**Highbush Public School**

**School Community Council Meeting**

**September 26th, 2019 Minutes**

**In attendance:** Val Brooks, Karen Shepherd, Naomi Ewing, Sonya McRobb, Susan Mahabir, Jamie Mitchell, Georgina Pearce, Annasha Martin, David Gardner, Kendra Strong, Sandra Gray, Betty Makis, Sharmeelan Mahendrarajah, Marc Casimir

**Regrets:** Bree Thomson, Nicole Mitchell

**Call to Order:** Val Brooks

**Election of Officers:**

* Chairperson – Sonya McRobb **ACCLAIMED ( Vice Chair – David Gardner)**
* Treasurer – Jamie Mitchell volunteered and elected
* Secretary -- Susan Mahabir **ACCLAIMED ( Co-Secretary – Annasha Martin)**
* Additional voting members – Jamie Mitchell, Georgina Pearce, Annasha Martin, David Gardner, Kendra Strong, Sandra Gray, Betty Makis, Sharmeelan Mahendrarajah , Marc Casimir, Bree Thomson, Nicole Mitchell

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

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

**Principal’s Report:**

Highbush PS is one of the overflow schools for the Seaton Housing Development along Taunton/Brock Road. Our student population continues to grow. At the end of the school year it was 546 and currently it is 631. Classes have been re-organized and a new grade 2/3 has been created bringing us to 26 classes from 22. As a result three teachers have to be hired; a new full time teacher, a .2 teacher for preparation coverage and a .2 SERT (Special Education Resource Teacher). According to the Ministry of Education policies, when class size has reached it threshold, additional incoming students will be placed temporarily in a HOLDING school (one of our community’s school) for the rest of the school year. There’s a good possibility that portable classrooms will be added to our school next year. Terry Fox day was successful and the accompanying SCC Popsicle fundraiser was profitable.

Our results from EQAO are as follows:

Grade 3 - Reading 78%, Writing 80%, Math 64%

Grade 6 - Reading 90%, Writing 90%, Math 78%

This year results reflect a decrease in Grade 3 scores and an increase in Grade 6 marks. Highbush is still above board and provincial averages. As in the past, our school will continue to focus on Math.

Safety practices including fire and lock down drills have been conducted in the first weeks of the new academic school year. Bus safety drills will be conducted next week.

The Eco Club is active and is strongly encouraging Boomerang lunches. A boomerang lunch is a lunch that has every piece of it return to its source. In other words, everything in the lunch goes back home at the end of the day. No matter if it is leftover food, containers, recyclables or garbage, it all goes back. Reusable water bottles are also recommended for school use.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Sonya presented our first financial report for the school year and reviewed our Revenue and Expenses. Our opening balance for the school year is **$5795.64.** SCC’s expenses include per teacher classroom allocation of $50.00 which must be used by December; Bussing allocation of $5.00 per child, Grade 8 Grad allotment of $2000, Basketball nets - $200, Kindies classroom baskets - $1000 and Audio System for the Gym – $9000.

**Teacher’s Report:**

Mrs. Shepherd and Ms. Ewing were in attendance at our meeting. Mrs. Shepherd presented a number of teachers’ requests.

**Tabled Votes/Budgetary Requests:**

1. **iPads: –**

* Ms. I. Yorke (Practical Learning Program (PLP) has requested one for her classroom. **HOLD**

Ms. Brooks will follow up with request as students are assigned iPads for their academic use.

* Ms. J. Young has requested 2 iPads plus accessories for use by the Intermediate division for oral interaction of students for Listening/Speaking assessment purposes (e.g., group discussions, filming video for language, French, Drama and Music assessments. They will also be used by the Highbush Gazette (school newspaper) for taking pictures for stories in the bi-monthly issues of the newspaper. Amount requested **$985**. Motion to approve, Georgina Pearce, seconded by Sandra Gray. **PASSED**

1. **Flexible Seating:-**

* Ms. J. LeBlanc (Kindergarten Teacher) has requested funding of **$500** for purchase of scooped and cubed chairs and table to incorporate Flexible Seating in her classroom. Research has shown that flexible seating makes classrooms more accessible for students, increases student engagement and opens the room to a variety of learning styles. Motion to approve, Betty Makis, seconded by Jamie Mitchell. **PASSED**

1. **Forest of Reading books:-**

* Forest of Reading books: **$1000**. Motion to approve, Susan Mahabir, seconded by David Gardner. **PASSED**

1. **Christmas Families:-**

* Motion to approve **$200** for Christmas Families, David Gardner, seconded by Jamie Mitchell. **PASSSED**

**New Business**:

1. **Fundraising opportunities:**

**Fundraisers:**

* Fundscrip - gift cards fundraiser from 170 Canadian retailers. Profit range from 2-10%. Dates TBD (Bree & Sandra)
* Milkshake/Ice cream, Chips, Popcorn, Healthy Snacks (?) Dates TBD (Sandra & Susan)
* Dance-a-thon scheduled for Thursday March12th, 2020. (Sonya)
* Freezies – May/June. Dates TBD (Susan & Sandra & Georgina)
* Fun Fair - June 12th, 2020. (Committee TBD)
* Terry Fox Popsicle fundraiser – September 26th, 2019 (Sandra & Georgina)

**Ideas to be researched and discussed at next meeting**

* Art card Fundraiser – Kids art work converted into cards and sold to parents. (Val)
* Celebrity Serve – Older students partner with Celebrity Serve restaurant employees to serve an early morning breakfast to members, friends and relatives of our school community. The restaurant profit shares with our school. (Betty, Jamie (Boston Pizza))
* Breakfast with Santa – School serve pancake breakfast to kids, meet Santa and receive a token gift. (Annasha)
* Cookies/Soups/Spices online purchases. (Sandra)
* Krispy Creme Fundraiser. (Sandra)

1. **Staff Appreciation Lunch** – Thursday June 4th, 2020.

**Updates:**

**Miscellaneous:**

* “Qualities of a Principal” input from members to be submitted to DDSB by due date November 8th, 2019. Sonya will email members for feedback.
* Safety Issue: Strouds Lane/Fernam Street Intersection – Sandra presented an idea to narrow Strouds Lane to slow down cars. As it’s a City issue, David will provide contact details and Sandra will follow up.

**Future SCC meetings:**

2019: October 29th, November 28th

2020: January 30th, February 27th, April 23rd, and May 28th.

Meeting Adjourned by David Gardner and Jamie Mitchell at 7:35pm. Next meeting scheduled for **Tuesday October 29th**, 2019 at 6:30pm.