

**GOLDEN HORN SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Monday December 3, 2012 – 7 pm**  
**Golden Horn School Library**  
**Minutes**

**Members:** Nancy Hughes, Amber Hirsch, Aubrey Sicotte, Heather O'Brien, Claudia Riveros

**Public:** Jennifer Staniforth, Andy Robertson, Chris Kafka-Kotelko, Marten Berkman, David Bunton, Emily Woodruffe

**Principal:** Wendy Close

**Secretary Treasurer:** Ashley Salé

**Meeting called to order at 7:09pm**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Additions to Agenda - Presentation of Buses on Gentian Lane, Fundraiser

- Motioned by Heather O'Brien
- Seconded by Aubrey Sicotte

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motioned by Heather O'Brien
- Seconded by Aubrey Sicotte

**GOLDEN HORN SCHOOL COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

- Monthly financial reviewed by Ashley Salé

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Parents came to raise the concern of there not being a sufficient space for the Golden Horn bus to pick up kids in a safe spot. There was a letter written as well as calls to the Deputy Minister and Department of Education.
- Parents have requested for support from Council to add additional bus spots in the Golden Horn area.
- Chris Kafka has stated that he will allow the bus to use his property so there is enough room to turn around.
- Suggestions – smaller bus, check students
- Issue will be supported by council. Council will contact parents.
- Ms. Fairburn came in and gave Council a demonstration on how the promethean board works and the benefits of having them in classrooms. .
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**PARENTAL AND PUBLIC INPUT**

- Cold Weather policy – Heather received two emails of parents of primary children. Parents are interested in the cold weather policy and safety of their children going out in the harsh Yukon weather.
- David Bunton (teacher at Wood Street School) has completed a risk analysis of the cold weather and does not take his children out. He will forward his analysis to council to review.

- Our sister school Hidden Valley does not have a weather policy, however several high schools had the temperature below 30 without wind and other elementary schools of 30 with the wind as cut-offs.
- Parents stated that Golden Horn needs to have a degrees threshold.
- Faculty stated that Golden Horn has never had a hard and fast cutoff and that every class did go out last week but was never more than three minutes away from the school. At recess time, when it's cold, they have shortened recess (no longer than at bus time). "Temperature cutoff is handcuffing. There aren't a lot of dangerous elements for an elementary school it's more dangerous to keep the children in the school because there becomes a lot more pushing and shoving. The routine is good, keeps things regular and the students know what to expect".
- Golden Horn school currently has bags of outdoor clothing to dress kids if they are not dressed appropriately for the weather. The school will inform parents of the steps taken to ensure the kids are safe to go outside.
- Amber Hirsh will write an article in the newsletter to request feedback from parents.
- Council has the right to develop policy and the policy may need to be revised to be clearer.
  - Ideas to keep in mind if revising the policy:
    - Allowable flexibility with the cold weather policy, extreme conditions etc.
    - There are no known cases of frostbite at the school.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- Monthly Principal's report attached (*highlights below*)
- Parent volunteers to volunteer to clear rink
- Unlimited seating for Christmas party
- Thank you breakfast was a huge success
- Student council has a plan – for intramural games

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- School Council workshop this Saturday all day. Council Chair conveyed that if we were unable to attend the workshop – Lori would provide all handouts.
- Heather expressed the purpose of the workshops was to come together as a council to set goals and priorities for the year. Council suggested having a legacy.
- Extend invitation to student council to submit proposals. Motioned by Heather O'Brien to spend \$300 Seconded by Amber Hirsh.
- Handbooks in the works had a meeting and assign everyone a task.
- Boys and Girls club – is an evolved procedure. We would need to elect, nominate, research and fundraise to become a member. Currently Council stated that they are not interested in pursuing this action. Heather O'Brien has the information available if someone is interested in acting on this.
- Re-contributing to the honorariums. Need to look into it still.
- Gift for librarian – yes, look into it. Set a presence, have a gift, how much to spend. Look at previous expenses for retired teachers.
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## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Information Technology GOES Block will be using information technology along with GOES to promote it and engage the kids differently – Fran, Robin, Wendy, Michelle & Kathleen are members.
- Marketing for the school - was a suggestion for the editing, School invitation board, almost there for the gear piece, prepare a video clip of the Magic of our unique culture,
- Check with the Department if we can use contributors i.e. Shell have their logo on the website to assist in marketing for fundraising. Wendy will try and squeeze out one more creative financing. Suggestions to apply for a French cultural fund because French is currently being taught in the school.
- Playground upgrade. - Chic Callas has completed a tour of the playground and states it will require upgrades. Property Management has a master plan included in the budget to make upgrades. GHES as well as many other schools are on ‘the list’ for upgrades. Staff feel as though safety is not an issue with the equipment. Wendy close provides minor upkeep. Council suggested looking into wood playground like the ones in Dawson, Juneau and Haines AK.
- Ice rink – Promote families and community members to organize a committee to keep rink clean.
- Idle/Anti idle vehicles sign just an indication to remind parents not to leave their vehicles running while dropping kids off at school. Proposed to leave a walkway in front of bike rack, so that kids can walk by in the spring when the snow is gone.
- Group photo in January

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Attached FH parents petition - Did a lot of consulting, a lot of research – Send out options – link to petition
- No GHES parents have mentioned that they are concerned that FH will not have a gym for 2 ½ years; if parents become concerned council will re-review. Chair will respond to Hailday so we can exam the information until it becomes an issue.
- Reading Recovery annual site report for the year, progress is available then it can be filled.

## **NEWSLETTER**

- Newsletter is this Friday. Send out something separate about the bus.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:50pm**

## **GOLDEN HORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT**

December 3, 2012

7:00 p.m.

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

*"Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do and you've done it."*

Margaret Thatcher

### **STUDENT INFORMATION**

Student enrolment is 136.

### **CAPITAL/MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

The wooden bench outside the music room will be repaired over the Christmas Break. The wood is drying out and beginning to ‘sliver’/

### **COMING EVENTS**

- ☛ Dec. 7      Grade 7 Christmas Dance at EET
- ☛ Dec. 12      Grade 2 and 3 Cross-Country Skiing at Mt. Mac
- ☛ Dec. 14      Annual Christmas Bazaar (1:00 – 2:45 pm)
- ☛ Dec. 19      Annual Christmas Concert (doors open at 6:30 pm; concert at 7:00 pm)
- ☛ Dec. 20      Winter Fun of outdoor/indoor activities at GHES
- ☛ Dec. 20      Last day of school before the break
- ☛ Jan. 7      First day back after the break
- ☛ Jan 25      Professional Development Day: School Closed

### **STAFF INFORMATION**

After much deliberation, Judy Mones has decided to retire from teaching. Judy will complete her teaching career on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are so excited for Judy and wish her many years of family time, travel, and fun. Effective January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Kathleen Berg will move from a 0.8 FTE position to a 1.0 FTE position and Emily Quarton will move from a 0.6 FTE position to a 1.0 FTE position. Our timetable will be modified slightly and will see Grace Snider, Emily Quarton, and Kathleen Berg covering most of Judy's assignment.

Elena Robertson, one of our Educational Assistants, will complete her 'planned' half year term on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will take place shortly to hire a replacement for Elena.

Dawna Davey's injured her foot requires additional healing time. Dawna will be away from Golden Horn Elementary School until December 10<sup>th</sup>. Shelly Morgan is covering for Dawna.

Brenda Fediuk attended an ELL (English Language Learner) in-service on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Wendy Close will be attending the Administrators' meetings on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Beaulieu is the acting principal.

Grace Snider and Cathy Harrison will be attending the Yukon Achievement Test workshop for mathematics, reading and writing on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Carmen Sutton-Olson, Fran Nyman, and Michelle Beaulieu will continue working on the joint 'writing continuum' project with staff from Hidden Valley Elementary School and consultants from the Department of Education on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Kathleen Berg is a member of the Digital Literacy Continuum committee. The committee is meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## **GOALS for 2012 - 2013**

To strive to use assessment for/as/of learning to steer our explicit instruction of writing strategies to ensure all student areas of need are addressed.

To develop and implement a meaningful and sustainable outdoor/adventure/field study/experiential program for Kindergarten to Grade 7 students.

## **OTHER**

Ms. Beaulieu's Grade 5 and 6 students hosted Commissioner Doug Phillips on his Commissioner's Diamond Jubilee Tour on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Phillips shared the history of the Queen Elizabeth and her family. The students were treated to a special 'Diamond Jubilee' cupcake.

Report Cards went home on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Families are encouraged to contact the school if they wish to further discuss their child's/children's progress.

Movie night was a huge success. Despite the cooler temperatures we were able provide both indoor and outdoor fun. Thank you to the parents and students who helped make the School Council fundraiser a wonderful experience.

Congratulations to the Grade 7 students who participated in the Volleyball league and tournament. The tournament took place on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The students' skill based developed over the course of the season.

Mrs. Harrison's Grade 7 students attended the Geoscience Trade Show on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

The staff were treated to an amazing breakfast on November 29<sup>th</sup> thanks to our thoughtful and generous School Council. The breakfast was dropped off at the school at 8:00 am sharp! The breakfast was a fundraiser for the Whitehorse General Hospital's MRI campaign. Heather O'Brien was able to join us for breakfast...what a treat. Thank you!

Several students in Grades 6 and 7 represented Golden Horn Elementary School at the annual Floor Hockey tournament held on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at Elijah Smith Elementary School. The team played well!

Student Council elections were held and the student reps for 2012 – 2013 are:

Grade 3:	Sam and Zion	Grade 4:	Orion and Seth
Grade 5:	Alli and Wyatt	Grade 6:	Josh and Logan
Grade 7:	Isaac and Lukas		

Student Council meets once a week at lunch time. Thank you to Ms. Nyman who is the Student Council Teacher Representative. Student Council's first order of business was to establish an ***intramural league***. The first floor hockey game took place today, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, between the Primary aged EAGLES and the SALMON! Intramurals run Monday to Thursday each week with games either during 'little recess' or 'lunch recess.'

Our new cross-country skis, ski boots, and poles arrived last week! We will be borrowing additional equipment from the 'ski library.'

*Newsletter: Email information for the newsletter to*  HYPERLINK "<mailto:shelly.morgan@gov.yk.ca>" *shelly.morgan@gov.yk.ca* . The next newsletter will be sent out on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

