

Sandhill School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: 2026-02-11

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Sandhills Library

Attendance

- Kim Harris
- Rajvi Vyas
- Nicholas Smith
- Kari Cilibanov
- Jill Kras
- Cheryl Rampersaud
- Deanne Reimer
- Matt Pinelli
- Birgit Sievert
- Brian Weigel
- Mickey Ho (virtual)
- Phil (virtual)

Notes

Introductions (Nicholas)

- Brian introduction
 - Current Principal at Sandhills for the next two weeks, until Cindy Smith returns
- Motion to accept the minutes
 - Motion accepted and all in favor, motion passed
- No correspondence

Admin Update (Birgit)

- Report cards went home on Monday
 - Teachers and parents can connect as required
- ILPs (Individual Learning Plans) going home on Friday
- Received PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) magnets, going home to all kids across the school board, to increase parent engagement
- November assembly was thoughtful and well done - lots of parents came and showed their support
- Christmas assembly was well attended by students
- March assembly (nighttime performance) will be open to parents to attend
 - April 2 at 12:15pm and 4:30pm
- Olympic Play Day this Friday
- Valentines dance this week during nutrition breaks
- Ramadan is coming up
- Participating in Black Brilliance conference this year
 - Four grade 6 students will be going with the LTO teacher
 - Student have picked their sessions, and are excited to attend
 - Students want to bring back what they learn to the school to share with other

- students
 - Supports Black History Month, and year-long learning
- Hosting Saidat Vandenberg to speak to children about self-confidence, anti-bullying, etc.
 - Purchased a 12-month subscription to her video packages/teacher plan, which supports learning all year round
- Extra curriculum lesson plans to support health body and lifestyles
 - Promote health body image, safe relationships with other students, and knowing boundaries (when “no” is ok)
 - Scripted for teachers and is all prepared to roll out
 - Parents can opt their children out
- Knitting club
 - Discussion around age requirement - no clear answer given
 - It was asked if children who don’t meet the age requirement could attend with a parent
- Discussed the Artemis II mission to the moon, and that many students in Sandhills don’t know about it
 - Discussed the potential to have the topic covered in school
 - “Let’s talk science” was mentioned as a good resource (letstalkscience.ca)
- More frequent updates from the school about what’s going on, to keep parents in the know, and help build a community
 - **ACTION: Brian and Bigit to discuss possible strategies about how this could be implemented**

Treasurer Update (Kari)

- Bingo funds
 - \$8379.14
- General Council funds
 - \$1747.46
- Greening funds
 - \$740.51
- December bingo was cancelled due to weather
 - Money that would have been received by Sandhills has been forfeited
 - Bingo hall is exploring alternatives to mitigate this in the future

PRO Grant (Birgit)

- No rollover of the PRO Grant into the current school year - application for rollover not submitted
- New PRO Grant deadline occurs in November, so we should start preparing for it at the end of this school year and early fall next school year

Bingo Update (Nicholas)

- Looking for people for next Friday’s bingo
- No additional update

Old Business (Nicholas)

- Vacant Positions
 - WRAPSC rep
 - PIC rep

- Open to all
- Events and next steps
 - Dance
 - Reached out to a couple of DJs about an evening dance, but fizzled out because we didn't have a date
 - **ACTION: Kari is leading the event, so she can choose a few dates to bring to the group**
 - Art/Craft Evening
 - Star gazing night
 - Literacy/Math night
 - Multicultural Fair
 - **ACTION: Deanne Reimer to run with this. Brian and Birgit to connect Diane with the appropriate teachers**
 - For event dates, we are probably looking towards year end
 - For event spreadsheet, we have added a column for people who would like to support:
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qeGhcZJ9_qt16yXMAMqofDOW5iiyZMEad94JPhkjs3w/edit?usp=drivesdk
- Camino Workshop
 - Would like to use the PRO Grant (\$500-\$1000) for this
 - If everybody agrees, to be discussed next meeting, Cheryl will champion this
 - **ACTION: Cheryl to come to next meeting with an idea about what Camino Workshop would be appropriate**

New Business (Nicholas)

- Communication (Nicholas)
 - What is the best way for parent council to communicate with the Principal and Vice Principal?
 - For now, Brian and Birgit will be the point of contact until Cindy returns, at which point there can be a hand-off
 - Standing meeting with the admin with the help of Tracy to book it. Async communication preferred at this time
- Past Parent Council Spend (Kari)
 - Lots of money spent a couple of years ago on snowshoes, and they aren't getting used
 - They are starting to get used, via sign-out sheet to teachers
- Teachers being pulled mid-year is disruptive (Kari)
 - At the end of the year, Parent Council fills out a survey
 - **ACTION: Kari to write up commentary to be sent to the board for the end-of-year survey**

- Is there anything that the council can do for the school? (Nicholas)
 - For the last few years, the playground has been unusable
 - Admin has been in touch with superintendent, where the issue has been brought up
 - Parcs Canada assessed the suitability and safety of the playgrounds, Birgit was told it would be addressed. Sandhills was missed
 - Next steps are in the Spring, the facilities supervisor will come to assess so that the cracked pieces can be replaced
- End of the year celebration over the past two years have been disappointing (Kari)
 - Nobody wants to take on the responsibility of running the events
 - Potentially combine multicultural fair and year-end events.
 - **ACTION: Kari to get people to support multicultural fair as year-end event**

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Nicholas)

- Cherly seconded