

NHS School Council Meeting

Principal's Report

May 22 , 2018
7:00 p.m.
New Horizons School

1. Revised Dress Code

Our Parent Handbook includes a dress code for students. It reads as follows:

- *Students are expected to dress appropriately for weather conditions.*
- *Halter tops, low cut tank tops, very short skirts and shorts, bathing attire and clothing with inappropriate words or images, etc. are not acceptable. As a guideline, the hemline of shorts and skirts should not be shorter than one's fingers when the arms are at one's side.*
- *Students who come to school dressed in a way that breaches the dress code will be given alternate cover-up clothing to wear for the duration of the day.*
- *Students are expected to take off their hats when they enter school. (We have eliminated this one)*
- *Students are expected to have and use indoor footwear.*

In order to make our dress code more inclusive and provide more clarity, NHS is proposing the adoption of the attached draft Dress Code.

Action:

Requesting feedback from School Council regarding the draft NHS Dress Code.

2. Recess Changes for the 2018-2019 School Year

Information:

The NHS bell schedule will be undergoing changes in the 2018-2019 school year. The proposed change will

- *lengthen the lunch hour to 60 minutes from the current 44 minutes.*
- *eliminate the afternoon recess*

The rationale for this change is twofold:

- *to meet the requirements of the revised *Employee Standards Code*, that entitles employees to at least 30 minutes of rest (break) during every 5-hour work period*
- *to reduce lost instructional time during recess transitions*

Students will still receive 30 minutes of daily physical activity, and many teachers already implement movement breaks for their students.

Action:

Requesting feedback from School Council regarding the shift to a 60 minute lunch break.

3. Truth & Reconciliation Update

Information:

In line with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's *Calls to Action* and [Alberta Education's commitment](#) to including mandatory First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences in classrooms, students at New Horizons School will begin learning about some of those perspectives and experiences in the next few weeks.

- Students will be given background information regarding the Truth & Reconciliation Commission.
- We are coordinating a day to recognize indigenous perspectives by arranging the following:
 - Elder Theresa Strawberry will be introduced and welcomed as our elder who will be helping us gain indigenous perspectives.
 - We are also excited with the possibility of including Metis guests and presenters on that day.
 - Students will be making a [heart garden](#)
 - We are seeking to bring in Cree performers called the [Warrior Women](#) who will perform and lead some workshops for students during the day.

Action:

While the date for the above event is still being finalized, School Council may want to have a member of the executive be a part of Elder Strawberry's welcome. Protocol will be necessary in the form of a gift of tobacco (\$40.00).

If Council agrees, a motion to purchase the gift will be required.

Draft Dress Code

While New Horizons School recognizes that the primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s), New Horizons School is responsible for seeing that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, that student attire does not contribute to a hostile or intimidating atmosphere for any student, and that dress code enforcement does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of any group based on race, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, cultural observance, household income, or body type/size.

These dress code guidelines shall apply to regular school days, as well as any school-related events and activities, such as graduation ceremonies, dances and other school sponsored events.

Section 1. Basic Principle

New Horizons School expects that all students will dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or for any school sponsored event. Student dress choices should respect the school's intent to sustain a community that is inclusive of a diverse range of identities.

In order to achieve this, certain body parts must be covered for all students at all times. Clothes must be worn in a way such that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and nipples are fully covered with opaque fabric.

Section 2. Students Must Wear*

While following the basic principle of Section 1 above, *students must wear*

- a shirt (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), **AND**
- pants/jeans or the equivalent (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), **AND**
- *activity or weather appropriate* footwear (socks and slippers are not considered footwear)

**Courses that include attire as part of the curriculum (for example, professionalism, public speaking, and job readiness) may include assignment-specific dress, but should not focus on covering bodies in a particular way or promoting culturally-specific attire.*

Section 3. Students Cannot Wear

Students cannot wear clothing that has

- violent language or images;
- images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity);
- hate speech, profanity, or pornography;
- images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class or consistently marginalized groups.;
- any clothing that reveals visible undergarments (visible waistbands and visible straps are allowed);
- swimsuits (except as required in class or athletic practice);
- accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon; **or**
- any item that obscures the face or ears (except as a religious observance).

Section 4. Dress Code Enforcement

To ensure effective and equitable enforcement of this dress code, school staff shall enforce the dress code consistently using the requirements below. School administration and staff shall not have discretion to vary the requirements in ways that lead to discriminatory enforcement.

a) Students in violation of Section 1 and/or 3 will be provided three (3) options to be dressed more to code during the school day:

- Students will be asked to put on their own alternative clothing, if already available at school, to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
- Students will be provided with temporary school clothing to be dressed more to code for the remainder of the day.
- If necessary, students' parents may be called during the school day to bring alternative clothing for the student to wear for the remainder of the day.
- The New Horizons *School Code of Conduct* will be applied to students who refuse to comply to the first two options on this list.

b) No student should be affected by dress code enforcement because of racial identity, sex assigned at birth, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, cultural or religious identity, household income, body size/type, or body maturity.

School staff shall not enforce the school's dress code more strictly against transgender and gender nonconforming students than other students.

- Students should not be shamed or required to display their body in front of others (students, parents, or staff) in school. "Shaming" includes, but is not limited to:
 - kneeling or bending over to check attire fit;
 - measuring straps or skirt length;
 - asking students to account for their attire in the classroom or in hallways in front of others;
 - calling out students in spaces, in hallways, or in classrooms about perceived dress code violations in front of others; in particular, directing students to correct sagged pants that do not expose the entire undergarment, or confronting students about visible bra straps, since visible waistbands and straps on undergarments are permitted; and,
 - accusing students of "distracting" other students with their clothing.