

Hawthorne PS School Council

Minutes of Meeting held on
Tuesday, 13 October 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Attendees** –Mary Conroy (Principal), Laurie Pilon (vice-principal), Nik Panter (outgoing Chair), Michele Simpson (secretary), Brigitte Tuinder (incoming Chair), Hima Murty.
2. **Introduction of parents and faculty present** – Brigitte Tuinder has offered to be Chair.
3. **Principal's message** – see attached report. Highlights are below:
 - a. Ophthalmologist will be here at the school for the Vision Mobile full free eye exams in January 2016.
 - b. Sports equipment received from the education foundation will go to the gym to replace used/worn equipment.
 - c. Picture day on October 23rd will not include Grad Photos. This will be scheduled later on.
 - d. Unlocking of parking lot door – some schools have arranged for parents to act as greeters or to assist those that visit. Not enough persons entering the schools or walking past the school during the day to merit active monitoring. Brought back the practice of kids going to the washroom in pairs. Recently put in a locking system as well. If the practice is unsafe, we will revert to locking the door. Most staff members do active monitoring to ensure that visitors to the school sign in. Suggested that classrooms doors are kept closed during the day.
4. **Recap of September's meeting** – 3 persons attended. Small voting was done. Concerns raised – how to inform re school council via email, fundraising ideas, involvement of the school in the community. Reduced to one yellow bus and 14 vans mostly for congregated classes. Have restarted twitter account and will try to get persons to give their emails to the school for use to disseminate school information. Experience suggests that it may take up to 2 years to get complete buy-in. No Facebook account for the school yet. Talked about having a curriculum night on Sex Education. Still to explore.
Action: Nik Panter to send Council financial report to everyone next week.
5. **Proposed changes for French in JK and SK (handouts available)** – circulated by email and a link on the school's website (as well as a survey). *Action: Brigitte offered to attend one of the public meetings.*
6. **Final Elections for parent council** – Positions tendered - Chair/Co-chair (Brigitte), Secretary (Michele) and Treasurer (TBD). No one has offered to be the treasurer. Fund raising – book fair at pleasant Park. Still looking for volunteers as the fair is on this weekend, October 23rd, 2015. Principal/Vice Principal will go around and collect money for Photo Day. The students do not notice any difference since the labour action.
Actions: a) Mary to confirm at the next meeting whether her admin will act as treasurer and handle through the school's account; b) Brigitte to liaise with Laurel (former treasurer) as she lives in the area; c) Nik will send flyer and script regarding upcoming book fair to Mary for circulation; d) Nik to send Brigitte the wish list from last school year.
7. **Recap of today's meeting and suggestions to discuss at November parent council** –
 - a. **Baby-sitting** – could get volunteers for those that attend the meeting (maybe High School students looking for volunteer hours). *Action: Brigitte to get volunteers for next meeting.*
 - b. **Flyer** – for next council meeting could include in the School Newsletter and the next Synvoice message 4-5 days prior to the next meeting. *Action: Mary to work on newsletter.*
 - c. **Topics for next meetings** – Phys. Ed and health (to check with teachers), Multi-cultural (was talked about at the last meeting), Survey (to get topics from the school community) via survey monkey or paper/pencil ex. Technology, critical thinking, supporting a child with anxiety, mental health needs, raising your teens.
Action: Nik to circulate prior years' survey to the current council.
 - d. **Pizza lunches** – to be addressed soon.
 - e. **Job action** – They are back to talking again. Good sign.
8. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. Next meeting date: **Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.**