



**Highland PAC Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Melissa Preston (Vice Chair), Jennifer Vaino (Chair), Brooke Finlayson (DPAC rep), Megan Cowling (DPAC rep), Laura Roberts (Principal), Spring Halasz (Treasurer), Dana S (grant writer), Robbie Nall (Comox Parks Department), Erin Petersen, Kristen Sanderson, Carrie Reis, Corina Schnitzer, Faustine LeBourdais, Brenda Cairncross, Muriel Marc, Kelly Sousa, Sara Dobsen, Carly Wintschel, Kandie Eschbaumer, Kristi Robins, Gwen Elder

**Online attendance:**

**Regrets sent for:** Susan Leslie (Trustee)

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm**

**Acknowledgement:** We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Guest Presentation –**

**Robbie(Town of Comox Parks Dept) Dana (grant consultant)**

a proposal was put forward in support of the Town of Comox's pump track. A non-profit organization that receives gaming grants is needed for the BC Gaming Capital grant application. There is \$5 million available. The deadline is Oct 15/25. The money would be matched with the town. The town would be the manager in this project, procure contracts, cover the liability & insurance etc. Dana would write the grant & do the reporting. If the grant is approved, the project would have to start within 12 months and be completed in 36 months. They are suggesting a movable/modular option; summer at Village Park & winters at Highland II Park. In 2021 a survey was completed and an accessible pump track/skate park was suggested. In 2023 a study was completed with Anderton Park, the estimate at the time was \$60000 for the asphalt. And for Village Park, the estimate was \$888000 due to the complexity of the fields, it is geothermal. The town's park budget is \$140000. They came to the meeting to gauge interest, which was mild to moderate. More answers are needed.

**Carly Swain (Music Department)**

Planned fundraising, Chocolates, coffee, 50/50 & bake sale  
There are 3 big trips planned; 47 (Grade 8s) to Victoria \$12000, roughly \$265/student, 54 (Juniors) to Richmond/Delta \$25000, roughly \$500/student, 28 (seniors) to Calgary, \$27000, roughly \$975/student

Other trips are Comox Valley Music Festival @ Sid Williams, performing at the church across from Arden School, carolling at the Oceanfront Village, Elementary school tour  
December 11<sup>th</sup> is the Winter Concert date.

Carly is looking for volunteers; people to drive, help plan fundraisers, sell 50/50 tickets, help distribute products from fundraising drives, you don't need to be a band parent to help out. You can email [carly.swain@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:carly.swain@sd71.bc.ca) for more information.

**Vice Principals – Dave Miller(Gold House) & Wayne Kuhnert (Blue House)**

Dave oversees Grad, Careers and Health & Safety

Wayne oversees Scheduling & Timetables

They compete at spirit assemblies, planning an Ice Bucket Challenge during Terry Fox Run

Question: Are there house sports? Sort of through Leadership, Sports Leadership & Intramurals

**Approval of previous minutes (May 2025)** – Motioned by Brooke Finlayson; seconded by Melissa Preston. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Approval of agenda** – Carly Swain from the Music Department has been added to the Agenda. Motioned by Melissa Preston; seconded by Brooke Finlayson. All in favour. Motion carried.

**Correspondence** – none

**REPORTS:**

**Trustee Report (Susan Leslie)**

- No report  
[Click here for the August Board newsletter](#)

**Chair Report** – none

**Treasurer Report (Spring)**

- As of September 1st, 2025:  
Non-Gaming Account

		Previous Balance (June 1st)	\$743.28
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Payment to Sign Gypsies		\$108.00
		Balance on Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$635.28
Gaming Account			
		Previous Balance on June 1st	\$16661.74
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Interest		\$0.01

June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Italy 50/50 Lottery License reimbursement to Spring	\$25.00
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Outdoor Adventure 50/50 Lottery License reimbursement to Spring	\$25.00
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Adventure 50/50 Rafflebox fee	\$65.86
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Adventure 50/50 school portion	\$324.68
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Gaming funds to school Part 1	\$3000
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Gaming funds to school Part 2	\$3000
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Gaming funds to school Part 3	\$3000
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gaming funds to school Part 4	\$4509.47
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Interest	\$0.01
	Balance on Sept 1st	\$2711.75

- looking for a better option for a bank???

### **DPAC Report**

- Newly created handouts for all. What is PAC? What to do with a PAC? And other important questions, check out these [handouts](#)
- \*\*New – Included in the June 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes are Draft flowcharts for Anti-Racism Interventions & Student Safety Issues
- Full DPAC minutes for the last meeting held on June 2nd can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/moq1gmtmz3l5f3tiku1eu/MINUTES-2025-06-02-SD71-DPAC.pdf?rlkey=fgey3vodqxpia0z9zytggyyc4h&e=1&st=ife82k3u&dl=0>
- September 25<sup>th</sup> – Understanding IEPs at the board office
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Orange Shirt Day

The first DPAC meeting of the 25/26 school year will be October 6th.

### **Principal's Report (Laura)**

- 698 students plus 65 International students
- projections are similar for the next few years
- had a great start up to the school year

- bell schedule has been changed, AG (Advisory Group) has been removed to give less transitions in a day. If necessary for assemblies or special occasions HR (Home room) will be scheduled and advertised on the announcements and the newsletter. Announcements are currently read at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> period
- School announcements are posted every day, except Friday to the website, they can be found [here](#)
- Another great resource is the weekly newsletter
- There are 20 students involved in the Thailand exchange.
- Online registration update website Clvr has been down, but is running again. If forms have not been updated at the end of the month paper forms will be sent out
- Circle of Courage by Dr. Brokenleg is being utilized. It focuses on 4 parts of development; independence, belonging, mastery & generosity.

### **Questions asked:**

1. Is the shorter lunch affecting clubs? At the moment, no.

Pizza is being sold as fundraisers during most lunch periods.

2. What is the school personal device policy? Is it uniform across the district? How about accessing Kahoot? Listening to music? Is there an assumption of all students having one? The school is trying to teach positive use and balance with social connections online. The school's policy can be found [here](#) on page 10 & 11. If you have any issues please talk to your child's teacher first, then if you still have concerns speak with your child's house Vice Principal and then finally the Principal.

A parent mentioned this website [Unplugged Canada](#)

3. How do electives work for Grade 8 & 9's? Each student gets to try all the electives for a short period of time. To learn more about each Grade level and the courses required or elective, [click here](#)

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business - None**

**Next Meeting** – October 20, 2024

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm