

New Horizons School Council

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024
Meeting Called to Order: 7:08PM
Meeting Adjourned: 8:06PM
Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Elizabeth Macve, Sarah-Jane Lovgren, Anita Sanderson, Rebecca Koziak, Ellen Hanna, Amanda Bullion, Julie Jackson, Erin Thomas, Lori Vigfusson, Shaun Wilde, Dana Joy, Denette Leask, Leah McCoy, Stacey Stang-Sass, Dianne Blanche Villacura

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:08PM.

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: Julie Jackson moved to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

February 7, 2024

MOTION: Sarah-Jane Lovgren moved to adopt the Minutes as presented.

Seconded by Erin Thomas. Motion Carried.

5. Reports

5.1 Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary Report

Chair: Nothing to report.

Vice-Chair: Nothing to report.

Secretary: The Artist in Residence Program with Cassidie Miller of Studio YEG Art started on February 22, 2024 and will be completed on March 8, 2024 with student's sharing their individual projects in conjunction with the school's Celebration of Learning (March 12 & 13, 2024). The collaborative projects may continue into the coming weeks with an opportunity for students to engage with the art and their families at the Celebration of Learning. This has been an incredibly dynamic experience where students have had the opportunity to explore various mediums for their art projects. Cass has invited students to reach beyond their comfort zones and to delve into their creativity and we've discussed experiences and processes as a part of exploration in art as opposed to the final product being the end goal. Thank you to the staff and students for so openly welcoming this extended residency.

5.2 Principal's Report

See attached.

5.3 Financial Officer's Report

2023/2024 Allocation of Funds: \$29,500.

Funds Motioned: \$8,595.

Funds Disbursed: \$3,404.

Funds Motioned but not yet disbursed: \$5,191.

Remaining Funds: \$20,905

Although many conversations have taken place regarding the selected artist and budget allocation required for the Artist in Residence with Cass Miller of Studio YEG Art ([April 2023](#), [June 2023](#), [October 2023](#), [January 2024](#), and [February 2024](#)), SC neglected to motion a funding allocation at a previous meeting. As such, a motion is required to allocate \$10,500 from School Support — Academic Support for the 2023/2024 Artist in Residence.

**MOTION: Julie Jackson moved to accept the funding allocation as presented.
Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.**

5.4 FANHS Report

Report shared by Rebecca Koziak and Julie Jackson.

[SGM took place on February 22, 2024](#) to report the Annual Financial Review from 2023/2024. Thank you to all who participate in FANHS fundraising initiatives in any way — volunteerism and sales are equally appreciated. Having the opportunity to support unique programming and enhance educational opportunities for NHS students is the purpose of FANHS' fundraising efforts. We look forward to conversations with SC and Administration to develop a cohesive 3 year plan.

Full report to be shared at FANHS meeting directly following.

5.5 Communication Officer's Report

The Communications Team has thoroughly enjoyed transcribing the kindness messages. We'll leave the link open for those who continue to wish to participate and will include this initiative as an annual community engagement event moving forward.

5.6 Committee Reports

(A) Halloween Dance Committee

Date: TBD

(B) Spring Carnival Committee

Date: May 25, 2024

[Volunteer Strathcona](#) has a variety of [Block Party Games](#) available to borrow at no cost. By unanimous consent, this event will proceed with the same caveat as 2023: families who contribute 45 minutes of their time to support volunteer requirements day of will have admissions fee waived; however, those who do not wish to volunteer will be charged \$20/family — messaging: your time is preferred if you're able to share it. Minor discussion involving potential costs associated with bouncers similar to previous year. High interest in bringing back the teacher splash. Some Grade 6 students have showed leadership interest in incorporating a fundraiser in support of Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation — FANHS will provide support for their fundraising efforts. Additional engagement will be sought by the Committee so planning can get underway. The Committee will provide a report at April's meeting to discuss progress.

(C) Grant Committee

The [Canada Post Community Foundation Grant](#) was submitted for two projects: one to support sporting goods and the other for the sensory room — results are not expected until Autumn 2024.

(D) Book Club Committee

Date: Ongoing

Nothing to report.

(E) Parent Link (to be renamed)

As parents who initiated the current parent led text communications, Ellen Hanna, Rebecca Koziak, Denette Leask, and Hayley Tarnasky will meet with Ms. Vigfusson and Ms. Watson in April to develop this initiative within the parameters of the school's requirements (i.e. Code of Conduct). As discussed in [February](#), the goal will be to launch prior to summer (May/June 2024).

(F) Holiday

Nothing to report.

6. Motion to Accept Reports

**MOTION: Julie Jackson moved to accept reports as presented.
Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

7. New Business

7.1 Staff Report

(A) Funding Requests

i. Although the [TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant](#) was submitted to support the new garden, results are not expected until Spring 2024. As such, Ms. MacKinnon and Ms. Stephens have requested \$175 seed money to start Garden Club which will support the entire school through April - June 2024.

\$175 is requested from School Support — Clubs to support Garden Club.

**MOTION: Julie Jackson moved to accept the funding allocation as presented.
Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.**

ii. \$32 is requested from School Support — Clubs to purchase a new game for Games Club.

**MOTION: Julie Jackson moved to accept the funding allocation as presented.
Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren. Motion Carried.**

iii. \$3,000 is requested from School Support — Events to organize the annual Spring Carnival.

**MOTION: Julie Jackson moved to accept the funding allocation as presented.
Seconded by Ellen Hanna. Motion Carried.**

(B) School Update

Nothing to report.

7.2 Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach

(A) Event Planning

- Mother's Day

Red Poppy Art & Consulting has been booked. The Art of Cake is available to provide food similar to last year's event.

(B) Field Trip Opportunities

Nothing to report.

7.3 Parent Perspectives

Nothing to report.

8. Future Business

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Future Meeting Dates

April 3, 2024

May 1, 2024

June 5, 2024

*All meetings are scheduled from 7:00PM and will be held as Hybrid In-Person
(New Horizons School) / Virtual Meetings unless otherwise stated.*

11. Meeting Adjourned: 8:06PM.

Principal's Report to School Council
March 6, 2024

Lori Vigfusson
Principal
New Horizons School

Swimming Lessons: Grade 3-5s are finishing up their swim lessons this week and next. Grades 1s and 2s will begin lessons in April. Forms and information will be sent out soon if it hasn't already.

Surveys: We will be sending out links for parents, students and staff in the next week to complete board surveys. Information collected from these, the Alberta Ed Assurance Surveys and the Stakeholder forum are three ways we gather information as we adapt and adjust our 3 year Education Plan.

Report Cards: Term 2 report cards will be sent home digitally on Friday, March 15th to parents.

Admissions: Admissions have closed and Intake day took place on March 1. We had a large number of applicants and the admissions committee will meet to review applications over the next couple of weeks.

Artist in Residence: We are well underway with students creating artwork with Cass as part of our Artist Residency. Cass is doing a great job engaging our students and they are enjoying the process. Thank-you to Hayley for helping to organize volunteers; thank-you to all parents who have volunteered to help out in classrooms with this and huge thank-you to Rebecca Koziak for her immense contribute and support through the process! Look forward to seeing the creations at the Celebration of Learning taking place next week.

University of Alberta Study: A graduate student from the U of A is completing a study on perfectionism and gifted adolescents. She currently has 5 students who self-identify as perfectionists and will complete interviews in the upcoming weeks.

School Clubs

- Boys and Girls Basketball is wrapping up with final games being played this week and next.
- Lego club for grades 1-3 began this week.
- Intramurals for grades 4 and up are continuing
- Puzzle club for grade 2 continues until Spring Break
- Run club for Grades 4 and up continues until Spring Break.
- Drawing club for grade 3 has begun, organized and run by one of our students.
- Pokémon Club for grades 4-9 continues.
- Reach has their regional tournament this Saturday at Paul Kane School in St.Albert.