



Highland Public School Advisory Council Meeting

October 11th 2023

Start Time: 6:30 pm

End Time: 8:38 pm

Location: Highland Library

Facilitator: Ekaterina Borshevetskaya and April Lindemann, Co-chairs

Author: Cynthia Solowiejczyk, Secretary

Mission Statement: *"To support the Highland School community in its dedication to the encouragement of life-long learning, the pursuit of personal best, and the fostering of respect for self and others, through the nurturing of responsible behavior and cooperation in a secure, motivating atmosphere for all."*

Members: *voting member **one vote shared

Name	Role	P/R/V	Name	Role	P/R/V
April Lindemann*	Co-Chair	P	Laura Down**	Support Staff	P
Ekaterina Borshevetskaya*	Co-Chair	P	Whitney Ellis**	Support Staff	P
Stacy Weber*	Treasurer	P	Jessica Allen**	Teacher	P
Cynthia Solowiejczyk*	Secretary	P	Jason Gordon**	Teacher	P
Sean Finn**	Principal	P	**	Vice Principal	
Teri Horgan*	WRAPSC	P	Kany Blair*		P
Tara Chapman*		P	Paula Oullet*		P
Rohit Kumar*		R	Tania Gonzalez*		P
Brian Patenaude*		P	Amy Sigman*		P

1.-	Welcome:	- September minutes were approved virtually, October agenda approved	All
2.-	Administrator's Report	- Starting to get busy at Highland! Current focus is on the post-thanksgiving Food Drive to replenish our local agency. The school is being challenged to create a "Very Hungry Caterpillar" which will end up in Sean's office. -Intramurals beginning, they will be playing Fukahara (Japanese skills based volleyball game) -Winter "performance" is unlikely at this time. Perhaps spring? -Screen time- Sean has been walking through classes during nutrition breaks and rarely seeing screen time as an issue anymore. Most classes are back to socializing during lunch time. (Screens during eating time became a practice during Covid which continued) -Technology and personal devices; Highland has the same rules as the rest of the WRDSB system. Cell phones are not to be at school. If a student brings one it must be TURNED OFF in their backpack until they get outside at the end of the day. -Dress code; lots of changes from when we were all kids. As long as clothes are safe and not hateful they are allowed. Shoes in the gym are an example of needing to meet different criteria for safety. For example, Crocs are fine inside in class, but kids need a running shoe with a non marking sole for gym class. -Sean spoke with the city about the recycling truck being among the kids during morning drop off time. He learned that city vehicles are exempt from the no	Sean Finn Principal

		stopping signage but the city understands our concern and will try to alter the schedule. Possibility of sending out communication to families to remind about how to be safe around that particular vehicle. Started a conversation around road safety at the surrounding intersections and roads. No crossing guards. Walking school bus? Looking for more solutions. Agreement was this is a city/municipal issue and not one that Sean has any control over. Possible subcommittee to be created to address this issue with the city, Teri and Paula have experience in this area. -New Business: is the current split of "Sean is responsible for Teaching and Learning, Council does the extras" working? Rumors of some classes not having enough materials. Sean has a new way for staff to request materials, encouraging teachers to reach out to him. Funding model seems to still be working.	
3.-	Teachers' Report	-Teachers have talked about how council can best support them this year. Worries about job action stopping their ability to do field trips, but they could then have groups come IN to the school if tied into curriculum. -Teachers proposing that possibly board games would be a nice addition for classrooms to be used in a variety of ways? -Would the council like to support a gift for the volleyball intramurals? Consensus was no -New Business: Question about music; how is music being supported this year and how can we help? We have a class set of ukuleles but no one who knows how to teach them right now; Aimee Cripps is learning guitar right now. Is there anything	Jessica Allen & Jason Gordon Teacher Rep (shared)

		else council can do to support her in this effort? Or any parents who might have musical knowledge and a desire to support?	
4.-	Treasurer's Report	- Not much movement of funds this month. Money has come out for the magician in June. - We still have a deposit put down for Jungle Sport, and reserved the remainder amount	Stacy Weber Treasurer
5.-	WRAPSC report	- First meeting happened! Questions came up from that meeting about a Walking School Bus and that Transportation Services offers some support with this venture. - ProGrant should be put in asap, and can also be done retroactively on activities done this school year. - Cell phone policy at Highland? (See Admin Report) St Andrews and GCI are implementing school wide cell phone bans to keep personal screens out of classrooms. Highland it isn't a major issue because of the age of the students, but we have the same policy of "no phones"	Teri Horgan
6.	Action Items (votes)	- reviewed survey results to convey group priorities. Most significant were Field Trip money and Spring Open House. -Vote: Field Trip budget of \$15/child (\$6525) CARRIED -Vote: Author Visit (Mike Wade) ½ day visit to 3-6 students (\$300) CARRIED - Vote: Dufflebag Theatre or equivalent for K-2 (\$1212.49) CARRIED -Vote: Movie Night, logistical concerns LOST	

		-Vote: Spring Open House with a Multicultural Theme (\$3000) CARRIED -Vote: Speaker for Violence and Harassment (\$900) CARRIED (to discuss after WRAPSC meeting suggestions) -Vote: Use reserved funds to cover the remaining balance for Jungle Sport (\$1900) CARRIED -Vote: Festival Francais for Gr 4-6 (\$900, Sean to cover anything over this amount) CARRIED -Conversation about how to support the school with donation of items. There will be a maker space opening up in the library and the school could ask families for donations of items. Parents can not be asked to donate classroom supplies (like glue sticks), it should be covered by the school and Sean has enough money generated by pizza to cover these needs. -Proposal to put together a 3 year cycle of longer range plans for fundraising and school supports so we don't over or under service some areas. To take back to the Fundraising Committee - There is a desire to get community together; can we find a way to do it so it focuses on community without a lot of prep work? A neighbourhood forest walk? A snowman building competition (with Council donating a prize)? A "movie meet up" to see a kid film in theatres together? - This year our reserves will cover our expenses. Pattern of two years shows around 13-15k being used yearly, so we can work toward that fundraising amount through grants and fundraising. To take back to the Fundraising Committee	
6.-	Committees: - Parent involvement - Fundraising/Grants - Social media	No updates; some action items have been generated for the committees and listed in bold throughout the minutes.	Committees

	- Event specific?	Created Open House Committee now that funds have been allocated; Cynthia, April, Tanya, Whitney	
8.-	New Business:	- Can we make our school more supportive of new arrivers in Canada? Is it possible to make a list of families who could “buddy” with a new school family to help them with the logistics of School Day, etc. Many multilingual families who would happily help out, but they aren’t aware of the families. Sean to take names and create a database of buddy families to give to new Highland families who need support.	April
9.-	Agenda Items for next meeting	- Talk about Open House (committee to report) - Amy will talk to city about road issues and can report back next meeting - Cynthia will present updated bylaws - Tania to talk about Grants matched to our goals	

Future meeting dates- mark your calendar!

6:30pm second Wednesday of the month; November 15, Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14 <3, March 6, April 10, May 15, June 12