

Highland PAC Meeting (AGM)

November 17, 2014

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Welcome and Introductions: Tonia Frawley , Chair

In Attendance:

Tonia Frawley (Chair)	Kathy Dyck (Treasurer)	Janie Roelants (Recorder)
Lyneita Swanson (Princ Rep)	Greg Kochanuk(Vice-Princ)	Andrew Black (Teacher Rep)
Kevin Howe	Tracy Richards	Heidi Tobiassen
Andrew Gray	Lorraine Theron	Helen Koziol
Carmen Everest Wahl	Janice Caton (School Trustee Rep)	

Presentation: Highland Secondary Improv Team provided an entertaining 15 minutes demonstrating a variety of skits and methods which have become their stock in trade. Thank you to Liam Galway, Frances Theron, Christy Lloyd, Argen Sager, Andrew Jutte. Their first Improv Tournament is November 28, 7 p.m. Highland Multi-purpose Rm

Approval of (September) AGM Minutes and Agenda:

Motion for minutes – Tracy Richards, 2nd Heidi Tobiassen - CARRIED

Motion for agenda – Tracy Richards, 2nd Kathy Dyck - CARRIED

Reports:

1. Chair – Challenging past two weeks as Tonia’s time has been spent in other very worthwhile pursuits.
 - a. Chair with Lee McKillikan and Greg Kochanuk attended the BCSSA Conference which had excellent keynote speakers and break-out groups.
2. Treasurer
 - a. Presented the Approved PAC Budget for school expenditures based on vote of approval from October 21 PAC meeting.
 - b. All monies owed from last academic year have been paid and Kathy is working with Office Staff as she transitions out of this position.
 - i. Question: T. Richards – As our ‘general’ fund diminishes should PAC be looking at future fundraising. Janice Caton offered that PAC can hold on to funds as long as they have ongoing purpose. TABLED for future discussion of fundraising needs. Athletic and Club Programs do their own extra fundraising to offset costs over and above what PAC budget (and school) can provide.
3. DPAC –
 - a. Treasurer’s Workshop was cancelled due to low registration but will be hosting at a later date.

b. Next DPAC meeting is Monday, November 24 at Valleyview School, Library, 6:30. New Executive for January 2015.

4. Teacher Representative: Andrew Black

a. A formal acknowledgement of the contribution of our Chair, Tonia Frawley, to our School and District and Community as she was candidate in recent municipal election. Many thanks and encouragement to pursue this path in the future.

b. Congratulations also to Janice Caton, returning School Trustee, SD71.

c. Continued concerns expressed regarding the position of Dave Mellish and the sustainability of the excellence in Science Programs if that position is jeopardized.

d. Status Quo – Addressed most specifically to School Trustee J. Caton to impart to Board, that the general feeling is that maintaining the Status Quo of funding the public school system is not working and that there is a hope that the Board will be looking at new strategies to pressure the government to fund the system appropriately.

5. Administration: Please see attached November 2014, Newsletter.

http://www.highlandsecondary.ca/sites/default/files/November_2014_Newsletter.pdf

To supplement:

a. Use of the Canadian Virtual War Museum website provided some names and history of the Veterans whose names were used in the Remembrance Ceremony as a name was attached to each Poppy provided to students in the hope that it would make the 'poppy' ceremony more meaningful if attached to a real person.

b. Grad legacy: Some of the potential ideas for legacy include contributing to ongoing Emergency Preparedness, re'newing' the School Mascot costume, contributing to a charity such as YANA or L'Arche, and also looking at International contributions of some sort.

c. Athletics: Ski and Snowboard dry-land training is also starting up.

d. Aboriginal Education: Question was asked whether the non-aboriginal students are invited to participate in all the Aboriginal-designated activities and Lyneita Swanson assured the membership that they were.

e. PLC's: a) Questions raised about the differences between the 'now' PLC's, the X-block expectations, and what we thought we knew about PLC's when they were first introduced at schools such as Aspen Park...i.e. opportunities for professional work, pyramid of interventions, tutorials/homework club, collaboration with and between teachers in grade and subject areas, assessment/evaluation, etc. Opportunities for advocacy would be at the DPAC level (to provide DPAC rep. Tonia Frawley questions to take forward). As well, requesting the School Trustee to bring topic forward is an option.

f. Interim Reports: a) Question raised: Due to the timing of the reports, will the families be notified if there are already concerns being generated about their child? Mr. Kochanuk commented that he believes that all student families, if there are concerns, would be contacted prior to that date. B) Interview Schedule discussion query from Mr. Kochanuk: Are there other options for parent-teacher scheduling that parents think might be positive? i.e. Scheduling 1300-1900 hour interviews vs. just during the day. For some parents, this would be very helpful due to work day. Flexibility of scheduling

definitely something that might be looked at AS WELL as looking at email/phone interviews. The day after the PAC meeting, the subject of the interview scheduling was to be brought to the teacher discussions.

g. Christmas Concert: Request to add the DONATIONS to Food Bank as an opportunity at the Christmas Concert.

h. Grad Photos: Date changed from Newsletter: Now will be in first or second week of January.

i. Yearbooks: Last year's yearbooks are on sale for \$30. This year's year books are \$45 and can be ordered through the office. Newsletter also has order form.

http://www.highlandsecondary.ca/sites/default/files/Highland_Yearbook_Flyer.pdf

6. School Trustee Representative – Janice Caton

a. 3 new School Trustees this municipal election and 4 returning.

b. Budget: Dates will be released soon for consultation.

c. Calendar: School Calendar dates will be up for review soon.

d. DPAC: Reminder that DPAC Rep is a voice for the PAC.

e. SD71 Website: Please check frequently as it has important information including: Comments/Emails for Public, Info. on Emergency Preparedness and Snow Days, as well as School Links.

f. Ministry of Education: Upcoming review of Grade 10-12 curriculum . K-9 was done for teachers, by teachers. We are a pilot in the district. Subject material to be scrutinized might be courses/content/assessment, i.e. reviewing changing to a global assessment... as in, how do you grade creative thought and problem-solving.

g. Other subjects for review will be Accountability Contract, Reports (content and purpose), School Planning Councils (are they doing what they were originally intended to do, does this have to changed, do we need them?), and Finance Reporting.

h. Janice commented on the overriding call from trustees across the province and 60 Boards to have Education funding increased. She believes that NOW is the time for more community engagement and community pressure on Province. I.E. via letter writing (she will be meeting with ?Ministry on Friday and would be happy to take any letters with her); Spring there should be a "Public Forum" speak out; Letter writing to Mr. Fassbender via local representatives or direct; Media involvement.

i. Question was raised about support from Trustees that is not 'seen' in the local newspapers: Janice commented that it is up to the discretion of the media to present what they do...and that, personally, she had submitted many comments and letters which had never reached the people's viewing.

ii. Question: Is this a higher than normal Trustee turnover... Janice commented that average is 35-40 % provincially...over time.. so that our representative changes are not above or below averages.

iii. Parents would like School Trustee to: encourage School Board engagement as Active and visible advocates for our community.

i. At next meeting, there may be new Trustee Rep. but the assignments of schools will be upcoming shortly. Just because someone is the Trustee in this area, does not mean that they will necessarily be our Rep.

j. Consideration: Andrew Black inquired whether the School Board has considered a Parallel Needs Budget. Janice Caton replied that that would require a majority to do this but could be something to discuss at Board level.

k. Question re: Reality of School Budget given Collective Bargaining Costs: Janice commented 'probably January budget' will be reflective of reality.

l. Positives for School District: Awards to District for Innovative School/District, i.e. Global Award to Navigate (ENTER) program of which Highland is a part.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

AGM Election Conducted by Janice Caton, School Trustee, SD71.

Chair – Tonia Frawley by Acclamation

Vice-Chair – Helen Koziol by Acclamation

Treasurer – Andrew Gray by Acclamation

Secretary – Blythe Reimer by Acclamation

DPAC – Tonia Frawley and Heidi Tobiassen as Co-Representatives by Acclamation.

**Consensus to adopt Co-Representatives.

Motioned by Tracy Richards that Treasurer, Andrew Gray, make arrangements with the Royal Bank to change the signing authorities on both accounts from: Kathy Dyck, Tonia Frawley, and Blythe Reimer TO: Andrew Gray, Tonia Frawley, and Blythe Reimer.

Seconded by Kathy Dyck. CARRIED

Next Meeting: Monday, December 15, 2014.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.