**Highbush Public School**

**School Community Council Meeting**

November 28th, 2019 **Minutes**

**In attendance:** Val Brooks, Dawn Vasey, Naomi Ewing, Sonya McRobb, Georgina Pearce, Susan Mahabir, Sandra Gray, Jamie Mitchell, David Gardner, Nicole Mitchell, Bree Thomson, Annasha Martin, Nilu Arbonne

**Regrets:** Kendra Strong

**Call to Order:** Sonya McRobb

**Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory and Treaty:** Sonya McRobb

**Approval of minutes:** David Gardner, Georgina Pearce

**Principal’s Report:**

The Leadership students presented a well prepared Remembrance Day Memorial to our school community and parents. The bagpiper was missed at the ceremony. Each month a different grade is responsible for doing a character trait assembly. Last month grade 2/3 did theirs on Courage and this month grades 6 and 5/6 will present Empathy. At Highbush we have had many informational sessions by Firefighters, Scientist in School, Water Colours by Arts Express and Ontario Tech University (UOIT).

Our superintendent, Jim Markovski visited our school on October 30th and was pleased with our credo. Two goals that will be focussed on this year are increasing Inference Skills in Reading and ensuring that programming reflects the voices, culture and abilities of ALL our learners. Progress reports were sent home with students on Wednesday November 13th and parent/teacher interviews were conducted on Thursday and Friday of the same week. This year parents were able to schedule their 10 minute teacher interviews online. The software application was easy and user friendly. Sports continue at our school with the junior girl volleyball team winning their area playdowns.

This year there will be three holiday concerts: Wednesday December 11th, Kindergarten Classes from 5:30-6:00 pm, Tipson/Marlatt/Lawless/Yorke and from 6:30-7:00 pm, LeBlanc/Yiouroukis. On Thursday, December 12th at 6:30 pm, concert includes performances by the Highbush Chorus, Intermediate Ensembles and the primary division (grades 1, 2, 3 and 3/4) will be presenting a short musical titled, “The Greatest Snowman” by Teresa Jennings. The Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario, work-to-rule action by its members will not affect concert.

Our school needs to have its roof replaced. This takes precedent over requested paving of school’s surroundings. The new Audio system has been installed and training will start next Tuesday.

Students from Grades K-6 are supporting a number of “Christmas families” from our community and grades 7-8 are doing a Food Drive. Ski club for grades 5-8 has a maximum capacity of 40 students. Since only 25 kids have made the initial payment, registration for this sport may include grade 4s.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jamie Mitchell presented November’s financial reports and to date, our account balance is **in very good standing.**

**Teacher’s Report:**

Ms. Naomi Ewing had no new requests from the teachers.

**Budgetary Requests:**

No new requests at this meeting.

**New Business:**

* **Pro Grant** application this year is a collaborative effort with a number of schools in the area. Our committee vetoed it this year.

**Update:**

* **Fundscrip:** This year was our best one yet with around 30 families and friends purchasing cards in the amount of 24K with a profit of $1262.37. If it was offered online, it will decrease our profit by about 2% per order. SCC purchased $5000(10x $500) Pizza Pizza, 8 x $25 Wal-Mart and 1 x $25 iTunes cards. Bree will research other fundraisers that involve participation by the whole school. (Bree)
* **3rd Annual Fun Fair:** Fun Fair date is set for **June 4th, 2020**. Next planning meeting is January 23rd in the Teachers’ lunchroom. SCC Teacher Appreciation Lunch is rescheduled to Friday June 12th.
* **Concert raffle tickets for Front Row Seats**: Raffle for front row seating for a family of 4 **AND** parking in Ms. Brooks’ parking spot and second prize parking in Ms. Vasey’s spot will be offered through cash online for our three concerts scheduled for December 11th& 12th. Tickets are 1 for $2 and 3 for $5. Draw on Tuesday December 10th.(Sonya)
* **Mental Health Initiatives**: A number of Mindfulness companies were discussed detailing content and cost. Members voted for X- Fusion and Sara Westbrook.
  1. X-Fusion is a self- regulation program that fuses high intensity fitness, yoga and meditation to help students identify their emotions and choose actions to transition into a calm, focused and balanced mood. It will be a three day session costing around $4550. Ms. Brook will book for March. Motion to approve Jamie Mitchell, seconded by Annasha Martin. **PASS**
  2. Sara Westbrook uses personal stories and songs to share skills and activities that will help students create a mindset of Confidence, Resilience, Respect and Emotional Well-Being. Healthy, Resilient Minds Matter targets grade 4-8(70 mins $695 + HST) and Superheroes for Respect focuses on JK- grade 3(50 mins $340 + HST). Motion to approve Susan Mahabir, seconded by Jamie Mitchell. **PASS**
* **Dunbarton High School:** Mental Healthpilot Buddy Program day time presentation on Dec 11 & 12 to which administrators and parents are invited to attend. (Jamie)
* **E**-**Waste Fundraiser** – The Electronic Recycling Association(ERA) “Moolah for Macros” fundraiser give organizations the opportunity to earn cash for collecting unwanted electronics while keeping them out of landfills and helping less fortunate Canadians with tech equipment. Items that qualify are consumer electronics, desktop computers, handheld devices, laptops, printers, peripherals and phone systems. There need to be 50 qualified working items and then the rest of the collected electronics are priced/weighed at varying dollar amounts. This non-profit organization will provide posters and other resources. Fundraiser will run for 2-4 weeks starting January. Ms. Brooks will send out a note in one of her weekly reminders this month.

**Miscellaneous:**

1. David Gardner asked how keyboarding was taught to students. The response was that some teachers do Dance Math and/or ABCya.com which offers keyboarding activities.
2. Jamie Mitchell questioned if our school was a charitable organization and if not, how to go about making it one. Companies will donate to a charitable organization. Ms. Brooks will research and discuss at next meeting.
3. Jamie also wondered if we could use social media to remind parents/community of E-Waste fundraiser. School’s active social account is Twitter with hashtag @highbushhawks.

**Addendum**: Email consensus is pending for YouthSpeak as part of our Mindfulness initiative for January as other approved companies will not be presenting at our school until spring. Cost for two sessions is $780.

Meeting adjourned by Susan Mahabir and Jamie Mitchell at 7:24pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday January 30th, 2020.**

**Happy Holidays!**