

## Highland PAC Meeting Minutes October 21, 2024

**In Attendance:** Laura Roberts (Principal), Melissa Preston (Vice Chair), Jennifer Vaino (Chair), Spring Halasz (Treasurer), Brooke Finlayson (DPAC rep), Brenda Cairncross, Kim Grimmer, Kandie Eschbaumer, Megan Cowling, Nikki Slack, Kristen Sanderson, Mike East

**Online attendance:** Susan Leslie (Trustee)

**Regrets sent for:** Vivian Vaillant (DPAC Rep)

**Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm**

**Acknowledgement:** We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

**Guest Presentation** – Brad St. Pierre with Graduation News(137 graduates this year); December 5<sup>th</sup> is Dessert Night & Silent Auction (Grade 11 students & parents are being asked to help) – donations needed, May 15<sup>th</sup> is the BBQ, May 31<sup>st</sup> is Grad

**Approval of previous minutes (September 2024)** – Motioned by Melissa Preston; seconded by Brooke Finlayson. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Approval of agenda** – Motioned by Megan Cowling; seconded by Spring Halasz. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Correspondence** – none

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Trustee Report (Susan Leslie)**

safety report re: recent events at 2 high schools, procedures followed, email sent by Principal afterwards – concise & to the point

proposed boundary changes for 4 Elementary schools; Airport, Aspen, Valley View & Brooklyn. Wouldn't have much of an effect on Highland as both Airport & Brooklyn are already in the catchment. There will be public consultations & input and votes.

Strategic Plan is still in the works, Local Education Agreement with KFN, 3 years in the making, finally taking action. [Click here for the draft strategic plan.](#)

**Chair Report** – none

#### **Treasurer Report (Spring)**

- As of October 1st, 2024:
  - Gaming account \$16296.14 24/25 gaming grant of \$14540 deposited
  - General account \$863.20
  - An invoice was given to the school for our BCCPAC membership \$100.
  - A 50/50 license was applied for; Grad Dessert Night running Nov 1 – Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer Vaino put forth a motion to reimburse Spring the \$25 application fee. Melissa Preston made the motion, seconded by Brooke Finlayson, all in favour. Motion carried.
  - Zeffy is being used this time as it looks like there are no user fees.

- Carly Swain as also in contact about a 50/50 license for the Music program

## **DPAC Report**

- Bike Safety, Ben V looking at doing another evening event and is raising money, by donation, for helmets & lights
- DPAC mtg Oct 7/24 Highlights and important info:
- 1. Education forum-Collab btwn DPAC, CDTA, and CUPE was a huge success and was well attended. Forum can be viewed at the DPAC fb pg and YouTube channel. Even though the election has passed, it's important to know what each party's stance is on education topics. This understanding can help parents frame questions and increase advocacy with our local MLA.
- 2. Lots of feedback on school start up...some positive and some negative. Positives include: exploratories being offered at Cumbi Com school; new cell phone policy communicated in a clear msg to families and students; parents like the solo Gr8 start up; big shout out to office admin staff who are the unsung heroes of school start up. Negatives include: Parents would like more communication from the SD-more info sharing; LT buses never came; GV had a clunky start; parents/teachers would like to see more thought go into populating classrooms with kiddos with designations and the lack of support in those classrooms.
- 3. Speaker's Series: -Parental Digital Dig with SD staff. Info session on navigating Learn.71.ca, Office 365 and student learning tools. Oct 23/24 from 6-8pm in the Isfeld library -Upcoming parent presentation in November- Cst. Paul Jones will be speaking to parents about drugs and youth. Presentation will be followed by a Q&A. Both presentations will be recorded.
- 4. Sexual Health Com: Gender Based Violence committee met in June and again in Oct. Trustee Aldinger and Brooke Finlayson have been interviewing community agencies to gauge involvement with youth in the SD and ask how the district might support students better or differently. GBV committee has interviewed Police based VS, Community Based VS, the Foundry, AVI, the LINC, CVTS, with upcoming interviews to incl Ind Women's sharing society, CV Pride and Restorative Justice. Purpose of the committee will be to make recommendations to the Board about best practices, suggestions for improvement, and identify areas of collab and current resources.
- 5. Transportation Com: Joanne Barr met with Super Morrow and Molly Proudfoot. Joanne was well received and had a really informative mtg. She learned that the SD meets weekly with First Student (busing provider) and these are solutions based convos when problems arise. When a problem exists, parents are to email bussing@sd71.bc.ca to lodge their complaints/concerns, they can also address behavioural issues through their P. FS is going to do a pilot project using swipe cards, on certain routes, to gather data to better serve riders.
- 6. School Food sub com: Welcomes Thea Cockerton to her role as District Food Service Coordinator. This is a new position and Thea is going into schools to meet with staff, EAs, ISWs etc. She says that she is amazed at the work that staff, school and parents are doing to feed kids.
- 7. Emergency Preparedness-Shawn Thir: Update available in Nov.
- 8. Anti Racism com-Karli and Dan Wintschel: Is looking for more members to attend. Com is trying to decide which direction to go in and what info and resources are most important to families experiencing racism in their school. ERASE reporting tool was discussed. Com says that what is missing is the reporting back to the complainant the steps and actions taken; there is no follow up after a report and that is concerning and causes anxiety.
- 9. Super's report: Dr. Jeremy Morrow Acknowledges that greater communication is required from the SD to families. New enrolment is up (projected 165, actual was 250). Designations in Level 1, 2 & 3 is up in student pop. At the Student Voice event...students identified that racism is an issue in this district, and that inequities exist for neuro-diverse, children in care and FN students. New Strat Plan document is on

the SD website. Boundary consultations for Brooklyn, Aspen, Airport and Valleyview will start this month and finish in Dec 2024. There will public meetings and a portal on the SD website to share feedback/recommendations.

- 10. Trustee Report-Board Chair Waite and Trustee Aldinger: COW mtg topics-feeding futures, Local Ed agreement with KFN and working with Reg district to create more recreation opportunities for students/community (possible expansion around Vanier property...new arena, new turf field etc. -Trustee Aldinger: SD has hired an anti racism P in a half time role-Khama Taiji from GV. MOECC and province have developed, funded and presented, through the ERASE website, webinars on topics like consent and digital responsibility. Link <https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>
- 11. The Grad Class Attire program gives all students the opportunity to wear a lightly worn gown or suit on graduation day without the financial burden associated with purchasing a brand new outfit or having one made for their milestone event. Grade 12 students from all Comox Valley Schools can schedule an appointment for choosing and fitting an outfit. The Grad Class Attire project operates out of Comox Valley Dodge at 278 North Island Highway (Old Canadian Tire building) on the following dates from 10:00am-3:00pm:
  - November 2, 2024
  - November 23, 2024
  - January 18, 2025
  - February 8, 2025
  - March 8, 2025
  - April 12, 2025
  - May 10, 2025
  - Link to the Grad Attire program
  - \*\*Question to Highland PAC: Don't forget to come ready to talk at our November meeting about PAC engagement, volunteering at the school and how school admin is helping to partnership with PAC
  - Next DPAC mtg is November 4/24 at Isfeld library 6:30-8pm. Everyone welcome!

### **Principal's Report (Laura Roberts)**

- lots of sports happening
- drama, choir & band in the upcoming months
- Grade 10 & 12 Numeracy & Literacy Assessments are next week \* Please note these can be rewritten at any time to improve your mark.
- Photo retakes are Thursday
- Grad photos are in November
- Brad St. Pierre is a 1/2 time VP as Stephanie is a 1/2 time Principal at Glacier View
- Parent communication week will take place after report cards this year

### **Old Business – no old business was discussed**

### **New Business**

#### **Grant Funds Distribution**

\$14540.00 was received this year added to the remaining balance of last year of \$1746.14 gives us a total of \$16296.14 for distribution.

It was decided that 10% would be held back for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester \$1600, a motion was made by Melissa Preston, seconded by Brooke Finlayson, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Melissa Preston to give Athletics \$5000 and the Rugby Team \$900, seconded by Brooke Finlayson, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Spring Halasz to give \$2000 to the music department and \$1000 to the drama department, seconded by Brenda Cairncross, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made to put \$500 aside for the QSA by Megan Cowling, seconded by Brooke Finlayson, all in favour. Motion carried. Laura Roberts is going to get more details from QSA with more specifics.

A motion was made by Spring Halasz to give \$600 to PHE9 for their 2 field trips, seconded by Kandie Eschbaumer, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Megan Cowling to give the Outdoor Adventure Club \$1200, seconded by Brooke Finlayson, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Megan Cowling to give Life Science 11 \$300, Marine Biology \$300, Earth Science 11 \$566.80, Economics 12 \$500 and Active Living 11/12 \$600, seconded by Mike East, all in favour. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kandie Eschbaumer to give Model UN \$300, Leadership \$300 and Robotics \$300, seconded by Megan Cowling, all in favour. Motion carried.

### **Elections**

DPAC reps – Brooke Finlayson was elected in for another year. Vivian Vaillant has stepped down as a DPAC rep and Megan Cowling has been elected to take her place, all in favour.

No one stepped forward to be Secretary at this time.

Treasurer – Spring Halasz volunteered to stay in the position another year, no one else expressed interest, all in favour.

Vice Chair – Melissa Preston volunteered to stay in the position another year, no one else expressed interest, all in favour.

Chair – Melissa Preston nominated Jennifer Vaino to stay in the position another year, no one else expressed interest. All in favour.

**Next Meeting** – November 18 21, 2024

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm