available? Expectation is that they are there half an hour after school ends.

Mr. Cochrane is still a gym teacher, although some classes have their homeroom teachers lead gym class.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting not decided. (Update: tentatively set for Wednesday, November 15th, 2017 at 6:15 p.m.)

Motion to Adjourn:

Mrs. Horton called a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Finlay seconded the motion.
Motion accepted by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.