

# New Horizons School Council

## Meeting Minutes

---

March 1, 2023

Meeting Called to Order: 7:04PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32PM

Hybrid In-Person (New Horizons School) / Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Elizabeth Macve, Sarah-Jane Lovgren, Anita Sanderson, Rebecca Koziak, Ellen Hanna, Chelsee Ladouceur, Erin Thomas, Lori Vigfusson, Jamie Lambert-Brown, Rhiannon Adams, Andrea Emberley, Shannon Kurie, Sarah MacDonald, Carol Slukynski, Stacey Stang-Sass, Hayley Tarnasky

---

### 1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:04PM.

Elizabeth Macve as Meeting Chair.

### 2. Statement of Territorial Acknowledgement

The School Council of the New Horizons Charter School respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we meet is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional home, gathering place, and a travelling route for diverse Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota, Sioux, as well as the homeland of the Metis Nation. We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples of this land.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

**MOTION: Sarah-Jane Lovgren moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

### 4. Approval of Minutes

February 1, 2023

**MOTION: Chelsee Ladouceur moved to adopt the Minutes as presented. Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

### 5. Reports

#### 5.1 Chair/Vice-Chair Report

The Public Advocacy Group — a subset of the Board — met. Both the SC Chair and Vice Chair attended the meeting. As we enter election season, the Board would like to present families with non-partisan information to aide families in opportunities to engage in meaningful conversations with candidates and eventual Office, about Charter Schools, choice, and representation.

The Board has continued interest in developing a High School and engaging with other Charter schools to create a Charter School HUB model High School. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS) has determined it would be more beneficial to amalgamate and share a single space. There would be many opportunities to collaborate with others in the hub — one benefit would be access to spaces that wouldn't be typically required of our school i.e. Suzuki Charter School would require concert space.

*Ms. Vigfusson shared that a High School has been approved; however, finding a space that can be best utilized may take time. Some Charter School Superintendents met to discuss the hub model which would offer robust programming. It isn't sustainable for each Charter School to have their own high school, due to low enrolment. Within the hub model, teachers from each Charter School would teach within their own programs; however, could potentially be shared for options and additional programming. Ms. Vigfusson visited Aurora Charter School who is opposed to the hub space. Instead, they have opened their High School program with about 100 students in a rented space at NAIT.*

Engagement and effective communication are equally necessary internally and externally. Attendance and engagement from the Board at School Council meetings has been once again requested.

## **5.2 Principal's Report**

Intake day is Friday, March 3, 2023. NHS received more applications than most recent years — about 70 Kindergarten and 50 applications for Grades 1-9 for in-house testing.

Report cards will be sent out in the coming weeks. Student-led conferences will take place on March 21 & 22 which will give students an opportunity to show their families what's happening in the classrooms and throughout the school. NHS is working towards more effective communication so families are more aware of what's happening within the NHS community. Book Fair will also be returning at this time and will be taking up half of the gym since the Learning Commons is presently a classroom.

Ms. Watson is completing a handbook for volunteers and will offer orientation sessions to provide volunteers with more information on confidentiality, how to work with children in crisis, and to offer support for volunteers in various roles. Orientation sessions will be about 30 minutes and will be offered in the afternoon or evening, in person or virtually. Details to come.

Jr. High students are no longer completing independent studies in the same way as previous years. Instead, the entire school is working on specific types of learning.

- Div. 1: Wonder Learning
  - Inquiry based, ask questions on a regular basis.
- Div. 2: Discovery Learning
  - Pick a topic to complete a robust project.
- Div. 3: Investigations
  - Select something to learn and then teach this skill to others.

Grades 4-6 are booked for a ski trip at Sunridge Ski Area. Skiing will take place right before Spring Break. If scheduling allows, we will consider skiing for Grades 7-9 as well.

Grades 1 & 2 will have the opportunity to take swimming lessons from April 24 - June 19. It will be \$60/child for 8 lessons. Booking this year holds a spot for next year where we will potentially be able to extend lessons to additional grades.

The Makerspace is on track. Equipment, including tech and gadgets have been ordered including MACs and sewing machines. There will be plenty of bins that need to be filled, so a request for donations will be made for specific items i.e. LEGO bricks. We are currently looking at additional programming opportunities for weekly use of this space. As we collect items, we will utilize them in other areas until the space is complete. Some Grade 5 students have started a Coding Club for students in Grades 3 & 4. Other lunch clubs inspired by the Makerspace are LEGO Club and LEGO Robotics — the potential for club opportunities with this space and items from this space are robust.

The Outdoor Classroom equipment, including sensory tables, has been ordered and quotes from landscapers have been obtained. This space will open in the Fall and will be all season friendly.

February was kindness and Black History Month. Throughout the halls, we showcased famous Black Canadian figures and our “Buddies” did a variety of kindness activities including the “kindness quilt” which is on display in front of the office.

The deadline for the Alberta Assurance Measures Survey has been extended to March 17. This has been sent to students, teachers, and families of children in Grades 4-9.

### **5.3 Financial Officer’s Report**

With special thanks to FANHS Treasurer, it has been confirmed that AGLC Casino Funds can be used to support this year’s Artist in Residence Program with Rhythm Rhythm Rhythm; therefore, freeing up \$4,100.

A reversal of disbursement is proposed with \$4,050 reallocated to School Support — Academic Support and \$50 reallocated to Community Building/ Parent Support — Subcategory Guest Speakers.

**MOTION: Sarah-Jane Lovgren moved to accept the reversal of disbursement as presented.  
Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

#### **5.4 FANHS Report**

Current fundraisers are closing. As mentioned in the Financial Officer's Report, we're grateful that AGLC Casino Funds could be used to support this year's Artist in Residence Program.

#### **5.5 Communication Officer's Report**

The "What's Happening" graphic that is being shared at the beginning of each week speaks greatly to the bigger picture of how families want to access information and what they'd like to know. SC would like to request participation from families in an online survey where we can collect data on how families would like to receive communications and the type of communication they'd like to see. Thank you to Administration for supporting SC & FANHS in direct e-mail communication which may be a preferred method of communication for some families.

The SC meetings are an opportunity for families to hear the Principal's Report first-hand. Communications would like to promote the benefit of attending a SC meeting for an opportunity to engage. In our commitment to effective communication, SC is in favour of posting the Principal's Report on the SC website — in addition to its placement in the Agenda Package — as well as share highlights on social media.

### **6. Motion to Accept Reports**

**MOTION: Chelsee Ladouceur moved to accept reports as presented.  
Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.**

### **7. New Business**

#### **7.1 Artist in Residence**

##### **7.1 (A) 2023/2024 Artist in Residence Programming**

An exact cost is required from Ms. Araujo who has offered to be the staff liaison for programming with Kit Dohaylo for the 2023/2024 school year. It is the understanding of SC that the cost is low; therefore, it may be favourable for SC to pay these fees and utilize the pro-bono grant writing opportunity from KJ Street Consulting for a grant more lucrative.

#### **7.2 Parent Perspectives**

##### **7.2 (A) Traffic Management**

Slow moving traffic continues to be an issue during drop off — some families have reported sitting in the loop for nearly 20 minutes from loop entry to child's

exit at the school's doors. Unfortunately, it is not a viable option with the County to make Hawkins Crescent a one way route — permanently or during specific hours. Usually by this time of year, Administration has met with the Traffic Safety Partnership at least 3 times; however, this has only occurred once this year. Ms. Vigfusson will reach out the the Chair and Bylaw to request a meeting.

### **7.2 (B) 2023/2024 School Calendar**

After a disappointing outcome at February's Board Meeting where SC's proposal was not put to motion for discussion, representatives from SC and FANHS asked the Board to acknowledge why SC's considerations were neglected for consideration. It is therefore disappointing that the calendar that was approved at the Board Meeting on February 15, 2023 was released to families on February 21, 2023 followed by a revision on February 24, 2023 that was in-line with SC's initial proposal; however, no acknowledgment was made. As per School Council's Recommendations for Proposed 2023/24 School Calendar sent to Superintendent Lindquist as was included in the Board Package for February 15, 2023, SC explicitly stated "School Council proposes eliminating the PD Day on November 13, 2023 and moving it to Friday, October 6, 2023 for IPP Writing Day — this PD Day is in line with the EIPS Division Calendar 2023-24 and is consistent with the school's usual IPP Writing Day."

### **7.2 (C) IPP Development Process/Timeline**

Alberta Education requires IPPs to be submitted by the end of October. With Friday, October 6, 2023 scheduled for IPP Writing Day, NHS has the opportunity to maintain consistency from year to year and be in-line with timelines presented by other school Boards. Some families would prefer if timelines were more effectively communicated and if IPPS were more accessible.

### **7.2 (D) Extracurriculars**

A parent presented questions regarding additional extracurricular activities to support general health and wellness and physical activities including lunch hour athletic opportunities such as intramurals, running club, soccer teams, or ping pong club — all of which are low financial investments.

*Ms. Vigfusson shared that École Claudette-Et-Denis-Tardif uses the NHS gym during our lunch hour; therefore, clubs cannot run in this space at this time.*

### **7.3 Alberta School Council AGM and Conference**

In the event that no SC Executive can attend the AGM, a suitable proxy would be Calgary Foundation. Although any parent can attend the ASCA Conference and AGM, a voting delegate to vote on Advocacy Resolutions must be a SC Executive. Neither the SC Chair or Vice Chair can attend the ASCA Conference from April 21-23, 2023; therefore, it has been presented to the rest of SC for consideration.

#### **7.4 Staff Funding Requests**

Rebecca Koziak met with Ms. Fairfull to discuss the Jr. High dance. There are 125 students in Jr. High. Grade 9 students will attend the dance at no cost and will be allowed to bring 1 guest from outside of the school – their guest must purchase a ticket and a waiver form will be required. Students in Grades 7 & 8 will be charged \$5 per person.

A request of up to \$750 has been made to support the dance, including DJ and photo booth, potential rentals and décor etc. Funds required will be disbursed as follows: \$620 from Jr. High Events + \$130 from School Support – Academic Support.

**MOTION: Sarah-Jane Lovgren moved to accept the request as presented. Seconded by Rebecca Koziak. Motion Carried.**

#### **7.5 Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach**

##### **7.5 (A) Spring Carnival**

NHS holds the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant amount of \$500 for SC. SC would like to allocate these funds towards the Spring Carnival.

**MOTION: Sarah-Jane Lovgren moved to accept the request as presented. Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

Spring Carnival event will take place on May 27, 2023 from 2:00PM - 5:00PM. Last year's food truck vendor (Starvin Marvin's) is unavailable for this date. Finding a food truck vendor with no minimum revenue requirement is favourable – whether this means agreeing to exclusivity.

The cost to attend the Spring Carnival will be \$20/family OR a 45 minute volunteer shift. If an adult family member commits to a volunteer shift, the entrance fee will be waived for their family.

**MOTION: Rebecca Koziak moved to accept the fee or volunteer requirement as presented. Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

##### **7.5 (B) National Indigenous Day – June 21, 2023**

Ms. Vigfusson expressed interest in budgeting for the whole school population to participate in activities for National Indigenous Day. SC funds will not be required – NHS budget is available.

#### **7.6 Emergent Business**

##### **7.6 (A) Field Trips**

A parent presented questions regarding field trip opportunities. This parent

shared that one of their children has had multiple field trips while their other child has had none; therefore, leading to the question: moving forward, would it be suitable for Administration to set guidelines for teachers to select a specific number of field trips per term? There are many curricular linked field trip opportunities available through places like the Royal Alberta Museum, Telus World of Science, and Strathcona Wilderness Centre. **Inquiring Minds** offers inquiry based learning opportunities that would align with NHS and offer an immersive experience. “The Inquiring Minds partnership offers teachers an opportunity to move their classroom to a community site for a week of hands on, multi-sensory learning. Student learning is enhanced by meeting curriculum expectations through meaningful connections to the real world.” Applications are required for each class applying. **Opportunities include:** Active Living School, Aviation School, City Hall School, Edmonton Oilers Ice School, and Zoo School to name a few. These week long immersive experiences would provide students with opportunities to complete inquiry based learning in environments where they can journal daily and interview people in various fields.

*Ms. Vigfusson shared that the school fees that families paid at the beginning of the year included most of the field trips that teachers would have planned for the school year; therefore, if a family has paid field trip fees and their child has not been on a field trip yet, this means it is still to come. Teachers planned curriculum based field trips and make their best attempts to spread them throughout the year; however, some are outdoors and are therefore weather dependent. Others are specific to a distinct area of study. Inquiry School would be valuable and will be shared with teachers at the next staff meeting. If field trips work curricularly per term, this will also be considered, but cannot be guaranteed.*

#### **7.6 (B) Student-Led Conferences**

Ms. Watson has reached out to SC for a staff meal request for March 21. Typically, food is ordered for day one with leftovers in mind for day two. Ms. Vigfusson will complete the order with Pasta Pantry and will submit the receipt to SC Financial Officer.

#### **8. Future Business**

- Focus group to discuss NHS website (Admin lead).
- Addition of a ‘student groups’ page on NHS website (Admin lead).

#### **9. Correspondence**

- KJ Street Consulting Grant Listings, Grant ideas from Ms. Kooger. Tabled to April.

#### **10. Future Meeting Dates:**

- April 5, 2023
- May 3, 2023
- June TBD (must include AGM)

**11. Meeting Adjourned: 8:32PM.**