

## Ecole Secondaire Highwood High School

### School Council Minutes

March 18, 2024

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#### Attendees:

Martha Klassen, Anne Gray, Lindsay Anderson, Carolyn Lenstra, Dave Roberts, Phil Irwin, Ian Whitworth, Tanya Franklin

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Land Acknowledgements – Tanya Franklin
  - Lindsay will send an updated copy of the Land Acknowledgements we should be using to Martha, who will forward them to Tanya
- 3) Approval of minutes from last meeting – Motion by Anne Gray, Second by Ian Whitworth
- 4) Approve the agenda – Motion by Ian Whitworth, Second by Anne Gray
- 5) Reports:
  - Trustee – Phil Irwin
    - [Feb.-Mar. 2024 Trustee Report - Ward 5-1.pdf](#)
    - There has been some recent frustration regarding misinformation being shared by our MLA regarding “increased budgets” without context or mention of corresponding increased operating costs, enrollments, bussing requirements, etc.
  - Administration Principal - Dave Roberts
    - Had a school enrollment preliminary staffing review. The current enrollment is ~575 which is expected to grow over the next few years. There are only 29 staff members, which is less than previous years, even though our enrollment numbers are the largest Dave has seen since he has been at the school. The preliminary projected staffing number is 28 which could mean larger class sizes and less options offered
    - Course registrations for grade 10-11 students are going on this week and then grade 9s will be registered the week after spring break. Hopefully in April they will start reaching out to feeder school with options
    - The Band program is thriving and is larger than it has ever been
    - Parent teacher interviews coming next month. Signup options should be issued on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Both evenings will be in-person interviews this time based on feedback received
    - Dave is off to France next Wednesday on a school trip and will be gone for most of spring break. He comes back on April 6<sup>th</sup>
    - Rugby has started. Dave is coaching the boys and girls teams. Games will be starting when they are back in April
  - Administration Vice Principal - Carolyn Lenstra
    - Badminton is ongoing right now. The teams have been made and championships are upcoming
    - The Learning Commons has moved to make room for the band program to take over its previous location. So far the feedback has been great and people are finding that the sound is better
    - Carolyn will be assisting David Campbell on April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> with a Diversity and Hate Crimes workshops (inclusion, diversity, awareness, etc.)

- The Professional Development Day on March 15<sup>th</sup> was very productive. Plans were made for the April Mental Health Summit where the main focus will be on trauma informed culture, enforcing good connection and learning
- We currently have 6 student teachers - 2 Social Studies, 3 ELA, and 1 Drama
- Carolyn will be presenting Restorative Practices in the Classroom to the rest of the school division
- Phil was present for the student matters trustee visit where they did a fantastic job of summarizing peer tutoring program, which has officially been kicked off
  - They are providing lots of support for grade 9 Math and Science students
  - The Teacher facilitates what that looks like in the classroom, giving peer tutors some leadership to assist them in building and adding supports in the classroom
  - We are hoping peer support becomes part of the long-term culture here at Highwood
  - This program will be presented in the Student Matters Seminar in May which will be a good place to bounce ideas off each other
- There will be a Holocaust studies field trip on Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- There is also an upcoming French for the Future field trip
- DELF exams will start on April 15<sup>th</sup> and will be happening throughout the week
- Student council spirit week will start on March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Had a nice St. Patrick's Day celebration last week. Lucky Charms cereal was served



#### 6) Additions to Agenda

- The Casino Night Fundraiser raised \$60,585.28
- Funding Requests
  - Central Europe 2025 – Lindsay Anderson

Fundraising efforts will be made to offset costs for students. One fundraising idea that has been successful in previous years is to hold a raffle. Last year they raffled off a bicycle, beef, giftbags, etc. They would like to use the school's AGLC Number for the raffle this spring if possible, but would be willing to wait until the fall to use it if the grad class needs it in the spring. Motion by Tanya Franklin, second by Anne Gray. Vote passed 😊

Fred Coffin travel fund for the Central Europe trip will be used to help students who might not otherwise be able to participate in the trip because of money restraints. Lindsay has one eligible student in mind, but there may be others too

- Highwood Indigenous Cultures Appreciation Day (HICAD) on May 10<sup>th</sup> – Lindsay Anderson

Where students can sign-up for onsite and offsite activities. There will be (6) different offsite activities which will be open to the grade 11 & 12 students first. Grade 10 students may also have access to participate in offsite activities, depending on the engagement of the grade 11 & 12 students. Grade 9 students will have access to participate in the various onsite activities. They will be asking for parent

volunteers for May 10<sup>th</sup>. Any volunteers will be required to have a criminal record check as the opportunity involves contact with students

The full cost of the event is expected to be around \$5,205. They have received \$1,500 in Grant funding from Charity, but that still leaves an anticipated event cost of \$4,705. They are asking for a donation to enable additional soapstone carving and dreamcatcher sessions and offset cost of bussing for off-site activities. They will be going to Old Sun College (residential school survivor), Blackfoot Crossing, Tsuut'ina Nation Culture/Museum, a hike in Kananaskis, to Okotoks to learn about Dunbow school.

Motion raised to donate \$1,500/y to this activity for the next (4) years – Motion by Tanya Franklin, Second by Ian Whitworth. Vote passed 😊

Funds may also be supplemented through school fees collected in future years (TBC)

They need the money on or before May 10<sup>th</sup>. Ian will write Roz a cheque after he gets signing authority

○ Yamaha Baby Piano – Jace Stearn

The school has the opportunity to purchase a Yamaha baby grand piano from Foothills Composite. The request is for \$5,000 to aid in procuring a suitable replacement upright piano to trade for the baby grand piano to be used by the Highwood band program. This piano would be a great asset to the band program. Taking advantage of this opportunity would allow us to save approximately half the typical price. – Motion by Anne Gray, Second by Tanya Franklin. Vote passed 😊

○ Funding for New Bleachers – Laura Myers

Due to diligent efforts of the Graduation Coordinator, previous graduating classes, school contributions, and community donations, the Grad Class of 2024 has raised almost all the money required to purchase (3) bleachers to be used for this year's grad events and for years to come. They have raised approximately \$22,000 towards their goal and only require a balance of \$500 to purchase the 3<sup>rd</sup> bleacher. Motion to donate \$500 to complete the purchase of new bleachers – Motion by Ian Whitworth, Second by Tanya Franklin. Vote passed 😊

7) Bylaw Review and Vote (again)

- The Bylaw updates we submitted after our last meeting were not accepted. Motion to pass the bylaws in their original form – Motion by Ian Whitworth, Second by Tanya Franklin

8) Next Meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup>

9) Adjournment – 7:54PM