

New Horizons School School Council Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025

7:00PM - 8:00PM

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

Attendees: Elizabeth Macve, Sarah-Jane Lovgren, Ellen Hanna, Anita Sanderson, Raman Brar, Denette Leask, Lori Vigfusson, Amanda Bullion, Stacey Stang-Sass, Chelsea Ladouceur, Brianne Davio, Eeksha Kakkan, Beverley Doucette, Valentina Girard, Kandace Zelada

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Macve as 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, Sauteaux, 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 Sarah-Jane Lovgren, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes: February 5, 2025

MOTION: Ellen Hanna moved to adopt the minutes of February 5, 2025.

Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren, motion carried.

5. Reports

5.1. Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary Report/Junior High Liaison/Officer at Large

School Council thanked Ms. Vigfusson for a successful Movie Night as well as Cineplex for their contribution and highlighted the success of the Games Room.

5.2. Principal's Report

See attached.

5.3. Staff Report

Staff report provided by Ms. Zelada who shared the progress of the NHS music department with an upcoming Spring Concert on April 9, 2025 followed by the Sherwood Park Music Festival. A parent queried participation in the CBC Music Class Challenge; however, resources are not available to participate at this time.

5.4. Finance Officer's Report

Funds are \$10,982 disbursed and \$26,778 motioned. See attached spreadsheets for full details.

5.5. FANHS Report

Nothing to report.

5.6. Communication Officer's Report

Teachers were polled this month with the question, "If you had \$1,000 to spend in your classroom, what would you buy?" Answers will be shared internally for budget planning purposes.

Funds were used from the Teacher Appreciation bucket to fund the creation of a Kindness Cart that has circulated to staff to enjoy a treat. Staff were told to enjoy a treat from "NHS parents via School Council and FANHS." The cart will circulate again to the staff who were missed in the first round and subsequent rounds will be done as supplies and funds are available.

The Kindness Wall is doing very well with over 30 submissions. Messages can be submitted all month.

To celebrate Pi Day (March 14th), parents are invited to deliver a pie to the school which will be available in the staff lounge to taste test and rate. This functions as a Teacher Appreciation as well as a fun, light-hearted parent engagement.

5.7. Committee Reports

5.7.1. Grant

Nothing to report.

5.7.2. Spring Carnival

Seeking committee chair for Spring Carnival. Meanwhile planning efforts are underway via email communications to book vendors, games, and equipment.

5.7.3. Holiday

Nothing to report.

5.7.4. Halloween

Nothing to report.

6. Motion to Accept Reports

MOTION: Anita Sanderson moved to accept the reports.

Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren, motion carried.

7. New Business

7.1. ASCA 2025 Virtual Spring Symposium call for attendees

7.2. 2025-26 Artist in Residence (AIR) Update

Groovebox has been engaged as AIR for next year. Estimate \$7k for the required time to accommodate all students. Cost is \$3450 + GST for one full week. More than one week would likely be required. Denette Leask to submit grant application.

7.3. Future School Event Planning and SC Outreach

7.3.1. PI Day Community Builder & Staff Appreciation

March 14, 2025 School Council will host a bake-off with pies provided by parents for staff to taste test and declare a winner (for fame and glory only).

7.3.2. Fitset Ninja Update

Waivers will be going home shortly.

7.3.3. Executive Functioning focused parent workshop options: review Cognitive Connections or discuss potential for NHS OT to provide parent sessions.

Ms. Vigfusson provided an update: the NHS OT who runs parent staff sessions of Cognitive Connections and would be willing to host a session for us on executive functioning. \$1000 in ASCA grants could be used towards this booking.

7.3.4. School Mascot Proposal: Denette Leask

School Council expressed support of the addition of a mascot to engage school spirit and will poll parents on their support of in the 2025/26 Fund Allocation as it is a large expenditure.

7.4. Motions required:

7.4.1. MOTION: Anita Sanderson motioned for up to \$1000 School Council engagement grant to engage Erin G for an executive functioning session for parents.

Seconded by, Ms Vigfusson, motion carried.

7.4.2. MOTION: Ellen Hanna motions to rewrite the November 6, 2024 approval for \$400 funds in School Support – Academic Support listed as “Make Do - materials for Makerspace” to simply “Materials for Makerspace” to better serve the staff in purchasing.

Seconded by Sarah-Jane Lovgren, motion carried.

7.4.3. Staff funding requests (vetted through Ms. Vigfusson)

7.4.3.1. MOTION: Ellen Hanna motioned for \$100 to fund the creation of a Traffic Star program with prizes for parents who follow the traffic plan.

Seconded by Denette Leask, motion carried.

8. Future Business

8.1. 2025/26 Fund Allocation considerations

8.1.1. Ms Vigfusson would like the addition of a Citizenship prize for students with funds coming from the incentive bucket.

8.1.2. Mascot consideration.

8.1.3. Unsuccessful grants (recess equipment and music room upgrades): how council can fund these grants that were rejected this year.

9. Future Meeting Dates

April 2, 2025

May 7, 2025

June 4, 2025

10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.