

Highland High School Community Council  
Minutes January 14, 2009

**Present:** Teri Lyn Baucom, Kiersten Cole, Kareen Corea, Wendy Curtis, Liz Diamond, Suzanne Hammond, Karen Hansen, Chris Jenson, Doug Jorgensen, Karla Keller, Chris Nielson, Paul Schulte, Molly Welch.

**WELCOME:** Chris Nielson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 am.

**Minutes:** December Minutes approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**FUNDRAISERS:** Pep Club: Personalized Lanyards, to offset uniform costs

Charity Drive: Christmas Box House- does not need to be approved as a fundraiser, but has been approved by SIC

**TRIPS:** Debate: two trips not yet approved by SIC, but email approval by SCC will be needed before our next meeting. Molly Welch will send it out for consent.

All consent agenda approved.

**SCC BUSINESS:** Chris Nielson Chris commented on the great look of the donor/tile wall now painted black. It really looks great.

**Baseball report:** elected a President, VP, Secretary & Treasurer to streamline things to administration and work with parents. New batting cage is being built in the old wrestling room that can be lifted when not in use. This will eliminate previous problems with the cage in the North Balcony.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Paul Schulte**

**Freshmen & New Student Open House:** Tuesday, January 20 5:15 Clubs & tables, 6:00 Assembly with SBO's, 6:30 IB meeting & Pizza, followed by free tickets to the basketball game at 7:00. Current freshmen were invited to attend to learn about the IB program. A postcard was mailed to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the district. Please invite those out of our boundaries who may be interested.

**IB:** Accreditation is every 5 years. Especially evaluating the amount of hours for standard and advanced classes. Our accreditation will be given at the beginning, so Highland will start out approved at a time others may be struggling with accreditation renewal. Sending 7-8 teachers and counselors to training in March, district is paying. Application B is due April 1. Karen Phillips who does IB for Texas will be visiting Highland in February. We are working with the office for IB North America. Currently deciding how to admit students. Application is being worked on, definite priority given to Highland boundary students first, and then district boundaries, then others.

**COW:** Meeting yesterday for 90 minutes to work on School Profile. Many positive indicators. Seven focus groups will be formed and when complete, documents will be sent out to staff, faculty and community members for input.

**Rachel's Challenge:** SBO's/ HAM/HAW will remind students of the challenge in an assembly in February. White bracelets will be distributed. Large banner is being ordered for the building.

**Lettering:** Article in February newsletter explaining Academic Lettering

**Bonus Semester:** Funds in place to cover costs of summer school, to be called Bonus Semester. Focus on semester courses like Geography, Health, Financial Literacy, US Government, and Computer Tech. Some remediation courses: Algebra, Geometry. Some credit recovery. Math & Reading available for incoming freshmen. All classes open to all students, priority to Highland students. This will open opportunities for more electives in later years especially. Begins June 11, ends July 3. Schedule includes morning and afternoon session, with free breakfast and lunch offered. Highland teachers will be offered first opportunity to teach these classes. Information card going out with registration cards this spring, including to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Attendance is required every day, 5 days a week. Working on bus possibilities and scheduling.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT Chris Jenson**

**Fee changes** Handouts provided for. MyAccess program that English students are using this year will have the fee charged to each student next year. This year it was paid for with grant money. Football fee will go up: helmets from \$25 to \$35, general from \$40 to \$50. Sewing classes are helping with repair to old uniforms to cut costs. Sue Tice TV Production fee will be broken down to I and II. Parking fee discussed: these funds are used for student help, such as bus tokens. Questions asked about maximum on handout of \$80 /\$120 per family. Family is responsible to monitor the maximum. Fee changes were approved by consensus.

It was noted that the capital improvement projects are still in place, even with the economy problems. The football field upgrades are going to bid this week.

**Presidential Inauguration:** A question was asked, whether it would be broadcast at Highland. Administration reported this is up to the teachers' discretion. UofU Marching Band is going. SBO's invited to Kingsbury to watch.

U Football team Parade is tomorrow at 3:00. Highland section is between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> South on East side.

**SIC REPORT: Molly Welch**

**Closed Campus:** being discussed by faculty. Feedback has been mostly negative, primarily because it is hard to enforce. SBO's feel that it is not necessary and that there are other ways to improve attendance & tardiness. Officers will be encouraging students to get back from lunch on time, no food in the classrooms. As a community, we are encouraged to look for easier ways to get students to class and on time. These life skills need to be in place, with students reminded that being tardy disrupts the class and is disrespectful to the teacher. An effort will be made to remind students leaving for lunch is a privilege that can be taken away. Reminder to be include in the PTSA newsletter and elsewhere so parents are aware. Ideas include HTVS, Freshman Packet, Text messaging to students to return to class, Highland's Facebook page.

**Academic Atmosphere** being encouraged. "Test Days" will be scheduled at the end of each quarter to really focus on students in class at the end of the term. Those days would have limited activities, trips, etc. This will be discussed again at SIC after faculty input from last faculty meeting.

Mr. Schulte would like to discuss the ideas of semesters vs. quarters at some point, but this change would have to be district wide. SIC will discuss and see what action would need to be taken.

**Attendance:** Focus on at Parent Teacher Conference. Results will be seen next year.

**Cheating:** has become a big issue at Highland and was discussed at SIC. Students have an attitude that copying papers and changing grades is no big deal. This will also be discussed at the next faculty meeting. Looking for real ideas from the community on how to build Integrity. Highland Way poster will have a focus on Integrity as this is a school-wide problem. We need to look at expectations and consequences, focus on teaching teenagers what integrity is, creating a culture that does not allow cheating. Teachers will also be coached on policy where opportunities to cheat are reduced (locking computers, testing strategies, etc.) We would like to assume the majority are doing the right thing. Idea presented of an Honor Code to sign. Send ideas to Mrs. Welch or Administration.

**Access U Scholarship:** Cash stipend of \$3500.00 for Senior Girls interested in Math or Science. It includes a 7 week lab and work as a research assistant. Please make others aware of this great opportunity.

**STUDENT UPDATE: Kiersten Cole**

**Unity Week** this week, assembly on Friday. The week has had a hat day, retro day, pajama day and other lunchtime activities to unite the student body. Charity Drive for The Christmas Box House to be announced.

**Spontaneous Dance** next week, January 23. Ram Tag will be played to determine if the boy or girl pays for the dance, maximum \$20 can be spent that night.

**Valentine's Dance** February 7 is boys' choice. This is also the "Best Buddies" dance for Special Ed students.

**OTHER: Graduation Speakers:** a question was asked about how speakers are chosen and how minorities could be more involved. It was reported that minority speakers have spoken for at least the last two years. The auditions are announced in every English class and flyers are posted in the halls. Everyone has two weeks to prepare a speech with the theme announced. An audition is held and judged by the Senior Class Officers, English teachers, Debate Coach and Community members. Speakers are selected based on appropriateness of the speech to the theme, content and variety. Only two student speakers are chosen.

**Display Case:** a complaint had been made that the type is small and the case unorganized. Chris Jenson reported that the case had just been redone in the last few weeks. (It was checked after the meeting and seems to be much larger type and in alphabetical order by GPA sections.)

**Honor Roll Certificates:** these have not been mailed for a couple of years now. An interest by parents was expressed in having these for things like Sterling Scholar portfolios. They were discontinued because of the cost vs. the value of having it (many students seemed to not care). Wendy Curtis will check with Jostens to see what could be provided at low cost.

**CRT initial report:** Math: girls scores up. Algebra: 16% proficiency in 2005, 30% proficiency in 2008. More passing UBSC.

TeriLyn Baucom will Chair next month as Chris will be out of town.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 am. Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Diamond