

New Horizons School Council

Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 7:07PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12PM

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

Attendees: Sarah-Jane Lovgren, Anita Sanderson, Rebecca Koziak, Ellen Hanna, Amanda Bullion, Julie Jackson, Eeksha Kakkan, Denette Leask, Lori Vigfusson, Jessie Olfert, Rhiannon Adams, Raman Brar, Whitney Exton-Burwash, Shannon Kurie, Chelsee Ladouceur, Leah McCoy, Dana Murenbeeld, Carol Slukynski, Stacey Stang-Sass, Dianne Blanche Villacura

1. Meeting Called to Order: 7:07PM.

Ellen Hanna (Communications Officer) & Rebecca Koziak (Secretary) as Meeting Co-Chairs.

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: Anita Sanderson moved to adopt the Agenda as presented.
Seconded by Chelsee Ladouceur. Motion Carried.**

4. Approval of Minutes

April 3, 2024

**MOTION: Anita Sanderson moved to adopt the Minutes as presented.
Seconded by Ellen Hanna. 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 Mallory Chipman has been secured for 2024/2025 with Mrs. Watson coordinating the schedule to align with music blocks in November 2024.

5.2 Principal's Report

See attached.

5.3 Financial Officer's Report

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

Funds Motioned: \$22,821.

Funds Disbursed: \$8,019.

Funds Motioned but not yet disbursed: \$14,802.

Remaining Funds: \$6,679.

5.4 FANHS Report

Report shared by Rebecca Koziak.

In preparation of the Fund Allocation Plan, FANHS would like to have a collaborative meeting with SC and Administration in order to discuss the 2024/2025 Budget. This will be discussed in greater detail at June's meeting with all present.

Full report to be shared at FANHS meeting directly following.

5.5 Communication Officer's Report

The Communications Team is enjoying the rotation of the "themed" wall. The Pet Wall will stay open through May, until other opportunities are presented.

5.6 Committee Reports

(A) Halloween Dance Committee

Date: TBD

Similar to last year, it would be appropriate to determine a date at June's meeting so any Committee work that needs to take place between June and September can occur within the appropriate timeframe.

(B) Spring Carnival Committee
Date: May 25, 2024, 12:00PM - 3:00PM

A Committee meeting took place and communication within the Committee is ongoing. The [RSVP form](#) has launched. [Volunteer support](#) is required in order for the event to run successfully. We are grateful for those who have already signed up for shifts.

(C) Grant Committee
The [Alberta Foundation for the Arts Artists and Education Funding Grant](#) was submitted with results anticipated Autumn 2024.

Adjudication for the [MusiCounts Band Aid Program Grant](#) is delayed. Report will be shared when results are given.

We were successful in receipt of the [TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant](#) in the amount of \$3,365.

(D) Book Club Committee
Date: Ongoing

Goal to have further conversation regarding a summer reading list and stronger launch and commitment to Book Club for the 2024/2025 academic year. Discussion to take place at June's meeting. What should Book Club look like?

(E) Parent Link (to be renamed)
Conversations are ongoing with Administration and the Committee to develop this parent-led communication tool amongst all grades. Report to be shared in June.

(F) Holiday
Nothing to report.

6. Motion to Accept Reports

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

7. New Business

7.1 Staff Report

(A) Funding Requests

i. Two staff members were required to attend the REACH Provincials in Calgary. A request of \$320 to reimburse staff for accommodations is requested — no additional funds for travel expenses were requested.

MOTION: Rebecca Koziak motioned for the reallocation of \$300 from School Support – Clubs to School Support – Staff Support and for \$320 from School Support – Staff Support be used to reimburse staff for their accommodations. Seconded by Julie Jackson. Motion Carried.

(B) School Update

Parents who are not Kindergarten parents are asked to provide volunteer support for the Kindergarten year end celebration from 5:00PM - 7:00PM on June 12 so that Kindergarten parents can fully enjoy the experience.

Grades 6-9 will participate in Track & Field Day at Strathcona Athletic Park on May 21.

An email will go out via our Volunteer Coordinator. Join the [Volunteer Community](#) to receive direct updates.

7.2 Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach

(A) Event Planning

- In October, \$40 was allocated from Community Building / Parent Support – Team / Community Building to replenish hospitality items in preparation of Book Club. These funds were not utilized; however, hospitality items are required to support the Mother’s Day Social. As such, there is a request to reallocate these funds to the Mother’s Day Social.

MOTION: Anita Sanderson motioned to support the reallocation as presented. Seconded by Eeksha Kakkan. Motion Carried.

- Should the Oilers make it to round two of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, a Jr. High student has submitted a request for SC to consider hosting a watch party. All in favour, subject to dates and times.

(B) Field Trip Opportunities

Nothing to report.

7.3 Parent Perspectives

Some Grade 6 parents have expressed interest in hosting a Grade 6 Farewell event since many other schools offer a celebration at this point of transition between Elementary and Jr. High. Although NHS offers Elementary through Jr. High, we recognize that this is still a transition year. Whether or not students remain in our Jr. High program or move schools, there is general agreement that the Grade 6 students could be recognized similar to how Kinder Grad and Grade 9 Farewell are already acknowledged. Presently, nothing is done.

Proposal: The Grade 6 parents who are organizing this celebration are considering an outdoor picnic site on June 26 (the last day of school) off school site. Funds are requested (likely \$150-200) to support the rental of a picnic shelter. They would seek support from Grade 6 teachers to send home communication.

Note: If the school were to facilitate with SC/FANHS' funds, permission slips would be required. Discussion around liabilities, inclusivity, the sustainability and longterm potential of hosting something for Grade 6 Farewell, and how the specific request differs from a grade specific year end party.

Through lengthy discussion amongst all present, it was determined that SC is in favour of acknowledging Grade 6 students annually with a Grade 6 Celebration on school property. Administration offered to incorporate acknowledgment of the Grade 6 students at the awards ceremony that takes place on the last day of school. SC set forth the following conditions in order to approve funding for a Grade 6 Celebration:

1. The event must take place at NHS.
2. The event must be inclusive to all Grade 6 students and their families.
3. The Grade 6 parents on the unofficial "planning committee" would determine how to use the funds provided permitting conditions 1 and 2 are met. Suggestions were made for funds to support the purchase of: food or an NHS hat or water bottle gift for each student, etc.

MOTION: In agreement of the conditions set forth, Ellen Hanna moved for \$500 from School Support – Events to be allocated for a Grade 6 Celebration. Seconded by Anita Sanderson. Motion Carried.

8. Future Business

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Future Meeting Dates

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: 8:28PM.



Principal's Report to School Council

May 3, 2024

Lori Vigfusson

Principal

New Horizons School

Swimming Lessons: Grades 1s and 2s have begun on Mondays. These will end on June 17.

Solar Eclipse: Thanks so much to School Council and FANHS for purchasing solar viewers so that all students had the opportunity to experience the eclipse on April 8. This made for an unforgettable experience for our school community.

Scholastic Book Fair: We held our Scholastic Book fair from April 9-11 in the Library. This event provided over \$3000 in funds that will be used to add to our Library book collection and to replace lost and worn out books. Thanks to Katherine Wilkinson for organizing and running this as well as for volunteering every week in our Library!

Earth Day: Students participated in Earth Day activities throughout the month. One activity was the Strathcona County Shoe Drive. Used shoes were collected to keep them out of the landfill and provide shoes to those in need. Thanks to Ms. Asquini and her grade class for organizing this! We collected over 600 pairs of shoes. Students will also be participating in our Annual 'Pitch In' to clean up the grounds around the school. Students use gloves to collect trash from around the school to 'spring clean' our outdoor spaces!

Music Festival: Music groups and Kindergarten participated in the Strathcona County Music Festival last week. All groups performed well and had fun with our Ukulele club receiving Platinum for their 3 pieces. Thanks to Ms. Zelada for her work with these groups!

Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs): Students in grade 9 will begin writing their PATs this month with Part A of the English Language Arts Assessment. Students will be using the new e have received notification from Alberta Education that Grade 6s will not be writing PATs

Admissions: We had 189 complete applications with 95 in Kindergarten and the rest in a variety of grades. The admissions committee will meet after the break to review applications and inform families of the decision.

Staff Professional Development: We have two professional development days for staff in May. On May 3rd, teachers will be learning about our new Student Information System Powerschool. This system will be implemented in the upcoming school year. We will be sending out parent information on joining the parent portal once we have all students registered for next year. This may be in late August.

On May 16th staff will be heading out to Metis Crossing for the day. We will start with a presentation on Indigenous Peoples' Month from the Rupertsland Institute followed by Indigenous workshops in the afternoon.

School Clubs and Sports:

- Badminton for Junior High and grades 5 and 6 had their tournaments last week. Thanks to Mr. Wilde, Ms. Olfert, Ms. Eccles and Ms. Joly for organizing and attending these!
 - Handball for junior high is underway. This is our first time participating in this as a school and we hope to grow the program next year!
 - School Reach will be having a pep rally on May 2nd to celebrate their great season. The intermediate team will play against the teachers with the grades 6-9 spectating! Thanks to Ms. Araujo for organizing.
 - Garden Club is underway with kids digging in the dirt and planting. Thanks to Ms. Mackinnon and Ms. Stephens for running the club and thanks to Ms. Mackinnon, Rebecca and Dentte for their support with the TD Friends of the Environment Grant which we received for items to go to the outdoor classroom and gardening club.
 - Rubiks Cube club is underway on Mondays for grades 4-6. Thanks to Ms. Watson for supervising this.
 - Track and Field for Grades 6-9 will take place on May 21 at Strathcona Athletic Park. Thanks to our Junior High teachers for organizing this for the students.
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