

Highland PAC Meeting

Oct. 17, 2016

Call to order 7:05

Welcome and Introductions Tonia Frawley, Chair

In Attendance:

Tonia Frawley , Dean Patterson, Ian Hargreaves, Kim Moore, Lisa Thomas, Kevin Howe, Pauline Rae, Gayle Smith, Tamara Jeanotte, Katharina Sculte-Bisping

Approval of previous minutes: deferred until next meeting

Approval of agenda: Motion to accept Kim 2nd Pauline all in favour

Correspondence: No correspondence to report

Reports:

Chair – No report

Treasurer – No report

DPAC – No report

Administration – Dean

1. Parent information night – new format this year Dean wondered if anyone who attended had any feedback on how the evening went.

Tania felt it was difficult to actually connect with teachers because there was not a structured format and people were coming and going. The positive feedback was that parents could leave when they were ready and did not have to wait for the bell like in previous years.

Katerina enjoyed the format and did not mind listening to teachers speak about other classes even if it was not related to her child's grade/subject.

Feedback from the teachers was positive.

2. Terry Fox run was a success.
3. Grad meetings are underway and there have been five so far.
4. Imaker Program – for those passionate about technology/robotics, 18/24 of the participants got to go to a conference in Vancouver and they won the hackathon challenge. The students were awarded a \$5000 prize. Jim Tattrie will present at the next staff meeting about the conference.

5. Nov. 1/16. Post-secondary night where representatives from colleges and universities come to the school during the evening. Grade 12 students are required to attend. For those in other grades it is an opportunity to learn about future options.
6. We are almost at the end of term one, discussion re: use of education portal. First term report card will be viewed in that format. It is hoped that parents will start accessing this portal on a more regular basis for feedback about student performance.
7. School schedule has been a 9:20 start Monday to Thursday and a 3:20 finish with a 40 minute lunch break. The 40 minute lunch break poses a problem for allowing students time to meet with teachers or for students to participate in groups and clubs. Because of this it has been suggested that the time table change to increase the lunch hour. New schedule:

Monday – Thursday Start 9:10 – 12
Lunch 12 – 12:50
Finish 3:20
Friday start 9:10 – 12:10
Lunch 12:10 – 12:50
Finish 1:50

A lot of scheduling changes are occurring because of the desire to provide alternate instruction/different formats for student learning.

It can be hard for kids who need to get help to find time to meet with teachers to get the help they need. Teachers prep time is now scheduled in the morning so they are no longer available before classes and with a shortened lunch break there is not adequate time for teachers to eat and be available to those students that need help. Fridays have been seen as a possible time when kids may be able to meet with teachers to get the extra help they need. Fridays also can be used as an opportunity for kids to engage in enrichment activities such as clubs to encourage their connection with the school. Vanier and Isfeld have already started using Fridays in this manner. At Highland it was decided that we will start slow and have half of Friday as a FLEX day. Emphasis will be on support. Academic teachers will be available to help those who need it and other teachers have suggested club/activities they would like to be involved in.

Concern was expressed about kids leaving after lunch and not returning for FLEX 2.

Sue and Deanna would continue to do homework club.

The idea for this was suggested by Dean's AG and the staff have been involved in planning.

The flexibility may help kids prepare for post-secondary education. It can often be difficult for students to transition from being told what to do and how to do it (high school) to being responsible for time management and being self-directed with learning outcomes. Perhaps FLEX days may bridge this gap in education.

The FLEX blocks and new schedule will be sent out to parents in a newsletter format within the next few days. This new time table would likely start in a few weeks.

Trustee Report (Ian)

1. Last Board Meeting

- Since last Board meeting Sept. 27th
- the Min. of Education has fired the Vancouver School Board
- the Min. of Education has announced the beginning of a new process to engage with parents on student reporting.
- NIDES/Navigate won the national first prize for instructional innovation in education ... 25k
- District enrolment numbers are now in and we can now report that the District is over projected enrolment by a little more than 448 students. Which I am cautiously given to understand gets us out of funding protection!! The significance of that becomes more apparent over time but may provide some small financial benefit this year but certainly more next year.

A couple of Frequently Asked Questions:

- Where are all these new students coming from?
all over, not just one factor or region.
- Is this a trend or just a one off?
no way of knowing but outside of DL, the largest increase was at the elementary level with an enrolment increase of 189 students over projections indicating families with younger children perhaps ...
Secondary enrolment numbers were under projection by almost 45 students.
- the Auditors presented at the last meeting ... while their report gives the District a "clean bill of health," there we're 2 things they noted. The first was based on a difference in accounting practices between government legislation and recognized accounting practices. What we're doing meets the legislative requirement but not a specific accounting practice. The issue is between the Government and the Auditor General, we're just caught in the middle on that one.
- the other point was that they feel we are too light at Senior Management/Board Office level, sighting that our reductions are reducing the Districts ability to function well. Too few people trying to do too many other jobs off the side of their desks meaning things are starting to get missed.
- the Government Auditors will be with us for the next three years.
- the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc bussing committee were presented and accepted by the board
- A Capital Plan Submission summary was presented by Ian H.

- there were also presentations by Assistant Superintendent Tom Demo on the Alternative Instructional Week
- and by Acting Secretary-Treasure Sheldon Lee on the 2017/18 Budget
- First Curriculum Implementation day for secondary teachers took place Sept. 30th
- the Community Engagement Committee is planning to have a day with invited stakeholders to formulate the committee's Terms of Reference
- the Board Policy on Permanent School Closure is going to be reviewed
- verbal report on liaison meetings with CUPE and CDTA.
- there is a plan to review and evaluating the Alternative Instructional Week.
- October 3rd ground breaking ceremonies at Vanier

2. Last Education Committee meeting was Oct. 11th

3. next Board Meeting Oct. 25th at 7:00 in the Board room of the School Board office

Old Business – None to report on

New Business – Election – Tonia Frawley expressed interest in running for chair. No other individuals put forward an interest in running for positions. Elections will be deferred until next month.

Next Meeting: Monday November 21

Motion for meeting adjournment by Kim 2nd by Pauline