

## **Highland PAC Meeting** **September 21, 2020 Minutes**

**Meeting commenced:** 7:03 PM (via Zoom)

**In Attendance:** Dean Patterson, Don McRae, Brian McAskill, Adam & Emma Thompson, Tracy Malyon, Spring Halasz, Gwynn Whyte, Vivian Vaillant, Emery Nobert, Mike Knowles, Rhael Hodgins, Bruce Gundling, Pauline Rae

### **Introductions**

**Approval of previous minutes:** Motion proposed by Tracy, seconded by Emma. All in favour.

**Approval of agenda:** Motion proposed by Adam, seconded by Emma. All in favour.

**Correspondence:** None

**Old business:** Dean & Adam to have a discussion on what to do with leftover Grad funds from last year.

**New business:** Add discussion of gaming grants to agenda for next time.

**Chair:** None

**Treasurer:** General account: \$2457.76, Gaming account: \$5690.03. Tracy reported that she completed the year-end reports for our accounts & sent them off.

### **DPAC:**

Spring gave a report from the last Zoom meeting held on June 1 & she will attend the next meeting on Oct. 5.

**Trustee:** None

## **Principal:**

### **Back to school procedures:**

- The Ministry of Education made an announcement in late July regarding back to school procedures. The definition of stages & some of the language was changed, with new terms being introduced such as cohort & learning groups
- Safety protocols changed & had to be revamped as needed
- School was back in session earlier than expected
- Highland was fortunate in making necessary changes, due to its smaller numbers
- Grade 8 was split into 2 groups - band & non-band students
- Some kids don't have access to all electives, or weren't able to access the electives they wanted

### **Moving to a quarter system:**

- One challenge was minimizing kids from mingling etc., which led to the decision of having a quarter system
- Classes are longer, especially for Gr. 12's who have 2 & ½ hour classes
- There are health & safety advantages to having this system, such as students being done some of their classes in November already
- AG is on hiatus for now
- Parents have to call & make an appointment if they want to come into the school
- Kids are wearing masks in high traffic areas & doing quite well at adhering to this
- Cloth masks are on order & each student will be given a mask. There are always extras in the office as well.
- Vulnerable learners have flex block learning support, as well as Homework Club on Wed & Thurs after school
- Not running any extra-curricular activities right now, such as sports teams
- Some clubs are getting started up again while carefully following safety protocols

### **Enrollment/New Staff**

- There are 145 Grade 8's new to the school this year
- Families have moved & there are 30 new kids to the valley
- Lots on international students ready to come from other countries when restrictions are lifted
- Hired 3 new staff members: Sarah Erickson, Ross McKinnon, Whitney Murphy

**Upcoming Events:**

- Terry Fox Run is Oct. 1, which will be done in learning groups with safe & limited interactions. The class that collects most donations will get to pelt senior staff with water balloons
- Vivian shared that the application deadline is Oct. 5 for the Loran Award, which is a scholarship through the Boys & Girls Club
- An NIC Counsellor will be coming on Oct. 7 to give Gr. 11 & 12 students insights into what their options are
- Picture Day is Nov. 6
- The Indigo grant is still to come
- Vivian shared an opportunity for students to get involved in a Zoom call to talk about how COVID has impacted them, where 30 people under 30 years of age are needed for this project. Those interested can e-mail Vivian for more info.

**Next Meeting:** October 19, 2020

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:20 PM