

John W. MacLeod - Flemming Tower  
Home and School Association meeting  
February 8, 2018

In attendance: HSA chair April Feener-Smith, Garlanda Joyce, Principal Emily Quigley, Vice Principal Jennifer Cholock, teacher representative Lynne MacKinnon, Trish MacDonald, Kristen Hollery, Leigh Chambers, Charlene Sadler

Principal's report:

\* The Holiday concerts were a big success. Our school had two concerts in one day, and staff really came together to make it happen. There are some areas that could be improved for next year, for instance, we need to have clear areas where kids are dropped off and picked up.

\* Literacy Week was also a big success. We did something different from last year. Kids were given tickets when they 'got caught reading.' They loved it. Kids were outside reading their books even when it was freezing. Another hit was 'reading under the stars.'

\* This month is African Heritage Month and we have African dance workshops. Kids get two workshops. The idea is at the end of the month, everyone goes to the gym and are led in dance together.

\* Registration has started for Grade Primary. We've had over 30 kids registered in the first five days.

\* We hope to hold a 'winter walk' week at the end of February. It's an Ecology Action idea. One plan being considered is a walk from the Frog Pond to school. Kids would meet at the Frog Pond at 7:45 a.m. on the last Friday in February or early March. Still working on that idea. As well, some teachers will run some activities.

\* The school is going to build a fence between the playground and Purcell's Cove Road. The school is paying for it.

\* HSA votes to use the 2016 community grant of \$1,500 towards the cost of the fence.

Treasurer's report:

\* For funds we have a total of \$16,097.56

\* This is broken out into:

\* Starting fund \$3,000.00

\* Bench Fund \$1,500.00 (now going towards the fence)

\* 2017 Funds - \$5,433.19 -this is the remainder of money from last year that needs to be spent (classroom start up and bussing have been paid out)

\* 2018 Funds - \$6,164.37

Fundraising:

Pumpkin Palooza made \$4,184.81. An increase of \$893.23 from last year

Spirit Wear made \$724.31 (First year as a H&S fundraiser, previous times the school took this on)

April suggests moving the Spirit Wear clothing sales period to September because

December is such a hectic month. HSA agrees. We are going to work on setting up a sample table for the Curriculum Night in Sept & possibly start taking orders at that time as well.

Ornaments made \$507 (Last year wreaths made \$310.60 so increase by \$196.40)  
Note: Next year, we'll start earlier to give the artist more time to finish all ornaments

Movie Night made \$748.25 (A decrease of \$192.91 from our previous movie night)  
Note: Attendance was down from last year but last year's movie night had approximately 40 kids more than usual in attendance. This year it was much more controlled due to the decision to relocate some candy sales. And the canteen sold out, which was good. A few things will be changed to make it run even smoother next time. Jennifer Cholock mentions that the Movie Night is a huge responsibility for the school because of the high ratio of students to adults. It's proven difficult to monitor children during bathroom breaks and pick-up. She suggests that for future movie nights, kids be accompanied by at least one parent. HSA agrees that going forward it will become a family movie night.

\* The school will offer a babysitting course for Grade Six students. The course will be held at lunch hour after March break. It will be open to Grade Six students first, then Grade Five and then Grade Four, if there's space. Maybe a lottery if there are too many younger students.

Family dance to be held March 8 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. DJ is booked for \$200. He'll bring music and lights. There will a canteen. Cost will be \$5 per family.

Auction and tasting night is set for April 13. An auction letter being sent out to raise donated items. Minimal volunteers will be needed. HSA is looking for someone to take over Trish MacDonald's role for the 2019 auction. This is her last year of organizing it. Microbreweries Garrison and Two Crows are back on board; Propeller and Nine Locks may also be in. We're considering having two-tiered tickets; one for people who will be drinking alcohol versus not alcohol. For classroom auction items, we're looking at possibly having students decorate Adirondack chairs that would be sold off. This is still to be determined.

\* Kristen chatted with Councillor Shawn Cleary about a number of things, including fixing the light in back of the school where the path is. It's very dark at night. Cleary has contacted Halifax Police because it is a security issue. Kristen also asked him about the community grant and will follow up on that.

Next HSA meeting will be March 1 at 7 p.m.

