School Council Meeting Draft Minutes – Monday June 17,2013.

Present: Nancy Lerner, Michael Bernstein, Kari Taylor, Jinous Hamidi, Xenia Guivernau, John Campbell, Debra Baptiste, Phani Radhakrishnan, Sophie Chen, Mike Kumor, Christine Paterson. Brix Theis, Patience Mpumlwana, Kiran Singh, Ania Lindenbergs.

1. Last meeting of the year
Michael raised motion to pass minutes from last meeting. Mike seconded the motion.

2. Principal's Report
- camp white pine trip started today
- grade 6 graduation next week, Tuesday night; Rachel Gray will be the keynote speaker from The Stop Community kitchen. Also, volunteer award going to Paul Quinlan, to be given at Graduation Night.
- Kindergarten graduation happening as well in their classrooms.
- Real Food for Real Kids - survey done by Giulia Greco, a parent.
- huge interest expressed - 91 families expressed an interest
- for every 50 kids school gets one free lunch for a child
- $4-5.75 per child
- will start the second week of Sept, Wed and Friday's
- two curriculum nights next year, Grade 1-6 & jk/sk, dates tbd
- idea to attach each to a BBQ or a pot luck, making it more social, welcome to Hillcrest opportunity
- decision to have a multicultural pot luck dinner for one of these nights...focus is on kindergarten
- Staffing update - still hiring
- Simon Ives and Dave Brinsmead going on leave next year – 4 over 5.
- new teachers, some long term occasional teachers to full in for mat leaves
- office staff remains the same, no changes
- school full to capacity, over by a few kids in the primary grades
- full day kindergarten - sub-committee to help with fundraising as well as sharing information, $3k in funds allocated per class to furnish the room
- each teacher is making a list of needs to review the program
- Sept 26th district process - different schools selected to be reviewed to assess needs for curriculum, community engagement....
- last day of school this year there will be a staff meeting that focus' on the next years' curriculum
- June 25th report cards to be sent home

3. Treasurer's report - Xenia
- key facts - raised $32,400 raised net of expenses
- $49k budgeted at the beginning of the year, $37,700 spent
- balance from last year reduced to $ 4,200
- Time for Kids campaign done in November - raised $6700
- providing income tax receipts was helpful
- pizza lunch - raised $7000 (2x per month)
- Sophie to explore t-shirt designs for next year, official logo plus perhaps a "kids at Hillcrest" version that incorporated the kids' creativity
- Funfest raised $17k net of expenses
- Chanit lead a healthy pantry initiative and raised $950
- Idea to have food options approved by the safety committee
- Biggest expense we're had was Net books, printers that were very needed and used daily
- tech committee will look into acquisition of possible iPads and other tech products that can support the curriculum
- budget meeting will review all of the proposed initiatives
- Xenia to provide a summary report for the parents by the 25th, so it can be sent home
- this years' monies fund next year, the funds also have to be spent within 2 years
- have a schedule by Sept, so there can be an annual outline of planned activities, as well as offer discussion opportunity for new initiatives
- will likely start with $50k for next year

4. FunFest review
- rides, games and face painting
- really liked the large inflatables, except for line ups (rock climbing wall), need faster turnover for next year, broader age group and weight class
- missed the simple games, fishing pond, three legged race, potato sacks
- idea of using high school kids for volunteering
- water stations were great idea, water feature loved by kids
- Firemen can create water play with truck
- button making station a huge hit
- Lego table and face painting huge hit (some concerns about the quality of the face paints) parent offered to organize better paints for next year
- DJ amazing
- opportunity to get info about FunFest out better next year, start earlier, hand-outs, have own committee, use the school website, make it more about community building than about fundraising
- may be good to branch the silent auction off for another night and try not to do too much at the same time, perhaps a restaurant night, entrepreneur night or other adult-only evening
- other ideas for recruiting parents...use PEN reps to rally up classes, get to know parents, help with the allocation with tasks
- decentralize the quest for volunteers
- consider changing the date of FunFest, since many activities come to an end that weekend, consider last Sat in May but cannot interfere with May 24 or a PA day
- wrist bands were very successful but need to charge more next year
- consider selling them a month earlier
- BBQ did not do very well, consider getting rid of it next year, maybe replacing with pizza or salad bar
- get some more savory restaurant food for adults, consider talking to local restaurants, Taste of Hillcrest theme

5. Pass updated Hillcrest by-laws (as of June 2013)
- Propose the passing of the new by-laws
- Xenia raised the motion and Phani seconded, unanimous "I"
- revised By-laws passed
- various one- year committee positions written throughout, sent home with the report cards, so parents can consider volunteering
- send information home to parents to get more help for the school's website and other technology passed communications efforts

6. Global diversity committee
- genuine desire to ensure the school is the best it can be for all kids
- new by-laws are a great start, next steps are implementation/process and how we do that
- need to pass on a sensitivity to our kids, so that they can understand different viewpoints
- making sure that everyone feels like they belong
- need to ensure we prepare our children for a 21st century world
- recognition that there is a need for it to evolve organically both from the top (mission statement) and the ground up (community consultation)
- diversity committee will consider a possible budget and come forward with recommendations for the Fall

7. Comment made about recognizing 3 parents Serena, Jane and Joyce who have devoted countless # of hours to our school over many years. Suggested gift to be around $50 each. Chris forwarded the motion; Kari seconded motion, unanimous "I"

8. School council approved budget to buy freezes for all the kids in the school $110 total cost, Phani raised the motion, Debra seconded, unanimous "I"

9. Tentative dates set for next September.
- Sept 19th grades 1-6 Curriculum night/welcome
- Sept 24th for kindergarten " "
- council meeting on the 25th