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Hillcrest Monthly School Council Meeting – Jan 14 <sup>th</sup> 2014	
Meeting called by	Chairs, Scott Tabachnick and Lisa Kahn
Note taker	Annie Salsberg
Attendees	Scott Tabachnick, Anne Borkwood, Annie Salsberg, Freda Theofilates, Ulrich Schimmack, Robin Fribance, Christine Paterson, Peter Remish, Jinous Hamidi, Debra Baptiste, Giorgia Pellizzari, Seema Omar, Norbert Costa
Welcome/Call to Order	
Facilitator	Scott
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced Anne Borkwood, who will be new PEN coordinator. Guilia took a step back from role.</li> <li>Did not review minutes from November meeting</li> </ul>
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will re-send meeting minutes from November along with today's meeting minutes.</li> </ul>
Principal Update	
Facilitator	Norbert Costa
Discussion	<p>Staffing Update: Ms Wilson is now at TVO in their educational department. This allowed us to keep Mr Lam who is now teaching grades 4/5. Ms Lee is back in Phyd Ed position. French: Ms Sheinin back full time in her kindergarten class; Ms Bronfield is now teaching French.</p> <p>Swim team has requested \$600 for ribbons. Council sponsored this last year.</p> <p>Technology: cost of buying out net books \$70 per NetBook plus \$200 for cart. Will have to make a decision as to whether to keep or not. Board has also approved Chrome books. Purchased wireless microphone for gym. Also purchasing scoreboard for entire school.</p> <p>Grades 5 and 6 will go to the Island School - this will happen each two years (so children will go in either grade 5 or 6).</p> <p>Skating party: Humewood has invited us to annual Winter Classic as a partner school at Phil White arena. (We won last week against them!) Will be an exhibition type game for about an hour. Would be either Feb 25 or 27.</p> <p>Also partnering with De La Salle to have an exhibition game with them, grades 4-6. Date to be determined. Students have to get skates and helmets. We can ask the board for helmets and we might buy a few.</p>

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Discussion	<p>Cold weather: -20 to -28 = shortened recess. If colder than that, there is no recess.</p> <p>Extra Curriculars: play is up and going with Mr Roblin, Eukalele club, hockey up and running – generating lots of buzz!, basketball started, tomorrow is first day of Karate during lunch recess - no uniform needed, and all funds raised will go back to school. Hockey: can be quite costly (ice time, referees) - there are 17-18 students on exhibition team / 12 on team that travels for games. Hockey is open to grades 4-6.</p> <p>PEN: we are going to change the system so that school can send email to all parents directly. Reps will manage classroom announcements.</p> <p>Twitter: will get up and running in next little while.</p> <p>Report cards - will go home week of Feb 9th. Next Friday is a PA day. Interviews will be evening of Feb 12th and morning of Feb 13th. Interviews can be at request of parents <i>or</i> teacher. Mr Costa encourages all parents and students to go to interviews. Grades 1-6 will have letter marks.</p> <p>The board is moving to a cashless school system. Still working on which provider will be used. Hopefully this will come up in the next year.</p> <p>Shared a resource for parenting: to enhance parent 'tool kit' <a href="http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html">www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html</a></p> <p>Concerns re: chain/gate/lock for fence facing Nina Street: chain was painted bright orange. Lock on gate on from 11pm to 6am. May look at modifying gate - but this takes time.</p> <p>Some people have been asking about turf - it's starting to dip in a bit/grading. To fix this would be very costly – would likely need to be a partnership with board plus city.</p> <p>Ms Booker started Kids Lit quiz for avid readers. Will go and compete regionally and then if win can compete nationally, and then can go on from there internationally. Goal: to celebrate own aptitude for reading.</p>
Conclusions	N/A
<b>Agenda Topic: Time for Kids Fundraiser</b>	
Facilitator	Lisa and Robin

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Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final amount raised around \$10,000. Rose a lot online. Did still receive some cheques. Online system really works, easy, turn-key.</li> <li>• Thank you cards: they are done and will be distributed. Right now trying to align donors with kids. Hope to be done by week' end.</li> <li>• Principal for a day draw: Mr Costa will do a draw - will get all kids names together.</li> </ul>
Conclusions	We will push for online donations for next year.
<p><b>Agenda Topic: Report/Update on Committees</b></p>	
Facilitator	Various
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Technology</u> – R. Fribance Have submitted grant application to future shop. Won't hear back until June. Could get up to \$25,000. Low chance of receiving grant but good that we applied – can always re-apply next year.</li> <li>• <u>Diversity</u> – Lisa read email from John (who is away) with updates. Norbert spoke about various events planned for Black History month. Working on bringing the Black Inventors exhibit to Hillcrest. John has spoken to founder of the International African Inventors Museum. They have a wonderful day program that will educate and inform children about various inventors of African descent. Right now he has availability on January 29th and February 20th. John prefers February 20th - would likely depend on what would be best for the schools schedule and what would work for Mandisa Bromfield who is the point person coordinating the event. This organization has activities and discussions for all grades from K to grade 6.  Asian History Month, February - some events might be also planned for Lunar New Year. Will likely be subsidized through Ontario Arts Council.  Giorgia has contacted 4 aboriginal storytellers as recommended by AGO. Last year, storyteller met with JK-3 in gym and then met with older grades in their classrooms. Last year was a two-day event. Quotes btw \$1100-1800. Last year we paid \$1000.  Parent council does have \$2000 allocated for Arts. We have \$2000 allocated for Diversity. Diversity could contribute \$500 and then Arts could contribute remainder.</li> </ul>

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	<p>(Re-allocating arts funding to diversity was discussed at last meeting). All present at meeting indicated that they were <u>in favour</u> of re-allocating funds from Arts to Diversity to support this initiative.</p> <p>November is Native History month so we should tie this in next year. June 21 is National Aboriginal day. Giorgia will meet with Mr Costa and Mr Roblin and they will decide in the next week - will pick a day in March or April.</p> <p>Mr Costa might look into bringing a female Aboriginal boxer who is a motivational speaker in at school's expense.</p> <p>Cultural dinner concert: in form of a potluck. Acts could come from kids and parents in the community, ie Artscape, Ellingtons. Will let John flush out this idea further and then get music department involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Apparel</u> – Seema and Jinous Moved more product than last year. Feedback was positive. Online buying was very easy. 99% bought online. To promote school spirit - can we/ should we subsidize t-shirts for various teams? This is really a discussion for the next school year. Culturally it sounds like it's the right thing to do and what we want for athletics program.</li><li>• <u>Funfest</u> – Lisa May 30th is date. Pam Stein is spearheading this year - she has put most of her committees together. Second largest fundraiser that school runs.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Parent Social</u> – to be determined – Lisa, Robin and Jinous led discussion To promote sense of school community and possibly to raise funds. Other schools, ie Brown, Cedarvale and Humewood do this. Parents would buy tickets, there would be a bar, some food...Concern: sometimes not as inclusive of whole school community as we would like – b/c of costs associated. Anita and Serena have offered to steer. Seems like there is <i>will</i> and interest to do this. Group will get together to discuss next steps - Jinous will reach out to Serena and Anita; Robin, Lisa and Anne B. will also join – ‘exploratory committee’.</li></ul>
Conclusions	N/A

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Agenda Topic: Other Business	
Facilitator	Various
Discussion	<p>Robin: concern re: intersection at Nina - too many cars running lights. Can we reach out to Counselor Mihevic to ask about this?</p> <p>Anne: communications from PEN. Prefers one letter to go out weekly. Working together with Mr Costa to streamline communications.</p>
Conclusions	N/A

**Next meeting is Feb 11th at 7:30pm.**