**New Highland Elementary**

**Site Based Decision Making Council Meeting**

**January 10, 2013**

The New Highland Site Based Decision Making Council met on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in Mr. Thomas’s office at New Highland Elementary School.

**Members present included:**  Monica O’Donnell, Mary Foster, Elisabeth Scott, Joyce Cross and Mark Thomas.

**Members absent:** Karen Drake

**Agenda:** Mr. Thomas reviewed the agenda with the council. Joyce Cross was introduced to the council as the newly elected parent member. She will finish out the term for Selena Peak who resigned from the council.

**Minutes Review:** The minutes of the monthly meeting in November were reviewed. Mary Foster made a motion to accept the minutes and Elisabeth Scott seconded it. No meeting was held in December due to lack of a quorum.

**Old Business:**

**Playground:** The playground renovation is nearly complete and it looks great. All areas that have been a cause for concern have been fixed with the border being the only item remaining to be redone. The council is grateful to Charles Ferguson’s company who supervised the playground repair.

**Budget Committee:** The council reviewed an update from the Budget Committee. This update included information concerning phone charges that are no longer included in the budget. This money along with the extra per pupil money was moved to technology for the purchase of 50 more iPads. A new category, Payroll, was added to the budget to be used to pay the extended days for the assistant principal. Monica O’Donnell made a motion to accept the Budget Committee report and Elisabeth Scott seconded it.

**New Business:**

**Academic Team:** New Highland Elementary School will be hosting the district Academic Team competition on Saturday, March 2 where five teams will come to compete. There will be staff and volunteers working to help make that day a success for everyone.

**Career Day:** New Highland Elementary will have their first Career Day on March 26, for grades kindergarten through second. Mrs Gani is already scheduling many individuals from all areas of the community, such as Hardin Memorial Hospital’s Wellness on Wheels, several military personnel, D.A.R.E., and former basketball player, Robbie Valentine. This event lines up with the Program Review.

**Student Achievement/Success Story:**  The second and third graders performed in a program titled “It’s More Than Just Christmas.” This program was put together by Mrs. Sweet, our music specialist, and it highlighted a variety of winter holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Islamic Eid-ul-Fitr, *las posadoas*, and the Chinese New Year. The students performed for a standing room only audience on Thursday, Dec. 6, and also during a school assembly for the student body on Friday. All the students learned and sang the songs while a part of them had a secondary part. Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Packer each sang a solo during the program. The performance received extraordinary reviews by parents, staff and friends. Many agreed that it “was the best program we’ve ever had.”

Mr. Jenkins and several of his students performed an original song at Towne Mall in Elizabethtown as part of National Education Day. This concert took place on Saturday, Nov. 17, on the stage in the center court of the mall. The song was about the need for more educational technology in classrooms. Students sang and danced along with the song and represented New Highland Elementary well. Around thirty students in total were in attendance, and the crowd for the performance was one of the largest of the day. Mr. Jenkins and company also sang a second original song called, “Zombie” which was written by Mr. Jenkins last year. Overall, the event provided a fantastic opportunity to show the community what our school is all about.

**Finance:** The finance report for November and December were reviewed at this meeting. Elisabeth Scott made a motion to accept the November finance report and Mary Foster seconded it. Monica O’Donnell made a motion to accept the December finance report and Mary Foster seconded it. Two new funds have been started, the Social fund and the Athletic fund, to cover activities involving students at school.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Monica Oliver