

**DRAFT TO BE APPROVED**

**Highland PAC Meeting**

January 18, 2016

Call to Order 7:10

**Welcome and Introductions** Tonia Frawley, Chair

**In Attendance:**

Tonia Frawley (Chair)

Blythe Reimer (Secretary)

Heidi Tobiassen

Dean Patterson (Principal)

Kelly Kostiuk

Roger Vernon

Marilyn Nettleton

Janice Caton (Trustee)

Kim Moore

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** minutes to be approved at February meeting

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion Kelly Kostiuk, Heidi Tobiassen 2nd - CARRIED

**Correspondence:** none

**Presentation:**

Roger Vernon - of ENTER, Robotics - (E-cademy of New Technology Engineering and Robotics) Pilot project from 2012 with Aspen school. Grade 6, 7, 8 blended program with part classroom and part independent learning. Program has been successful. Projects tend to be interdisciplinary, incorporating robotics, language arts and sciences. Most students in the program are “hands-on” learners. They work successfully together as a cohort. The social and emotional aspects of the learning path has been incredibly successful. As students progressed, the grade 8 and 9 students moved to Highland. 2014-15 was a transition year, but has been successful. Students from first cohort are now in Grade 9. Discussion this week will centre on how this cohort will transition into the senior years. (video link)

Robotics is working on “black box event” - once a month ENTER students present to grade 4 and 5 at Aspen with the ENTER skills and spark interest in the program. VEX is giving kids an outlet to explore their skills in math, science and technology.

**Reports:**

1. PAC Chair (Tonia) - Grad preparation is under way

2. DPAC (Tonia) - Have confirmed presentation by Gary Anaka for Feb 10th at Isfeld MPR - more info to come to district.

Meeting Monday the 25th and it's the AGM.

3. Treasurer (Kathy) - unable to attend tonight - completely done athletics and music - other groups need to spend/ request or their money will be otherwise allocated.

4. Administration (Dean) - nice Christmas assembly - successful finish to the 2015 half of the year. Some of it is on FaceBook. There will be videos in the yearbook. Trustees have organized some student "round tables" to ask questions and get some ideas and information. The first meeting was in January. Lots of discussion and interest in learning more and continue positive conversations. A big suggestion was to explore Planning courses to better equip students for life after high school. Process called learning innovation funds (LIF). It has been done for this year - usually there is a request list compiled by teachers. In the last week we have been given a new full time education assistant for the rest of the year and two blocks senior learning assistance

Next week is exam week - not many kids writing tests. Gained back a bit of instructional time due to arrangements of these exams.

Starting to look at programming - anticipating some changes when the board announces budget. Likely holding off closer to Spring Break to get a more accurate look at what students want to take. Dates for hirings and layoffs have been pushed back to later than usual which will make for a busy spring but it will be done before the end of the school year. Course booklets will reflect what is already being taught in the school to avoid having students being disappointed.

February has a lot of presentations:

- Jan 19 - Junior improv competing to try for provincials
- Feb 2 - BC Lions talk about anti-bullying
- Feb 10 - will be an organ donor presentation (geared to new drivers)
- Feb 11 - NIC open house for grade 11s
- Feb 12 - Highland has Heart assembly - promotes highland as giving back to the community
- Feb 18 - Vancouver Theatre, Sports and Improv
- Feb 25 - no school due to curriculum change

VEX is this weekend at Vanier

Question -What's happening with IB? - Meeting/presentation on the 27th for interested families.

5. Trustee (Janice Caton) - not much happening at the district - on a school closure committee for Puntledge. Sherry Elwood is stepping down as Superintendent - Tom Demeo has been appointed acting Superintendent until the summer. There will be discussion on how to proceed with selecting a new Superintendent - all the education partners will be involved in the decision and selection process. Sheldon Lee is stepping in as Secretary Treasurer.

Report(not recommendations) on the school district boundary changes and Puntledge School closure will be released in Feb District board meeting - there will be more budget cuts (approx \$2 million) - board will make recommendations based on the report

**Old Business** - none

## **New Business**

Letter to the Board - (attached) Drafted by Chair (Tonia Frawley)

**Motion (Kelly Kostiuk) That letter be amended with the following:**

1. reference to “letter in the paper” to be replaced with the “concern of the parents”,
2. reference to ILC and NIDES should be omitted, and
3. tone of letter to be positive.

**E-motion to follow with copy of new draft to be approved by those in attendance at PAC meeting Monday, January 18th, 2016. To be completed by Friday, January 22nd, 2016 for addition to minutes of January 18th, 2016.**

**2nd Kim Moore - CARRIED**

## **Next Meeting**

Monday, February 15th, 2016

**Adjournment - 9:15**