

minutes

Monthly School Council Meeting – Sept 18 th 2014	
Meeting called by	Chair, Jinous Hamidi
Type of meeting	AGM
Note taker	Annie Salsberg
Attendees	20+ Hillcrest School community members, Executive Parent Council, Principal Costa, Peter Remish (grade 1 teacher)
Agenda for today's meeting	Motion put forward by Michael B., seconded by Kelci.
Minutes from May Meeting	
Facilitator	Jinous Hamidi
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How much we spent/raised ▪ Started some planning for this school year: including dance party, after 4 school programs ▪ Xenia moved away so we had void in council
Conclusions	Motion to pass minutes put forward by Kelci, seconded by Earl.
Principal Update	
Facilitator	Norbert Costa
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraging parents to come out to meetings and get involved. ▪ Philosophy: work <i>collaboratively</i> in a transparent environment; impact of student success depends on collaboration with parents – need to forge partnership with students and school and parents. Getting involved in school shows children that you value the school. ▪ School start has been great – the building is in great shape. ▪ Class re-alignment – given 2 exemptions already. So, no new organization for now. ▪ Ms. Golan will be with us until April when Ms. Morris is back. Mr. Lam will be here until December. Ms. Aiken covers Ms. Kardapikas afternoons. Risa is back in office – clerical position. ▪ Cross-country has started in mornings, grade 1 runs at lunch; plus touch football team too. Looking to get a slow pitch team at Hillcrest for grades 5/6 – missed cutoff date but looking to apply to another league. Choir is up and running Fri mornings. Strings/band can start in grade 5. Band can start in grade 6. ▪ After 4 programs will start in October: goal = must be high quality and must be accessible to all kids/families. 'Explore It' runs Tues-Thurs; Children's Art Studio will start on Mondays. Swim will start middle to end of Oct. ▪ EQAO: results released yesterday. ▪ IT committee: fundraiser last year raised \$20,000 for technology in the school – had IT meeting today: 'what do we need?'. Purchases will be aligned with needs, must support learning in the school; wants to create longer-term plan for technology. ▪ New automated attendance: intent to have in schools by end of October. Attendance will be scanned and then if child absent all contacts will be contacted until parent/guardian reports that child at home/appointment, etc. Onus is on parent to report more diligently – and will make it more efficient. • Wants to make smooth, efficient and effective council; wants to make sure that inclusive feeling. • Community member versus voting member reviewed: must attend 75% of meetings to have voting rights.
Conclusions	N/A
Agenda Topic: Budget	
Facilitator	Kelci - Treasurer
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have made budget allotments based on general categories – Kelci explained Proposed Budget Allocation 2014-15 based on that which is requested from staff each year; it's a start so we can see where all the money going.

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Conclusions	N/A
Agenda Topic: Parent Council and council by-laws	
Facilitator	Jinous Hamidi
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically, was very open conceptually. Now we need more person-power to make it all work as projects get more sophisticated and to maximize everyone's time. Hoping to move towards a model where a few people can work deeply on a specific project. Amount of work involved in chair/co-chair role overwhelming, too much for one to carry – now we will have two per position so load is shared. • Hoping to have teacher representative at meetings – may be rotating; tonight it is Peter Remish ▪ Chairs: Scott Tabachnick and Lisa Kahn – motion put forward by Serena, seconded by Guilia – all in favour. Passed officially ▪ Co-chairs: Robyn and Seema (not present at meeting) – motion put forward by Kari Taylor, seconded by Jeanette – all in favour. ▪ Lisa and Scott and Robyn: introductions, outline role and explain what hope to do this year – want to promote communication and collaboration = KEY. Want to keep parents and Mr. Costa involved. Want a place where we can share ideas openly. Want parents to be involved to strengthen school, etc. Lots of places to get involved ▪ Secretary: Annie Salsberg; put forward by Scott, seconded by Robyn ▪ Treasurer: Kelci ▪ PEN Rep: Guilia Greco ▪ Kindie Rep: Jeanette ▪ Community member: Chris P. <p>SUBCOMMITTEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Sign up: historically has been on curriculum; hillcrestcs-parents@hotmail.com is Parent Council email. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diversity: John – wants inclusive environment in school, food, music, art; ○ Communications: Chris P – started website last year; hillcrestcommunityschool.ca; wants help with website and someone to take over ○ Pizza lunch – Cynthia and Freda will be organizing; will be every other week. Huge fundraiser - raised \$15,000 last year. Subway is another option. We can only do this if parents help with roll out. ○ Apparel: great if someone wants to give school a few hours; always looking for an artist to help with design; each cap sold last year brought in \$15 to council each. Supplier already lined up. ○ Parents' night: haven't had in a long time, wine and cheese, etc. Community building opportunity. May be a good night to move silent auction to. ○ Scholastic book fair: Truc has done last few years, hoping to step down for next year; good volunteer role if you like to organize. Book Fair is in November. ○ Time for Kids: historically our biggest fundraiser outside of Funfest; we want to protect time with our children....so, we just right cheques at beginning of year! Will go out in October. Given a tax receipt. Can be anonymous. Ask extended family to contribute. The more you donate, the more pressure it takes off of council to fundraise the rest of year. Last year we raised approximately \$14,000. Last year we identified Technology as a fundraising initiative. ○ Funfest: need a big group to help to organize. Has historically happened alongside silent auction. The major reason for doing this is to build community. Needs to start getting organized ASAP!
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to encourage parent volunteers to sign up for sub-committees. ▪ Need to start planning for Funfest.

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Agenda Topic: Curriculum night	
Facilitator	Jinous Hamidi
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coming up on Oct 2.• Had Halloween dance party last year – feedback was that it was quite cold – so have decided to move to Curriculum night.• Dance party starts at 3:30-6, pizza starts at 4:45, first come first serve basis.• Curriculum night starts at 6pm.• Right now, no separate curriculum night for Kindergarten.• Kids are encouraged to attend curriculum night with their parents. Meet at 6pm in gym, intro of teachers, teachers then go to rooms.
Conclusions	N/A
Agenda Topic: Cashless school	
Facilitator	Jinous Hamidi
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fundraising has been challenging because of paperwork and collection of money. Looking into electronic payment options, like Paypal – to pay directly online.▪ Vetting a few different providers.▪ This is a parent council initiative alone. TDSB vetting on a larger scale for their purposes.▪ Will still have option to fill out form and submit to office in hard copy.
Conclusions	N/A