

Highview School Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 18th, 2019

Chair: Ms. Sandi Horton/ Ms. Jenny Bognar **Principal:** Mr. Ian Pellizzari

Attendance

Parent Reps: Stephanie Baschiera, Elizabeth McCoy, Charissa Low, Sandra Askew, Jackie Zip Labreche, Mike Merifield, Alexis Delchev, Jamie Donoahue, Brandi Holdsworth, Elaine O'Donnell, Becky Griffin, Jenny Bognar, Meghann Chartrand, Sandi Horton, Melissa Noble, Amanda Knowles, David Speicher, Melissa Wagner-Wong

Absent: Julia Zimmer, Stacey Krystal

Community Rep: Annette Mills

Staff Reps: Mr. I. Pellizzari, Ms. M. Sakins

Proceedings

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions (Ms. Horton):

The September meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by the 2018-2019 chair, Sandi Horton. Round table introductions were then done, with all in attendance introducing themselves.

Acceptance of June Minutes (Ms. Horton):

At 6:21, Ms. Askew made a motion to accept the June Minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Speicher, all in favour, motion passed unanimously.

Declaration of Voting Members (Mr. Pellizzari):

Mr. Pellizzari collected all outstanding election forms, explaining that everyone is welcome to attend meetings, however, voting can only be done by elected parent members, the community rep, teacher rep, and student rep. Parents who wish to be on Council, must be able to commit to attending meetings in order to make quorum.

If more than 14 parents wish to be voting members, Council will have to vote to change number currently allowed. Mr. Pellizzari read the names of all parent forms he had received.

Ms. Baschiera explained that parent engagement is the primary mission and not to exclude those that want to become members (since more than 14 expressed interest). At 6:34, Ms. Baschiera made a motion to allow more members. Mr. Pellizzari reminded all in attendance, that if a parent rep misses more than two meetings, the Chair would reach out to see if that member can either recommit to attending meetings or resign. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCoy, all members voted in favour, motion passed.

Mr. Pellizzari asked Council if we should proceed with Executive Elections or wait until the October meeting; Council was in favour of proceeding.

Melissa Wagner-Wong expressed her desire to become Treasurer instead of another year as Secretary. No parents came forward expressing interest in becoming Secretary.

Two parents interested in Chair position: current Chair, Sandi Horton, and Treasurer Jenny Bognar, each were given five minutes to present to Council why they would like to be Chair.

Mr. Pellizzari created ballots with the two candidates' names, and each gave their presentation. Ms. Horton told those present this is her 14th year on Council, and that it would be her third year as Chair. She would love to finish this year as Chair, as it is her daughter's last year at Highview.

Ms. Bognar explained that this is her third year on Council and had been Treasurer for two years. She is passionate about the school and would like to try to be Chair.

At 6:46, the parent reps voted. Mr. Pellizzari lead the vote count and announced at 6:53 that Ms. Bognar would be the Chair for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Speicher offered to be the new secretary. At 6:55, Ms. Askew motioned to have Mr. Speicher become Secretary, Ms. Chartrand seconded the motion, all in favour, David Speicher named Secretary for the 2019-2020 school year (no other parents interested in this position).

Ms. Noble made a motion at 6:54 for Ms. Wong to be Treasurer, motion seconded by Ms. McCoy, all in favour, Melissa Wagner-Wong named Treasurer for the 2019-2020 school year (no other parents interested in this position).

Following voting, Ms. Bognar took over as Chair, and led the remainder of the meeting.

Principal/Teacher's Report:

*see handout at the end of minutes

Mr. Pellizzari told Council that the new school year is off to a good start, with 515 – 517 students enrolled (higher than projected).

Staff was allocated prior to June, with 17 classes (grades 1 – 8) and 3 kindergarten classes. However, over 120 students had already registered prior to June; as such, Mr. Pellizzari approached the Superintendent to address the issue, and a new kindergarten class was added with occasional teachers. This fourth kindergarten classroom has now been made official, and the occasional teachers who were hired, will now be replaced with permanent staff.

Regarding classroom organization, Mr. Eathorne's class will be split to include five grade one students from two separate classes. There will be further moves around the school, all to be finalized on Monday. Mr. Pellizzari assured parents that children are resilient and easily fall into a new routine. These changes allow for smaller, more balanced classes.

Ms. Noble asked about Dot Day, and Ms. Sakins explained the concept: make a dot, and see where it takes you. September 13th was Dot Day, students were encouraged to wear polka dots and participate in activities to make the world a better place.

Mr. Pellizzari encouraged parents to subscribe to the website and/or the Highview Parents Facebook page. SynerVoice messaging has been replaced with School Connects call outs.

Mr. Merifield mentioned the disconnects between how various teachers communicate. He has three kids in three classes and all teachers communicate via different means: twitter, blog, Instagram, etc.

Mr. Pellizzari encourages staff to put things on the calendar.

Ms. Baschiera voiced her concerns about social media and that it is not good for confidential matters, these issues should not be DM'd. Ms. Griffin added that she felt like SeeSaw was secure.

Mr. Pellizzari will take parent concerns back to staff to see how they can be addressed. Parent reps bring the voice of all families to the meetings and if this is a big concern, it will be addressed.

Ms. Delchev questioned why sometimes children's images are blurred out, but not always. Ms. Sakins explained how her, and Ms. Wigood, chose Twitter to communicate to families. In addition to the standard media consent forms, they sent an additional permission letter home allowing parents to choose whether they wanted their child's face shown in posted pictures, although they are now moving away from having faces in images. Ms. Sakins explained how they shared their bank projects on Twitter, and banks responded, how authors have tweeted them back, and even an aquarium in Florida. All of this gets students excited about learning. She added that SeeSaw is good for documentation and that parents are not contacted on Twitter with personal information.

Mr. Pellizzari explained how the old phone system died over the summer, only 10 phones installed with new system. No longer will every classroom have a phone, but all teachers will have voicemail. Ms. Noble questioned how teachers will now communicate, Mr. Pellizzari said by using the PA System. Ms. Baschiera requested that Meet the Teacher move to a later time instead of the 5:00 – 6:30 time frame. Ms. Delchev expressed her shock at the times, explaining how hard it is for some to get to school then.

Ms. Griffin asked how the transition would work for the fourth kindergarten room with the occasional teachers being replaced with permanent staff, would there be support, and could there be a new Open House, to which Mr. Pellizzari said that there could not be. Mr. Merifield added that his son went through two teacher transitions in one year and that he did well with it.

Ms. Griffin then asked about the CUPE strikes and asked if our EAs, office, and janitorial staff will strike. Mr. Pellizzari is uncertain.

Treasurer's Report (Ms. Bognar):

Ms. Bognar told Council that there was just over \$7,000.00 at the end of last year and that some was spent on the Movie Night, so we currently stand at around \$6,000.00.

Mr. Pellizzari expressed the need for literacy and math manipulatives. Primary and Junior Carts came through the system, although they are too large to take upstairs, so they are looking at ordering another two kits to keep in the upstairs hallways.

At 7:23, Ms. Noble made a motion for Council to purchase these kits. Motion was seconded by Ms. Baschiera. Junior kit - \$955.00, Primary kit - \$615.00 plus tax. All in favour, motion passed.

Fundraising Committee (Ms. Wong):

Ms. Wong informed Council of Ms. Zimmer's plans for fundraising in the 2019-2020 school year, as well as her (Ms. Zimmer's) desire to head the sub-committee once again.

Last year's fundraisers:

November	Spirit Wear	Total Profit: \$ 582.85
November/December	Terra Poinsettias	Total Profit: \$1095.32
February/March	Ricco Frozen Dough	Total Profit: \$1814.00

Ms. Zimmer's Plan for 2019-2020:

Early October: Spirit Wear – t-shirts, hoodies, zip up hoodies, jogging pants, shorts and toques.

November: Terra Poinsettias – Ms. Zimmer had hoped to run a different Christmas fundraiser, but the other company considered is BC based and has higher prices and expensive shipping.

March 25th – April 14th, 2020: Laura Secord Chocolates – already pre-booked with MJ during the summer. Ordering 200 cases gave us 20 free bonus cases in addition to the six free cases we normally get. The total number was rounded up to a multiple of four, as such, 228 cases have been pre-booked.

If Council would like to run a fourth fundraiser, Ms. Zimmer suggests Krispie Kreme. They need 10 – 12 days notice and there is a 50% profit.

Some additional (non-fundraising info from Ms. Zimmer):

- The following food trucks are booked for the Meet the Teacher Night on October 10th
 - o Kool Jim's Ice Cream
 - o Tony's Corner
 - o Curbside Mediterranean Grill
 - o *Dora's not available*
- We need to know the date for Open House asap in order to book the Food Trucks again for that event.
- Smart Booth Photo Booth has been booked for June 17th at C-Hotel (\$565.00)

Ms. Zimmer's daughter would like to run the Aluminum Tab Fundraiser again; Mr. Pellizzari suggests it be supported by Council.

Ms. Wong explained to Council the plan to resume parent-run food days and stressed the importance of getting help from both parent volunteers and students.

Movie Night (Ms. Bognar):

To date, 86 kids and 71 adults have RSVP'd for Movie Night. Ms. Bognar will be putting down mats in the gym to make the floor more comfortable. Mr. Pellizzari and Mr. McLean have already tested the projector to ensure it is in working order.

Council will be selling popcorn, candy bags, and pop. Water cannot be sold due to Board Policy. The snack area will be set up in the Library with Ms. Bowman's daughters and a couple grade 8 Highview students selling to families.

Mr. Merifield questioned the rights, 1 plus 1? Ms. Bognar responded that we now own Aladdin and Mr. Speicher was interested to know if other months have been chosen for Movie Nights.

Playground Painting (Ms. Bognar):

The Playground Painting cost just under \$3,000.00. Ms. Bognar has 8 full cans of paint at home and wondered whether it should be returned or kept. Green Team has asked to borrow the stencils so that they could paint in their area too.

It took seven painting sessions over the summer to complete, however only one coat was done for each stencil and it takes three coats. Ms. Bognar gave each teacher a duo-tang folder explaining the games, so that their classes would know how to play. She is hoping Council will buy more accessories for the games such as bean bags, foam dice, chalk, etc.

Mr. Merifield inquired about sports equipment and Mr. Pellizzari has said that he has asked teachers to let him know what they need. Ms. Bognar suggested replacing balls; will address at next meeting.

Nutrition Program:

One Nutrition Cart is going out during first nutrition break. Ms. B. said it was good for the kids who did not get breakfast, although second nutrition break might be better for children who didn't realize their hunger earlier in the day. Some grade 6 students are helping to distribute food.

Ms. Griffin asked what the nutrition program is.

In previous years, it's been run by an EA, and it supports kids who need food. One bin contains a protein and one bin fruits/veggies. Students should be checking with duty teachers before getting food and teachers need to be checking lunches to make sure it is kids who really need the food that are getting it.

Mr. Pellizzari explained that at his last school, a snack was provided for every single student, every day, but that this requires a large group of volunteers.

Ms. Bognar said that parents are needed on Thursday and Friday mornings to fill up the bowls. Ms. O'Donnell will be responsible for this on Fridays and Ms. Noble on Thursdays. Ms. Bognar added that she will apply for food grants.

Meet the Teacher Update:

School Council will pay for a balloon twister to attend from 4:30 to 6:30. It costs \$180.00 for one person.

Ms. Noble added that we need two people; Ms. Bognar added that she can request this.

At 8:00, Ms. Askew made a motion that Council hire two balloon artists, motion was seconded by Ms. Noble, all members in favour, motion passed.

Ms. Bognar will email balloon artist.

Diversity Training/Positive Safe Space (Ms. Edington):

Ms. Edington did not show up to the meeting, so this section was excluded.

New Business:

Ms. Bognar asked if an Open House Day had been decided yet (it has not).

Ms. Noble asked if the basketball court fence will be repaired by the City and Mr. Pellizzari said the someone from the City should be coming.

Ms. Bognar mentioned the damage to the handicapped sign in the parking lot. Mr. Pellizzari to let the caretakers know.

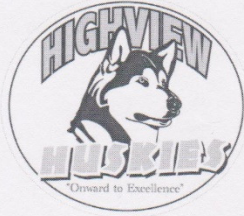
Ms. Donoahue asked if something could be done about the crossing in front of the kindergarten area, but this is an issue that Council has attempted to deal with before, and Mr. Pellizzari said nothing will or can be done about it. Highview was scheduled for a gym and library reno, then a playground reno. Ms. Baschiera asked Mr. Pellizzari if he could follow up, he said he would, although both the superintendent and trustee are already aware.

Motion to Adjourn:

The next meeting will be held on October 16th, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:06 by Ms. Askew, seconded by Ms. Noble, all in favour, motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Wagner-Wong, Secretary



Highview Elementary School

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School Council: Teacher & Principal/Vice-Principal Report

September 18th, 2019

- Currently about 517 Students @ Highview
- Reorganization happening....permanent staff for JSKD, Mr. Eathorne's Gr. 2 class becoming a grade ½ class, will be shifting students between classes to balance numbers...more information forthcoming
- Updated Staff Listing Forthcoming
- Our FDK Team and Grade 1 Team are working & learning collaboratively with Ms. Clause (Reading Specialist @ Highview ½ days) to improve literacy skills with our youngest students.
- Our Grade 2-8 Team continue to focus their learning on identifying learning needs and on teaching Math.
- All staff continue to focus on improving School Climate/Culture for all of our students.
- Fall Fire Drills: We have completed 1 successfully, 2 more to go
- Lockdown Drill: First Lockdown drill scheduled. One more in the New Year. Will also be doing 1 "Hold & Secure" Drill and 1 "Shelter in Place" Drill.
- Jr. Swim Team Starting Soon
- Green Team/Recycling has begun
- Track & Field ongoing

- Sept 13 Fall Fire Drill # 1 (2 more fall drills to go)
- Sept 13 Dot Day @ Highview
- Sept 16 Alectra Utilities Electricity Presentations Grade K-8
- Sept 18 School Council Meeting/Elections
- Sept 19 School Council Movie Night
- Sept 20 PA Day – No School For Students
- Sept 24 Lockdown Drill #1 with Constable Dinning present (1:45 p.m.)
- Sept 26 Highview Terry Fox Run (1:10 p.m.)

Important Dates to Note:

- Oct 8 Bomb Threat Drill with Constable Dinning present
- Oct 9 Cannabis/Vaping Presentations by Constable Dinning (Grades 7 & 8)
- Oct 10 Meet the Teacher Night @ Highview
- Oct 14 Thanksgiving Day Holiday
- Oct 15 School Photos
- Oct 16 School Council Meeting

Keep up-to-date by subscribing to our School Website: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/highview/subscribe/> and the Highview Parents' Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HighviewParents/>

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