Hyland Heights Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 2, 2026
Next Meeting Date: November 30, 2026

Meeting Overview

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Kelly.

Attendance

Group	Attendees
Members Present	Juanisa H., Sarah M., Nicole A., Kelly Spence, Tammy, Mike Steer, Marissa Cook, Megan G., William M., Jess Walt, Lindsay Gibson, Nicole McLean

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1. Teacher Report

- **Halloween:** Lower-school students participated in festive activities, with younger children carving pumpkins. The Grade 8 class organized a sale of Terra Cotta cookies and ice cream sandwiches for their peers.
- **Remembrance Day:** An upcoming school assembly will feature a performance by the school choir, who will sing two songs.
- **Progress Reports:** Scheduled to be distributed on November 11.
- **Spirit Days:** Anti-Bullying Week (Pink Shirt Day) is approaching.
- **Student Feedback:** Mixed reactions were noted regarding Boston Pizza portrait sizes to small
- **Staff Play:** Staff performed a student-written and produced play titled *Halloween Mysteries*, which concluded with student dance participation.
- **Winterfest / Holiday Events:**
    - Winterfest is planned for the end of February during regular school hours, featuring candy grams.
    - Grade 8 students will handle candy gram sales. Teachers are currently brainstorming details, with an update scheduled for the next council meeting.
- **Wellness & Community Events:**
    - **Wellness Night:** Scheduled for April, focusing on movement and family engagement to celebrate the end of the school year.

    - **Petting Zoo (June):** Requires proper insurance verification, specifically securing a provider with a minimum of $2 million in general liability coverage.
- **"Highland Reads" Program:**
    - Initiative led by Lindsay and Nicole with an estimated cost of $400–$500.
    - Featured titles include *Big*, *After the Fall*, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, and *Julian is a Mermaid*.
    - Winners of the book activities will receive commemorative stickers.

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2. Principal Report

Student Wellbeing & School Experience (VTRA Survey Results)

- **Healthy Routines & Positive Trends:**
    - Students reported positive feelings of belonging alongside a measurable decrease in bullying and discrimination.
    - Reported mental health challenges have decreased.
- **Areas of Risk & Concern:**
    - Slight decrease noted in extreme risk indicators (e.g., suicidal ideation, misuse of cough medicine to get high).
    - Increase in harmful behaviors, specifically property damage and stealing.
    - **Screen Time:** Screen exposure has increased, with high proportions of students exceeding 2+ hours daily, including video game usage.
    - Bullying outside of school hours/grounds has shown an upward trend.
- **Engagement & Support Needs:**
    - Lower student engagement in learning and reduced reliance on academic supports.
    - Parents report stronger overall connections to the school and fewer economic/administrative difficulties.
    - Parents highlighted a growing need for dedicated mental health resources and specialized support spaces.
- **Self-Esteem & Community Action:**
    - Ongoing challenges with student self-esteem were noted across grade levels.
    - Results from the anonymous survey highlight key areas of concern to be addressed collaboratively by the council and wider community.

School Operations & Initiatives

- **PRO Grant (Parents Reaching Out):** Planning an Art & STEM Night (entry by donation). Activities to focus on interactive parent, including a board game/game night theme.
- **Winter Fest Committee Notes:** Equipment includes snowshoes; no tobogganing permitted. Helmets are required for student participation in winter sports activities.

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3. Treasurer Report & Fundraising

Financial Overview

Account / Line Item	Balance / Details
Fundraising Account	Minus $85 - total $5609
Club Account	$5,609 *(Note: $500 + $500 council transfer pending; email Lisa)email sent*
Pizza Account	$3,176
Playground Account	$9,434
PG Main Account	$10,000
Adjustments	Boston Pizza: Extra $1,000 allocated/shifted

Lunch Programs & Vendors

- **Boston Pizza:** 3 final invoices remaining to be paid ($1,000 balance remaining). Contract up for discussion on renewal..
- **Alternative Vendor Exploration:**
    - Considering replacement options: **Firehouse Subs** or **Pita Pit**.
    - Council to request tasting samples from both vendors.
    - Evaluation required regarding child portion sizes; potential to offer adult options in the interim.
    - **Action:** Nicole to coordinate Firehouse Subs samples ($8.00 pricing tier evaluation).
    - Target delivery date: One test delivery day in December (either Dec 3 or Dec 17). Goal is to adjust portion sizes to lower per-student costs.

Fundraising Initiatives & Operations

- **Vertical Marketing Presentation:**
    - Evaluated mobile/digital Entertainment Books vs. direct sales.
    - Vertical Marketing (based in Alliston, specializing in school fundraisers) will present in Shelburne.
    - Mechanism: Profits earned through coupon book sales distributed to families (encouraging shares with 5+ family members/friends).
    - *Council Questions:* Clarify platform access duration (1-year license vs. indefinite).
- **Community Drives & Storage:**
    - **Winter Coat Drive:** Collection 3 days per week. Utilizing Kinder Packs for structured storage.
    - **Breakfast Club Collections:** Actively collecting Bear Paws and yogurt tubes.

- **Volunteer Opportunities:**
    - General callout needed for volunteer groups, specifically the Breakfast Club.
    - Book Sale Volunteers: High school volunteers can earn community service hours before or after school hours (not during class time).
    - Note: No cooking classes available to prepare food items (previously free).

Events & Licensing

- **Movie Nights:**
    - Annual movie licensing fee is $480. Tammy to split the cost with parent council.
    - Parent-Teacher Interviews (Nov 26): Council (Marissa & Kelly) approved funding food for teaching staff.
    - Movie nights will be leveraged to drive school community engagement.
    - **Family Movie Night (Dec 4):**
        - Admission: Free for families.
        - Concessions: Pizza (Pizza Pizza), popcorn, water, and juice boxes for purchase. Movie license sourced from Cineplex.
        - Schedule: Doors open at 5:30 PM, event starts at 6:00 PM, conclusion by 8:00 PM.
        - **Action:** Kelly to create promotional flyer.
- **Board Game Night & PRO Grant:**
    - Grant Allocation: $500 targeted for event funding.
    - Event Details: Scheduled for **January 22** (6:00 PM – 7:00 PM). Setup requires tables and chairs. Drop-in format featuring board games, prizes, coffee, and sale of popcorn, water, and cookies.
    - Additional Ideas: Pajama night theme, package ticket sales with whole pizzas (reach out to Pizza Pizza).
    - **Action:** Kelly to design event poster.
- **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser:**
    - Grade 8 unit fundraiser planned for January. Potential secondary campaign in the spring ($15 per box).

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4. Executive Report & General Updates

Digital Media & Communications

- **Facebook:** Existing page credentials lost (access limited to former members Tina and Marissa). Council agreed to launch a new official Facebook page utilizing a shared general administrative login.
- **Instagram:** Formerly managed by Lisa.
- **Action:** Nicole to set up a new official Instagram account for the council.

Holiday Events & Charitable Drives

- **Holiday Market:**
    - Volunteer Collection Date: November 16.
    - Event Setup: December 8 (Backup date: December 10).
- **Community Support & Donations:**
    - Collecting donations, holiday hampers, and Angel Tree contributions.
    - SchoolCash Online will be configured to accept direct financial donations for families in need.
    - **Agenda Item for Nov 30:** Detailed discussion on distribution strategies for families requiring assistance.