

minutes

Hillcrest C.S. AGM – September 30, 2015

Meeting called by	Chairs, Robin and Seema
Note taker	Cynthia Papadakis
Attendees	Lisa Kahn, Robin Fribance, Christine Paterson, Norbert Costa, Pamela Stein, Seema Paniwala, Kelci Gershon, Anne Borkwood, Kari Taylor, Debra Baptise, Freda Theofilatos, Kaija Pitt, Anita Gleeson, Georgia Pellizzari, Kira, Kayley, Kevin, Michelle, Rose
Welcome/Call to Order	
Facilitator	Robin and Seema
Discussion	<p>Minutes were not read at meeting (due to Annie's absence) but it was implied that everyone read the minutes distributed via email previously and were unanimously adopted by the group present.</p> <p>Robin introduced the existing council members: Seema, Kelci, Annie, Pam, Lisa (outgoing chair) and herself. Robin explained the new structure of council that was adopted in 2014/2015.</p> <p>Seema announced the nominees for 2015 council. Kira (parent rep), Christine Paterson (community rep), Kayley (parent rep and wants to initiate Eco-Committee), Cynthia/Freda (parent reps/Pizza Lunch), Anne Borkwood (PEN), Kaija/Anita (parent reps/Grade 6 Grad)</p>
Conclusions	Meeting minutes passed and nominations accepted.

minutes

Agenda Topic: Review of June survey results	
Facilitator	Pamela Stein
Discussion	<p>Following last year's Funfest, Pam offered to conduct a survey to gauge the feedback from the event and general fundraising efforts.</p> <p>Survey resulted in 80 individual responses.</p> <p>When asked when they would like Funfest held 41% said weekend, 30% said week day and 25% said either.</p> <p>Favourite events in order of most popular: Inflatables, food, water station, DJ, climbing wall and Bingo (suggestions made to do it outdoors)</p> <p>Events suggested for 2015/2016: Batting cage, Frisbee, more face painting and alcohol (suggests interest in a parent event)</p> <p>85% like evening parent council meetings</p> <p>Fundraisers parents like in order of preference: Funfest, Pizza Lunch, Parent Night and Time for Kids</p> <p>Where parents want to see their funds used in order of preference: enriching the classroom, extra-curricular/after 4 programming, academic enrichment, technology and arts/culture.</p> <p>Kaija asked if we would be offering weekly pizza lunch. Cynthia and Norbert explained the obstacle is having more parent volunteers to run it.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Information to be used in this year's planning and strong support for organizing a parent event.</p>

minutes

Review of draft 2015-16 Budget	
Facilitator	Kelci
Discussion	<p>School year's budget is approx. \$54,000</p> <p>Some funds were carried over and approx. \$40,000 raised.</p> <p>Classroom/teacher requests for \$200 subsidy need to be received by March.</p> <p>Only \$1000 used last year for Grade 6 Grad/Grad trip, Mr. Costa explained that last year there was no trip and it is a matter of equity. This year he has put in a request for a TDSB subsidized trip in the event another school cancels as every school is only eligible every other year.</p> <p>Piano accompanist is expected to go up as this year competitive choir is being offered.</p> <p>Pam asked if funds could be allocated for Funfest, or something like an operating budget.</p> <p>Debra asked that more money is allocated for the diversity fund.</p> <p>Kelci reminded parents to use the receipt for reimbursement for in the office if they were authorized to make a personal purchase in c/o the school (ie...pizza lunch).</p> <p>Mr. Costa explained that funds for Gym/Sports were not used but a substantial amount of money was used out of the school budget.</p>
Conclusion	<p>At this time the allocated funds are \$28,300 and unallocated funds are \$25,700.</p>

minutes

Principal's Report

Facilitator

Norbert Costa

minutes

Discussion	<p>There's been a funding request from Ms. Lee for a new pop-up canopy, printed with a Hillcrest logo. Not to provide actual coverage from the elements but to demarcate our group at events such as cross-country. It must be TDSB approved (estimated cost \$500-600), and Anita, Seema and Kaija to source.</p> <p>Terry Fox will take place on school property on Oct. 1st, 1-3pm. Group of grade 6 students have been helping to bring awareness to donating online and raising funds through raffle. \$6,000 has been the most raised in the past and only \$2,500 last year.</p> <p>Technology update: School is almost completely wifi. New projectors have been purchased. 30 chrome books (on trolley) are almost set-up for use by classrooms. Special ed got grant last year for 10 Surface tablets now in use.</p> <p>Oct 19th Elections taking place at Hillcrest. Gym will be occupied and traffic in and out of school all day.</p> <p>Sports update: Cross-country has yielded high turnout. Meet next week. Grade 1 students will need parent transportation and all other students taking public transit. Football underway, and will include 3 tournaments. Slo-pitch girls/boys tournament is next week.</p> <p>Choir offered this year and expected to compete at Kiwanis and All Cities.</p> <p>Chess being offered at lunch, 2 classrooms are full.</p> <p>Parks and rec have offered more programming after school such as drama, dance, chess and hopefully basketball soon.</p> <p>Explore-It is back and so is Lynn doing art.</p> <p>School is trying to get Lace It Up Pilot program, basketball offered 8-9am.</p> <p>Proposal for a morning snack pilot program. \$1/day for dairy/fruit. Inclusive of all students but you can opt in/out.</p> <p>Addressed some of the challenges with CUPE situation.</p> <p>Curriculum night has been postponed indefinitely.</p> <p>Parents are still able to contact their child's teacher if they are concerned about child's progress.</p>
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Discussion	<p>(Costa con'd)</p> <p>School Grounds improvements: Rocks in main yard moved to front of school to beautify area and avoid safety issues. Garbage container in main yard to be removed as well as it is no longer serviced. Mulch was added to playscape. Lights have been replaced with LED lights better for long term maintenance. Glass in library windows has been replaced to allow in more natural light and better visibility outdoors.</p> <p>Ongoing construction concerns are being addressed with house being built at corner of Nina and Hilton.</p> <p>Plea for council to consider a small fundraiser/donation to refugee crisis. Helps our students to become compassionate global citizens.</p> <p>New hallway cabinet will house TV from lunchroom to show pictures/feed of events at Hillcrest C.S. Grade 6 award section.10 year display of graduating class. Attempt to create an area of Hillcrest legacy and history.</p> <p>Near future Hillcrest logo contest. Need for new school jerseys and more sport jerseys. Team recently purchased their own T-shirts approx. \$12. Good idea for school pride and confidence.</p> <p>Future technology acquisitions to consider: Creating a green room/screen and 3D printer.</p> <p>Fixing up the courtyard is at preliminary planning stages. Long term project which will need some assistance through the board.</p>
Conclusion	Parent council to consider above mentioned funding requests.
Other Business	
Facilitator	Robin

minutes

Discussion	<p>Kaija asked when/how to plan grade 6 grad. Mr. Costa said her and Anita will have to communicate with other parents later this year and form a committee. Kari stated (from past experience) that the sky's the limit on what they want to do.</p> <p>Georgia spoke about last year's aboriginal storytelling event. Got a quote for the same speaker and it was \$1125 (\$45 more than last year). Wanted to make sure it was in the budget. Also wanted feedback on speakers and Mr. Costa suggested looking at TDSB approved list of speakers and bringing in someone new so that the experience is new again for the students this year. Also want to move the event from February to June, which is the recognized Aboriginal Month.</p>
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Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.