

DRAFT TO BE APPROVED

Highland PAC Meeting

February 15, 2016

Call to order 7:03

Welcome and Introductions Tonia Frawley, Chair.

In Attendance:

Tonia Frawley (Chair)	Dean Patterson (Principal)	Penny Kampen
Blythe Reimer (Secretary)	Krista Gregory	Vicki Waddell
Andrew Waddell	Emma Thompson	Andrew Black
Darryl Calnan	Randy Grey	Ria Hodgson
Jacki Smith	Joanne Gunderson	Tracy Richards
Janice Caton (Trustee)	Tracy Stoltz	Dean Stoltz
Geoff Gummer	Robyn Maher	Jacqui Gillespie
Heidi Tobiassen	Patti Doyle	Lee McKillican
Greg Kochanuk		

Approval of January Minutes: Heidi motion to approve with final copy of e-motion letter; Blythe 2nd - CARRIED

Approval of Agenda: Heidi motion, Vicki 2nd - CARRIED

Correspondence: the district board has obtained the letter that was sent after the last meeting (e-motion) - it will be on the public agenda at the next Tuesday district board meeting.

Presentation: Randy Grey - Career Programs Coordinator S.D. 71 Career Centres

ACE-IT gets youth into trades at a younger age. Trades will be in high demand.

SSA - Secondary School Apprenticeship - employment during school

Dual Credit - the students get college and high school credits at the same time

Reports:

1. PAC Chair (Tonia) - moving ahead with grad preparations. Treasurer away music and athletics has been sent and we are now looking to distribute remainder of funds

2. Treasurer (Andrew) - regrets cannot attend meeting. (Tonia) Music and athletics portions of budget have been paid and we are now looking at distribution of remaining funds.

3. DPAC(Tonia) - just had Gary Anaka come and speak. Over 200 parents showed up to Mark Isfeld School. Want to see if he can come to classrooms. Maria Larose will

Speak about the new curriculum next week. Two people at DPAC have stepped forward to address a web-based information platform. Next meeting on Feb 29th.

4. Administration (Dean)

School Update - new semester began; most were able to get the classes they wanted; report cards will be sent home this week.

-BC Lions did "Do Not Be A Bystander" presentation. Spoke out against violence - well received.

-Grade 11s had NIC open house.

-This Friday Vancouver Theatre Sports will meet with grade 8s.

-Charlotte Hood Tanner lead kids to honour local grandmother with Valentine's day hearts on her lawn. Highland has Heart assembly next week. Will acknowledge kids who "have Heart". Grad dessert night will be later that evening.

-Two non-instructional days 25, 26.

-Geography challenge to come at end of Feb.

-March 3rd will be the Prime Burger and Beverage Night grad fundraiser

District Budget - budget continues to get smaller. Declining enrollment is main reason. Highland is currently in funding protection. We have been for 7 years. 1.5% reduction each year there is declining enrollment (on average). Predicted to be out of it in about 3 years. Compounding loss this are rising costs of contracts, MSP premiums, hydro, dollar value, etc.. Need to come up with about \$2.4 million for next year. Conversations began last year to see what structural changes could impact the budget. Several options are being explored.

Alternate Work Schedule - prep time for teachers may change-looking at students being dismissed early on Fridays and shortening lunch hours. Alternatively, there could be increase in class size. There will be difficult decisions to balance the budget.

5. Trustee (Janice) - Provincial budget will be announced tomorrow. Unfortunately district will be facing staffing cuts. There will be meetings set up in the near future to discuss options. More information on district website.

Question: Shouldn't we band together with all the other districts and submit negative budgets. Answer - it won't happen.

Question: What is the student position. Students will be missing several hours of teaching hours. Answer - when the presentations are made at the board meeting, these are the same type of questions that should be asked.

Comment: The population at large must make an effort to express importance education.

Comment: It is fundamentally wrong to cut funding from public education.

Comment: Need to have public education to function but it needs to be collaborative. Private providers are sitting and waiting for public schools to crumble.

Comment: Magic number is 12.5% reduction. Instead of teachers having a block to do prep, they are teaching every class, every day. The new proposal seems to mean less prep and less teaching times for our students.

Recommend coming to public hearings (information on SD71 website).

Will be visiting Deputy Minister of Finance - will bring forward a statement to provincial council. Will bring any email letters anyone sends with questions or concerns.

Old Business - none

New Business - none

Next Meeting:

Monday, March 14th, 2016

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn - Tracy, 2nd Heidi CARRIED 8:50pm