

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council

Minutes for May 28th, 2020 Meeting
(Virtual Meeting)

Present: Sharon Brinkos, Heather Kauffeldt, Tanya Boisvert, Vanessa Meraw, Chris Boulay, Chris Duchene, Siddhi Shah and Jennifer Sharp

Welcome: Sharon Brinkos

- Motion to approve February 11th Minutes by Sharon and Vanessa
- Agenda approved without additions by Vanessa and Sharon

Student Report: Siddhi Shah

- Shared information regarding the HHSS Grad Instagram page
- Discussed pros and cons of schooling at home
 - Biggest pro was the ability to work more hours at part time jobs
 - Complimented the teachers on how helpful and receptive they are to student's needs
 - Learning at home has strengthened her resiliency, independence and time management, all helpful skills for university

Extracurricular Activities: Chris Duchene

- **Athletic Council:**
 - 42nd annual athletic banquet to be held virtually starting June 4th
- **Guidance:**
 - Working on next year's schedule
 - Connecting with grade 12s regarding bursaries and plans for next year
 - Summer School courses being offered
 - Online courses for 2020-21 released
 - OYAP Level 1 program; tech teachers nominate
 - 4 credit co-op with Level 1 apprenticeship
 - 6 students applied/interviewed (2 electrical, 1 plumbing, 1 construction, 1 welding); awaiting results
 - Youth Employment Skills
 - Ages 15 through 30
 - Recruitment to support those looking for employment
 - Offer 3 workshops at \$85.00 and 5 at \$150.00
 - Hiring incentive to employer
 - 6 students referred, at least 3 moving ahead

Principal Update: Chris Boulay

- Addressed challenges at this time, especially learn@home
- First time in history where we've asked folks to parent/teach/work from home
- First time in history where employers are able to hire students while school year is on
- Access to resources- student success team meets weekly to reach out to specific students & families to ensure they are coping with learn at home
- March 13 mark decision-equity for all (no mark will be less than it was on March 13th)
 - Level the playing field for all students
 - Focus on ensuring engagement to allow learning gap to remain as small as possible
- Return to school planning for 2020
 - Heavy assessment and evaluation work in fall to see where students are
 - Consulting group & TLDSB team assessing scenarios for return (ie. full/partial/online)
 - Need to consider mental well-being/trauma for staff & students alike
- Thoughtexchange input
 - Feedback from grade 7 through 12
 - will hear more in media
- Report cards
 - Full reports with comments, marks and learning skills
- Retrieval of items from lockers
 - Messages going out, outlining process for item retrieval
- Grad planning
 - Requested feedback from grads re: hopes, dreams & wishes of what graduation could look like
 - Many students wanted grad this June, some said maybe October 2020 and most said they would prefer not to postpone to June 2021
 - Virtual celebration (speeches- Principal, Trustee, Valedictorian, Bursaries)
 - In person/distance diploma pick up
 - Publish memories/photos throughout year/public acknowledgment ensure it's on an equitable platform
- Bursary and awards
 - Announce before September 1st
 - Grads will know on/before graduation
- Planning for next year-new hires; retirement of Mr. Zondervan, daily schedules

Business Arising From Previous Meeting:

- Parent Engagement Spending
 - Awaiting follow up from Catherine Shedden and the Ministry regarding possibility to carry funds over to 2020-21
 - Any spending ideas welcome.
 - School Engagement Grant \$500.00 plus \$200.00 top up from School Board
- School Council Information Sheet (Sheet included at end of minutes**)
 - Information sheet shared prior to meeting for feedback
 - Motioned to accept document, as presented, as an advertising flyer
 - Sharon approved motion, second by Heather
 - Will elaborate on information at September's General Meeting (use sheet as template for discussion)

New Business:

- Graduation (see Principal's Notes)
- Constitution Changes re: Meeting Attendance
 - Pertains to section 5.7 of the HHSS School Council Constitution as below
 - Motion to approve by Sharon, second by Tanya
 - **Currently reads:**

All Members Shall:

- *attend and participate in Council meetings, to the best of their abilities*
- *participate in information and training programs as needed, if able*
- *act as a link between the Council and the community*
- *welcome the participation of parents/guardians from all groups and of other people in the community*
- *follow Board policies and procedures and comply with applicable legislation*
- *act in good faith.*

■ **Proposed changes:**

propose amending section 5.7 of the constitution to the following:

- *attend and participate in **at least 50% of Council meetings communicate attendance/regrets to the Chair(s) and/or Principal prior to the meeting if unable to attend to ensure quorum is met and for the meeting not to have to be rescheduled if an important motion, and related vote, is required***
 - *participate in information and training programs as needed, if able*
 - *act as a link between the Council and the community*
 - *welcome the participation of parents/guardians from all groups and of other people in the community*
 - *follow Board policies and procedures and comply with applicable legislation*
 - *act in good faith.*
- General Meeting 2020-21
 - Tentative General meeting date Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00pm
 - Suggestions for a tour of the school during the general meeting

District School Council Update: Jenn Sharp

- April 30th 2020, Virtual Meeting held
 - 52 attendees (councils, trustees, principals, central office staff)
- Learn@home updates
 - 7000 devices delivered across district
 - Only 300 student out of 16000 require paper copies
 - TLDSB website constantly being updated with resources for parents and students (home learning as well as well being information)
 - <https://tldsb.ca/homelearning/>
- Parent Engagement Grant funds:
 - Awaiting answer from Ministry whether these can be held over and used 2020-21
- School Council Reports due June 15th
- Final DSC meeting TBA

Final Meeting Notes:

- Chris Boulay acknowledged the hard work of Sharon Brinkos and Heather Kauffeldt as their last year on School Council
- Chris Boulay acknowledged the dedication of Siddhi Shah, our out-going Student rep
- Together Student/Parent Voice ideas makes us stronger

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

****SCHOOL COUNCIL INFORMATION SHEET- SEE BELOW**

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council...What do we do??

- ❖ *We are an advisory body*
- ❖ *Our focus is to engage parents and to encourage parent involvement*
- ❖ *HHSS Council enhances the accountability of the education system by making recommendations to the Principal and School Board on matters that improve student success and well being*
- ❖ *We broaden opportunities for parents to be involved and assist in removing barriers for parents who find involvement more challenging*

Who attends the HHSS School Council Meetings?

- ❖ *parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school...the more the merrier!*
- ❖ *community representatives*
- ❖ *a student representative*
- ❖ *a teacher and/or support staff*
- ❖ *Principal*

What is Parent Involvement?

- ❖ *Parent Involvement can include a wide range of activities such as:*
 - *communicating with and meeting with teachers*
 - *helping with homework*
 - *Attending school functions or events*
 - *servicing on School Councils or provincial/local committees*
 - *parenting workshops*
 - *volunteering in the classroom or on school trips.*

What to expect at the first meeting of the Year:

- ❖ *The first meeting of the year is a General Meeting*
- ❖ *Sharing information about the School Council and its purpose*
- ❖ *Set meeting dates for the year*
- ❖ *All of our meetings are held at the school or in a public location (usually the Library)*

What else happens at the HHSS Council Meetings?

- ❖ *The Principal, Student and Staff Representatives share information of events happening in the school including, but not limited to, clubs, sports, PA day learnings, current and upcoming events*

References:

Trillium Lakelands District School Board School Council Procedure OP-6016 Approved 2018
[TLDSB School Council Procedure](#)

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council Constitution OP-6016 Appendix 5.4 Approved May 2019