

New Horizons School Council Meeting Agenda

September 6, 2023

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location – New Horizons School or online ([link found on SC site](#))

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- 1. Call to order**
 - 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**
 - 4. Approval of Minutes**

4.1 June 19, 2023
 - 5. Reports**
 - 5.1 Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary
 - 5.2 Principal's report
 - 5.3 Financial Officer's report
 - 5.4 FANHS' report
 - 5.5 Communication Officer's report
 - 5.6 Committee Report-In (Halloween Dance, Spring Carnival, Grant Writing, Book Club)
 - 6. Motion to Accept Reports for September 2023.**
 - 7. New Business**
 - 7.1 2023-24 Funding Allocation
 - Finalize 2023-24 allocation (realign allocation within \$22,500 FANHS approval – 'find' \$2,750 from current presentation.
 - Proceed with annual recurring expenditure approvals, for example:
 - Student incentives
 - Recess equipment (allocation for the entire school)
 - Kindergarden graduation
 - Grade 9 graduation
 - Forgotten lunch supplies
 - 7.2 Staff funding requests (standing item)
 - TBD
 - 7.3 Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach (standing item)
 - Fall Planning (possible topics: Meet the Teacher – Sept 13; Halloween dance – Oct 28; Book Club – Oct 23 at 7pm - Dr. Jody Carrington etc)

- Discussion of Edmonton Oil Kings “Hocky Hooky” field trip opportunity (\$20 per person with option for a \$10 lunch combo) and SC support that might be required (e.g. bussing funds).

7.4 Parent Perspectives (items brought forward by the NHS parent community)

- Chromebooks
- Student return after illness

7.5 Emergent business

8. **Future Business**

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9. **Correspondence**

10. **Future Meeting Dates:**

- Confirm winter meeting dates
- Fall schedule:
 - October 11, 2023
 - November 1, 2023
 - December 6, 2023

11. **Adjournment**

Draft New Horizons School Council Fund Allocation - Detailed

For the 2023/2024 School Year

June 2, 2023

	2023-2024 Allocation of Funds	Total Motioned	Disbursed to date	Funds Motioned but not Disbursed	Potential Projects, Items & Ideas Identified
School Support					
Clubs	\$ 2,000				GSA, Casual Chess Club, REACH - club & event registration, materials
Well Being	1,000				Student Aid Fund, Mental Health Advocay, Dream Catcher (program & bussing)
Events	6,000				Halloween Family Dance, Holiday Concert, Spring Carnival, Kinder Grad, Science Fair
Junior High Events	2,000				Grade 9 Grad/Farewell, Jr. High Fun Day
Staff Support	2,000				Teacher Meals; Interviews, Staff Appreciation Week
Academic Support	7,000				Artist in Residence, Alternate Learning Environments (maker space & outdoor classroom)
Total	20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Classroom Support					
Recess Equipment	1,000				General Fund for the Entire School
Classroom Incentives	3,400				Student Based Funding at Teacher Discretion (Ex. reward items, special field trip, classroom fun activities/materials, student incentives) (\$6 per student allocated plus \$300 each for music and French)
Total	4,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
School Enhancement					
Major Projects	-				Makerspace, outdoor classroom * these are in 2 different categories - can we put them in one?
Total	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Community Building / Parent Support					
Guest Speakers	500				Guest Speakers
Team/Community Building	250				Ex. Movie Night; BBQ; Dance; Family Game Night; Potluck; Paint Night, Peanut Scramble; Giving Back Campaign
Public Relations/Hospitality					School Based Celebrations; Festival of Trees, Science Fair (after hours); Parent Orientation Night
Total	750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
School Council Administration					
General Admin Expenses	100				Office Supplies
Total	100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
GRAND TOTAL: \$ 25,250		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	22500
ASCE Grant \$ 500					Alberta School Council Engagement Grant
		Funds allocated by FANHS			

New Horizons School Council

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2023
Meeting Called to Order: 7:06PM
Meeting Adjourned: 8:29PM
Hybrid In-Person (New Horizons School) / Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Elizabeth Macve, Sarah-Jane Lovgren, Anita Sanderson, Rebecca Koziak, Ellen Hanna, Chelsee Ladouceur, Julie Jackson, Lori Vigfusson, Allison Joly, Tannis Brownrigg, Amanda Bullion, Brianne Davio, Nashila Dharshi, Ritesh Dhotkar, Beverly Doucette, Kristi Gignac, Zul Karmali, Denette Leask, Sarah Litvinchuk, Natasha Mills, Stacey Stang-Sass, Dianne Blanche Villacura, Jose Genson Villanueva

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:06PM.

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: Chelsee Ladouceur moved to adopt the Agenda as presented.
Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

June 19, 2023

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

5. Reports

5.1 Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary Report

School Council operates to provide enrichment opportunities for all students at New Horizons and offers support to the school in collaboration with Administration, and with the support of FANHS. All guardians are members of School Council and are welcome to participate in our meetings — everyone is welcomed equally. We always offer our meetings Hybrid In-Person (New Horizons School) / Virtual, unless we are unable to access the school (i.e. extreme weather) in which case meetings will take place virtually. It is important for School Council to offer the hybrid format in order to be inclusive to all families who wish to participate.

We had the opportunity to present to school staff at this afternoon's staff meeting where we shared our ongoing commitment to streamlined communications from School Council and this year's community engagement activities that — so far — include the Halloween Dance, Spring Carnival, and Book Club. This year, staff funding requests will be directed to Administration where it will be determined if the request better suits the school's budget or if it should be a consideration of School Council to include in our budget from FANHS. The staff representative

at our meetings will share a brief report on behalf of the educators at New Horizons. We're looking forward to working together to serve the New Horizons community this year.

5.2 Principal's Report

See attached.

5.3 Financial Officer's Report

After careful budgeting in the 2022/2023 academic year, School Council returned \$8,358.12 to FANHS. This year's Fund Allocation will be finalized to align with FANHS' approval of \$22,500 this evening, after which, detailed view only sheets will be available online.

5.4 FANHS Report

This year is already off to an exciting start for fundraising with the first cycle of Hot Lunch open, as well as the Fiddle Leaf and Little Caesars campaigns open. We continue to have a number of ongoing fundraisers as well as upcoming fundraisers to be reviewed at our meeting this evening.

5.5 Communication Officer's Report

Administration has been working to revive the school's blog which is found on the school's homepage, as well as posting in greater frequency on the school's Facebook page. We've been working to provide digital content to amplify the school's communications directly from the school, as well as made graphics accessible to staff for their direct communications. We've been collaborating with Administration and — with their permission — School Council supported by FANHS will be launching weekly email communications. We recognize that not all families use the social media platforms that we do, so adding a newsletter will be more inclusive to all families who wish to access our communications and hear directly from the source. We've also developed a number of posters and handouts to share at next week's Meet the Teacher evening and look forward to offering a variety of communication opportunities.

5.6 Committee Reports

5.6 (A) Halloween Dance

Date: October 28, 2023

After the success of last year's event, this year's will be similar in overall format. We've taken into consideration the positives and the feedback (i.e. lighting, noise level, fog machine) and will scale back accordingly. We will move forward with booking the same DJ and Photo Booth since this has become a favourite feature for our students. This event is motioned with FANHS as a fundraiser, so, while this is a community building event, there will be fundraising elements similar to last year: i.e. ticketed entry, silent auction, raffle, concession. We will promote this event as early as next week's Meet the Teacher evening and will work with FANHS' Volunteer Coordinator to enlist additional parent volunteers for pre-event and day of event roles.

By unanimous consent, this event will proceed as proposed.

5.6 (B) Spring Carnival

Date: May 25, 2024

Planning discussions for this event will take place later in the academic year.

5.6 (C) Grant Writing

There are a number of Grants available that may be suitable for our school; however, along with collaboration with Administration and staff, we need a team to research and write these Grants since they are laboursome. As such, this Committee was formed. Those who are interested can sign up now, at the Meet the Teacher evening, or email SC Secretary.

5.6 (D) Book Club

Date: Ongoing

The first official Book Club meeting will take place in a hybrid model on October 23, 2023. The first book will be Dr. Jody Carrington's *Feeling Seen*, and we are excited to announce that Dr. Carrington will be joining us virtually for this event.

6. Motion to Accept Reports

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

7. New Business

7.1 2023/2024 Funding Allocation

In order to realign our Funding Allocation within FANHS' approval of \$22,500, \$2,750 must be removed from June's presentation to suit the 2023/2024 approved budget. As such, the following reductions will be required:

School Support will be reduced by \$2,632

- Events reduced by \$1,000
- Staff Support reduced by \$632
- Academic Support reduced by \$1,000

As per Principal's Report, the student population is 447. As such, classroom incentives can be reduced by \$118 (average \$6/student x 447 = \$2,682 + \$300 each for Music and French).

By unanimous consent, this Funding Allocation plan has been adopted.

7.2 Staff Report

7.2 (A) Funding Requests

As per today's update from School Council at the staff meeting, the new fund request procedures will be adopted; however, from prior conversations, the GSA Club would like to know if they will continue to receive financial support?

By unanimous consent, School Council will continue to support the GSA as we have done in the past. GSA is protected by the Education Act so that students can get the support they need. As such, School Council will continue to fund this support.

7.2 (B) School Update

Students will participate in the Terry Fox Run on September 15. Some of our teachers are aware of Grants that are available and will require support from the Grant Committee to review them. These include gardening opportunities, a music grant, and a grant to support robotics.

Box Cars & One-Eyed Jacks often present at professional development events. It would be appreciated if School Council might consider this as a family community event to provide math and literacy resources for students and families.

Although Saffron Centre presented a family session last year, it may be worth considering additional educational programming from them to support our students in their understanding of boundaries and internet safety.

Staff are currently reviewing options additional activities for physical education. As a part of physical literacy, staff would like to incorporate a school-wide in-school field trip and are presently considering Fitset Ninja, Sledge Hockey, Taekwondo, or Wheelchair Basketball. *This report led to meeting attendees suggesting Bollywood Dance or self defence as other options.*

7.3 Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach

7.3 (A) Fall Planning

Meet the Teacher

- School Council will provide a welcome in the gym, along with Administration, the Board, and FANHS.
- School Council will have a welcome booth to answer questions and encourage participation from our parent/guardian community.

Halloween Dance

- Additional plans and updates will be provided in October's Committee report. The Committee is looking forward to enlisting additional support from our parent/guardian community at the Meet the Teacher evening.

Book Club

- Nothing at this time.

7.3 (B) Hockey Hooky with Edmonton Oil Kings

Hockey Hooky is an opportunity for a field trip with Edmonton Oil Kings. It is offered on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 and is a full day activity.

- Tickets are \$20 each.
- Every student receives an educational booklet with additional online educational material.
- Students can take their own lunch or a \$10 lunch combo is available.
- Transportation would be required.

Administration will review interest and logistics of this field trip opportunity i.e. which grade(s), financial and time considerations, if School Council support would be required etc.

7.4 Parent Perspectives

7.4 (A) Chromebooks

A parent had a number of questions surrounding chromebooks as our children enter the digital world at school: How much screen time are children engaging in during the school day? Are the activities completed something where pen and paper are equally suitable or are the chromebooks specifically required for these activities i.e. coding? Are typing skills, ergonomics, and — more importantly — online safety being taught?

It was brought forward that a parent session would be beneficial for all grades (3+) utilizing chromebooks so that these answers can be more effectively communicated to all; however, in the meantime, it was noted that technology is used mindfully and children are taught about respectful and safe use. Ms. Vigfusson noted that this concern is worthy of direct communication from the school — families can anticipate something forthcoming.

7.4 (B) Student Return After Illness

In the interest of time, parent chose to table this to October.

7.4 (C) Emergent: First Aid Course

As per the school's calendar, a free First Aid course — provided by Strathcona County Emergency Services — will be provided to parents/guardians on September 27. This course will not provide certification. Volunteer Orientation will take place at 5:30PM with the First Aid session running from 6:00PM - 8:00PM.

8. Future Business

None.

9. Future Meeting Dates:

- October 11, 2023
- November 1, 2023
- December 6, 2023

By unanimous consent, School Council will maintain that Meetings will take place the first Wednesday of each month i.e. early dismissal days unless otherwise noted from 7:00PM - 8:00PM with the exception of October where the Board will hold their SGM on October 4, 2023, in which case School Council is moved to the following week — October 11, 2023. Meetings will continue to take place in a hybrid format to be inclusive of all who wish to participate.

10. Meeting Adjourned: 8:29PM.



Principal's Report to School Council
September 6, 2023

Lori Vigfusson
Principal
New Horizons School

Welcome Back: I hope everyone had a safe and restful summer break. We are excited to be back and have a good start to the school year!

Outdoor Classroom: The Outdoor Classroom has been installed and it looks great. We are just awaiting some sod to be put down to make it student ready. Thank you to Ms. Stephens for spearheading this project!

Staffing Updates: We have had some staffing shifts since last school year. Ms Dinell has moved from Grade 6 to Grade 4; Ms Sweetman has moved from Grade 4 to Grade 5; Ms Joly has moved from Grade 5 to Grade 6 and we have a Ms. Zalewski taking over a Part-Time Junior High position. This position increased from last year so that we could add a Math 10 class. This will be taught by Mr. Wilde rather than through Distance Learning to accommodate the large number of students that accelerate in math. We also have a new part time Educational Assistant, Chelsy Stewart, who will be helping in grade 6. This is a job share with an EA who has lowered hours this year.

Summer Cleaning and Maintenance:

The school underwent a deep clean over summer including floor waxing. This did result in the removal of our sensory hallway so we have plans to replace it permanently. The gym floor was also stripped and the lines were repainted.

Additional exterior cameras were installed to catch some blind spots near the bus lanes for additional safety.

New grass seed was put down in the back field and was cared for to fill in some bare patches and will hopefully help with the mud situation near the recess doors in the field.

Lunch Supervision and Parent Volunteers:

Any parents wishing to supervise at lunch this year are asked to fill in the Lunch Supervisor Application form on our website under School Information and Documents. This will help us better track our volunteers and will be kept on file for 3 years (or until the date of expiry for the Criminal Record Check-whichever comes first).

All Parents/Caregivers wishing to volunteer do still need to complete the Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check.

School Clubs

We are excited to be offering a number of clubs for students this year in all divisions. We plan to create a student club page so that parents can be aware of these clubs and general timelines of when they will run.

Communication:

Mrs. Watson has taken over the website and Social Media Communication from the school. She will continue to work closely with Ellen to ensure consistent and frequent communication with parents and caregivers. Our Enews will be sent out every other Thursday to all parents via email. This will contain Important Dates, School Council Announcements, Celebrating Student Successes and other NHS happenings. We have decided to minimize the number of graphics and pictures to make it a more readable document where parents can get lots of information in one place without a lot of scrolling.

Student Supports:

We will continue to have mental health support through ECSS. Counselling will continue 2 days a week with Ms. Shaundra rejoining us this year for one of those days and transitioning in a second counsellor later in the year. Teachers will refer students for groups and individual counselling throughout the year as needed.

We will also continue to have our Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist team, Miranda Lane and Erin Germsheid, to provide services to students as needed.

EDI Team:

Dr. Farha Shariff will be working with our school this year to improve Equity, Diversity and in the school. Dr. Shariff comes from the University of Alberta. She is the EDI Adviser to the Dean of Education.
