**Highbush Public School**

**School Community Council Meeting**

**October 29th, 2019 Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Sonya McRobb

**In attendance:** Val Brooks, Juliet Young, Sonya McRobb, Georgina Pearce, Susan Mahabir, Sandra Gray, Jamie Mitchell, David Gardner, Kristina Ali, Nicole Mitchell, Betty Makis, Kendra Strong, Amy Casimir

**Regrets:** Bree Thomson, Annasha Martin

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

**Approval of minutes:** David Gardner, Sandra Gray

**Principal’s Report:**

Progress reports will be sent home on November 13th. Parent/teacher interviews will be conducted on November 14th and 15th. This year, parents are able to book their 10 minute appointments online through a new software program which will be available from November 8th. Highbush has been busy in Arts and Athletics. Our junior soccer team were Durham Region Champs. Intermediate girls and boys volleyball team scored a third position in their Area tournament. Robotics, Chorus, Highbush Gazette, Grade 3 Cast for Xmas Concert, Art Clubs for grades 4-6, 7-8 and colouring for grades 1-3 are all up and running. Arts Express Broadway Lights lunch time program runs from October 24 – December 19th. First Parent Voice Gathering took place last week and generated an interesting discussion. Ms. Brooks will share this information with the school community. Our Superintendent, Jim Markovski, will pay his first visit to our school on October 30th. Our school population is now 650 and continues to increase. A teacher has been hired for our split grade 3/4. The rest of the grade 3 teachers are currently on leave returning in the near future.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Jamie Mitchell reviewed October financial reports and to date our account balance is in good standing.

**Teacher’s Report:**

On behalf of Miss Cosway, Ms. Young thanked Susan for obtaining pizza at a reduced rate for school’s soccer team Championship party. She presented one teacher’s request at this meeting.

**Tabled Votes/Budgetary Requests:**

1. Mr. Ryan Grinnell requested $525 for Robotics Club. This is a co-ed club and offered to students from grades 6-8. Currently there are 17 participants. Two teams have been created an all boys team and the other all girls. Motion to approve, Jamie Mitchell, seconded by Sandra Gray. **PASSED**

**New Business:**

* **Our Fundraising Goal for the 2019/20 school year is to Support Mental Health Initiatives.**
* Ms. Brooks presented information from a number of companies that facilitate Mental Health workshops for students. (Sandra Gray will follow up with further research). Other programs discussed supporting mental health include TAMI, a Board driven program which has limited access to grades 7-8, Zones of Regulation(practised at our school) and X-Movement (**In-school physical activity and mindfulness programs that build life skills and help to create a positive school climate).**
* Pro grant amount this year is **$750** and deadline for submission is January 2020. This year our committee will support Mindfulness in Students.

**Updates:**

1. **Fundscrip** - Gift cards fundraiser from 170**+** Canadian retailers. Profit range from 2-10%. Fundraiser will run from November 4th– 25th. Gift cards will be distributed during the first week of December. (Bree & Sandra)
2. **Moms Pantry** fundraiser did not perform as well as QSP’s Cookie Dough fundraiser last year. This year profit falls in the range of $1000-1200. (Sandra)
3. **Breakfast with Santa** needs many volunteers. A large percentage of our population do not celebrate Christmas. **NO**
4. **Celebrity Serve,** after doing some research**,** this fundraiser would need older responsible kids with outgoing personalities. **NO**
5. **Lottery 50/50,** to be discussed at next meeting after some more research. (Betty)
6. **Krispy Kreme** fundraiser suggested for February. Profit per dozen donuts $5. It can be purchased through School Cash Online. Motion to approve Georgina Pearce, seconded by Susan Mahabir. **PASSED** (Sandra)
7. **Fun Fair** first organizational meeting scheduled for Thursday November 21st at 6:30pm in the Teachers’ Lunchroom.
8. **Boston Pizza Team** HQ fundraiser, collect 10% of what you spend on each receipt at Boston Pizza. Company will bring Mascot to school for start up of fundraiser as part of their marketing strategy. This restaurant also offers a lunch program. (Jamie)
9. **\*E-waste fundraiser –** Collect electronics, computers, cell phones etc at school. A list of acceptable items will be posted. The school receives a rebate on items. Company recycling items will provide bins, posters and flyers. This endeavour will support our eco-friendly initiatives. Possible start up is January. (Jamie)
10. **Colibri Reusable Snack Bags fundraiser** can be easily done both online and by paper orders. There’s a shipping charge of $29. **NO** (Jamie)
11. **Highbush evening drop–off program** during the pre-Christmas season allowing parents to do their seasonal shopping. Our gym is in use every night of the week. **NO** (Jamie)
12. **Concert Raffle tickets –** Two concert nights, Wednesday December 11thfor Kindies and Thursday December 12th for Primary division. Raffle tickets cost – 1/$2 and 3/$5; First prize is Front Row Seats and principal’s Parking spot and Second prize is vice principal’s Parking spot.

**Guest Speaker:**

One of our parents Amy Casimir (ISE Ontario Volunteer) presented to us information on the International Student Exchange-Ontario program. “This is a registered not-for-profit corporation offering Ontario students reciprocal, school-board approved exchange programs with countries in Europe and China.” Their goal is to develop language skills and increase cultural awareness among Ontario students. Amy did an exchange program to France in 1988 and highly recommends it. Her daughter who is now in high school did the ISE program in grade 8 with great success and her two boys will also do program when they get to grade 8. More information can be found at [www.iseontario.on.ca](http://www.iseontario.on.ca).

**Miscellaneous:**

An email was sent out to our committee members to vote on purchase of gift cards from Fundscrip fundraiser for the following items:

* Christmas Families - $200.00 (8 x $25 Wal-Mart) **PASSED** (September meeting)
* Pizza Pizza - $5000
* iTunes - $25

**Addendum: Gift cards approved via email as of November 6, 2019.**

Meeting adjourned by Georgina Pearce and Jamie Mitchell at 7:50pm. Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday November 28th,** 2019 at 6:30pm in the Teachers’ Lunchroom.