

Highview School Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

Chair: Ms. Sandi Horton **Principal:** Mr. Ian Pellizzari

Attendance

Parent Reps: Sandi Horton, Paula Wardle, Michael Merifield, Melissa Wagner-Wong, Elaine O'Donnell, Julia Zimmer, Elizabeth McCoy, Charissa Low, Sandra Askew, Jenny Bognar

Community Rep: Annette Mills

Staff Reps: Mr. Ian Pellizzari, Ms. Corbin-Harper, Ms. Barbara Depew

Absent: Melissa Noble, Melissa McGinnis, Lincy Patel, Muhammad Bahaaddin, Jenilyn Santos, Tom Stewart, Erin McGinnis, Jodie Bocek, Ann Pearce, Amanda Knowles, Ashraf Al-ibraheem, Christine Wagner, Stephanie Baschiera, Pamela Wilson, Caitlind McVey, Jackie Zip-Labreche

Proceedings

Call to Order/ Welcome and Introductions:

Ms. Horton called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. All welcomed, introductions omitted. A sampling of books purchased with Council raised funds, as well as an iPad pack, on display for parents.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Ms. Bognar made a motion to accept March's minutes at 6:18 p.m. Ms. Mills seconded the motion, all in favour, minutes accepted.

Teacher's Report (Ms. Depew):

Teachers loved the books they were able to purchase with School Council generated funds. Ms. Maciel's students voted for their books.

The FDK and Grade 1 Teams continue to work and learn collaboratively with Ms. Porterfield to improve literacy skills.

Grades 2 – 8 teachers continue to focus on identifying learning needs and teaching Math. All staff continue to focus on improving School Climate/culture for all of our students.

Kindergarten registration is ongoing. Currently 24 new students registered.

Board game club for Grades 2 and 3 ongoing.

Jr. Girls Basketball ongoing, Intramural Jr. Boys happening.

Sr. Swim Team/Waterpolo happening, meet in May.

Yearbook is ongoing and going well. All staff are being asked to take photos and share with the committee. Last day for orders is April 26th.

After School Scholars program for Grades 3 and 6 ongoing.

Once we have some warmer/drier weather, we will be having 3 Spring Fire drills.

Intermediate band practices ongoing.

Outdoor recess equipment ordered, students and staff very excited.

Green Team has been planting in small cups indoors. Smoothie Bike (from Green Venture) will be in the Library May 14th – 18th. Every class will have the opportunity to try it out if teacher desires. Bike powers blender to make smoothies.

Empower Groups will be graduating from the program at the end of the month.

SK/Gr. 1 Dance Club.

Important Dates:

April 3rd – Wear blue for Autism Day

April 10th – 12th – Vision Works Clinic

April 11th – HWDSB Day of Pink

April 12th – Jerseys for Humboldt

April 19th – H2O Puppet Show for K – Gr. 6 – City of Hamilton

April 27th – Bomb Threat Drill with Constable Dinning

May 3rd – Open House

May 9th – Kindergarten trip to Mohawk's production of "Red's in the Hood" (using \$10.00/student subsidy from School Council)

Principal's Report:

Profiling Volunteer Excellence 2018 – Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Education Centre, all volunteers were invited, no one from Highview attended.

Open House 2017/2018 – Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. (food trucks on site at approx. 4:00 p.m.) Ms. Corbin-Harper discussed math games, including cards and dice to go home with parents. First 75 parents can grab a bag (STEM activities, 75 different activities printed).

Kindergarten Orientation – May 14th and 16th, 2018 – Invitations have been mailed. Ms. Bognar asked if out of catchment students can attend. Mr. Pellizzari said that no out of catchment students have been accepted to Highview as of yet, but it will be reviewed Sept. – Oct. If 'Out of Catchment' adds another class, teachers cannot be hired (only hired when a fourth class is added with in-catchment students).

Photo days 2018/2019 – Individual and Class photos will happen on October 1st, 2018

Wednesday, October 24th, 2018 – Re-takes and Class photos

Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 – Grade 8 Grad Photos

Treasurer's Report:

\$11,500 still available to be spent. Ms. Horton mentioned that 126 yearbooks were sold to date, so we will have to keep that in mind for the subsidy.

Mr. Merifield asked if Mr. Pellizzari had a wish list: more technology (huge resource for accessing info, communicating, and creativity). Basketball hoops (funnel style). Ms. Corbin-Harper would like to see metal benches, for Phys. Ed. (step up/down) and for kids to sit on at recess, could have checkers/chess board on top.

Ms. Bognar asked how many teachers requested basketballs, Ms. Depew unsure. Wondering if mini versions are available. Are hoops permanent? Mr. Merifield worried about vandalism. Ms. Bognar asked how much the nets cost that Council previously purchased, but Ms. Mills wasn't sure. A four facing hoop/net would be possible; Mr. Pellizzari had two at Memorial. Ms. Corbin-Harper recommended a Tetherball.

Ms. Bognar said she would look into costs for mini-nets, but Mr. Pellizzari said it must go through the Board. Ms. Bognar asked if we could aim for this for next year. Mr. Pellizzari said we should spend the money ASAP, but not to panic to spend it by June, as we don't want to make any bad decisions. More iPads, projectors and whiteboards (more reasonable than Smartboards) would be a good idea. Ms. Askew asked if the Board should supply them. Ms. Corbin-Harper responded saying at Chedoke, Council bought whiteboards and projectors for all.

Ms. Wardle asked how many classes still needed them. Mr. Pellizzari said that grades 4 – 8 have been given a kit of 6, system level. Some classes have more, some classes have less, and some don't have kits. Ms. Corbin-Harper added that more are needed in every classroom, but the school will also buy more.

Ms. Horton relayed that Ms. Noble recorded 229 chocolate boxes sold, but that 12 boxes and/or money were still outstanding. Draws have been done. Mrs. Green had a Council sponsored pizza party for her students to thank them for their assistance with the fundraiser. Chocolate sales profit approx. \$8,200.00.

Ms. Bognar made a motion at 6:39 to buy 2 packs of iPads, Ms. Zimmer seconded the motion, all in favour, motion passed.

Ms. Wardle would like to see more outdoor equipment and spray painted games on the blacktop. Ms. Corbin-Harper said it was great to see the community use the equipment too. Mr. Pellizzari mentioned adding a court, he will find out prices.

School Organization:

Teacher names not included yet, but hopefully by next month it will be more complete. Mr. Pellizzari gave Council a school organization handout, based on projected numbers. The new school year will start with three FDK classes – all blended across the Board (JK/SK), three Grade 1 classes – 19 students in each. Grades 1, 2, and 3 have a 20 student cap, some allowances. No straight 4 classes, but 4s will have French together (from split 3/4 class). Grade 6/7 split not ideal (Jr/Int. split), report cards look different (letters to numbers). Rather than exclude a small group of grade 8s in a split, all 7s and 8s will be in split 7/8 classes. Grades 6 to 8 are on rotary and will have different teachers. Ms. Corbin-Harper said it is difficult to have one straight 8 class and splits; parents will want to know why their kid is in a split class and not a straight class. These split classes are done with kids in mind, creates more of an intermediate community.

Mr. Pellizzari said there will be one full time LRT, one half time LRT, one Prep, one Librarian, and two French teachers.

Mr. Merifield asked why there are five Grade 5 kids in one 4/5 split when other classes are more 50/50. Getting a good organization can change dynamic; looking at kids who are good together and where they are academically. This may change.

PRO Grant Submission:

n/a

EQAO Practice Questions:

Mr. Pellizzari prepared questions as per Ms. Baschiera's request, but due to her absence, Council decided against completing this exercise.

By-Law Update:

Ms. Bognar and Ms. Wagner-Wong presented the new Highview School Council Constitution and By-laws explaining a few key points to Council. To get votes passed, we need 50% + 1. Once parents are in place, then executive elections can happen. Chair – must have one year experience on Council.

Mr. Pellizzari mentioned that this is a good group (healthy for the school). Make Council and school better every single day. In September, voting members must be in place before first meeting. Commit up front, nominate and elect. Daycare options don't increase meeting attendance. Need a motion to accept Constitution – will do next meeting. Ms. Bognar to add Code of Ethics.

Fundraising Committee:

n/a

New Business:

Ms. Bognar to draft letter for superintendent re: gym, asked to hold off on letter. Superintendent will update soon. Mr. Pellizzari said it is planned for the next five years. Gym and Library to be renovated. Ms. Corbin-Harper said to write letter to let voices be heard, but the Board already has the money allotted.

Ms. Low talked about cold frame or row covers if there is a gym expansion, instead of Greenhouse (which did not get a lot of teacher support).

Ms. Horton asked if the Greenhouse could be a moveable one, but Ms. Low said only 6 teachers were interested in it and the caretaker does not want it. What about vandalism? Ms. Corbin-Harper asked about sustainability: what if the next group of students and teachers aren't interested in it, and what if it falls apart and is in disrepair, weeds, etc. Also, how will it be heated in the winter? If we can get kids interested in it, then teachers will be interested as well.

Ms. Askew asked about field trips, saying her son has taken the same trips in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4. Very consistent. Why don't we have more variety vs. other schools? Franklin Road Elementary School, for example, went to Peterborough.

Field trips are teacher driven, with no expectations for staff to even take kids on any. Advice: talk to the teachers about it. Ms. Depew mentioned the trips to Playtown and the RBG. Trips must be curriculum based, art, music, outdoor play.

Ms. Corbin-Harper said you must look at your population – cultural/economic. Overnight trips not allowed by some ethnicities. Ms. Zimmer asked if teachers would plan differently if they had more money. Ms. Wardle said the cost of busses is very expensive.

Next Meeting/Motion to Adjourn:

Ms. Mills motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Wardle seconded, all in favour. Motion passed.