

Highland PAC Meeting

October 20th, 2014

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

In Attendance:

Blythe Reimer	Tonia Frawley	Andrew Black	Lyneita Swanson
Lihong Yang	Kelly Lucas	Janie Roelants	Peter (Glena?)
Kevin Howe	Sandy Moir	Pauline Rae	Tracy Richards
Heidi Tobiassen	Andrew Gray	Lorraine Theron	Frank Wernicke
Marilyn Nettleton	Lee McKillican	Nicole Crouch	Helen Koziol
Andrew Waddell	Vicki Waddell	Lisa Edwards	Ana Fleck
Carmen Everest Wahl			

Presentations: none - invitation made to any interested groups to make presentations as well as encourage parents to attend these informative evenings.

Approval of (March) Minutes and Agenda:

Motion for minutes - Heidi Tobiassen, Helen Koziol 2nd - CARRIED

Motion for agenda - Janie Roelants, 2nd Lisa Edwards - CARRIED

Reports:

1. Chair - challenging finish to school year - have tried to overcome obstacles working on the budget and adjusting where we could
2. Treasurer - mostly a discussion of Highland's budget (40% athletics/40% "other"/20% music program) We were short approximately \$2000 for students in operating budget due to declining enrollment. - more to report in November
3. DPAC - busy doing workshops, seminars, talks - emails go out to parents. ie. last week there was a PLC information session, then on Oct 27th will be the first meeting, Nov 3 will be a treasurer's workshop. More to come from DPAC.
4. Trustee - Peter Coleman here for Janice Caton. Finance committee meeting was this afternoon - preliminary enrollment data (budget driven by enrollment) - enrollment is declining steadily but it's gradual (stable) so budget will decline slowly. District is having to refund between \$2 and 3 million due to not spending on salaries as of this year but won't know exact amount for a while. Approval not yet reached for Vanier's seismic upgrade budget.
- several questions raised about what the trustees are doing about the lack of teachers for certain classes and the fact that some students in grade 12 are having trouble getting the classes they need to graduate or earn credits toward post-secondary. In particular, why, if there are enough students in ILC to run a course, they are being sent to NIDES and not given a teacher and a classroom. Response from the trustee is that the district has been working on a solution to this problem and will be encouraged to put pressure on the current government for answers.

5. Teacher Rep - ultimately the resources have declined so much that teaching has become tremendously challenging. In order to meet budget, there was a reduction of 7 teachers across the district at the secondary school level. Teachers are glad to be back but feel they didn't accomplish a solution to achieve better working conditions. Hopeful about the court decision on class size and composition.
 - PLC is still an issue with teachers. Wednesday classes are always shorter and this often leads to lost hours for the same classes.
 - there is concern that our special/high needs students are suffering educationally as there is not enough staff to support them. Mental health and behavioral issue students have doubled this year and we are stretching staff (EAs) who support them. For example, Educational Aide time is being taken by the district for lunchtime supervision. There used to be a paid position of lunch supervisor, but now EAs are covering lunch and taking lunch when students are in class so that valuable class time assistance is being taken away from students.

6. Administrators - Newsletter for October presented. - 135 grade 12s this year. Down from last year. - grad progressing - athletics are started. Senior athletic levels are struggling but juniors are coming up strong. - there will be a meeting about the Musical on Wednesday. Newsletter will be posted on website as will be the announcements.

Many questions were asked: What is the school doing about the Grade 12s getting the classes they need - perhaps something can be done about another Math 12 class; What is being done to dissuade students from drug use? - there are policies, programmes and education in place at the school which are actively implemented; Do foreign students get preference for class placement? - no, they are placed as are domestic students.

Old Business:

1. Earthquake kit has been renewed. Inventory still to be finalized. Heidi Tobiassen to facilitate. Still need to raise \$2500 for extras.

New Business:

1. Annual budget - draft budget presented. Motion to accept - Tracy Richards, 2nd Heidi Tobiassen - CARRIED (Thank you to Tonia, Kathy and Lyneita for working on budget)
1. Nominations for new executive will be at next meeting which is the AGM. This will be posted on the school website and nominations are now open.

Next Meeting (AGM) Monday, November 17th