**Northern Secondary School- School Council**

Thursday October 13, 20

Present: Ron Felsen, Adam Marshall, Bettina Hoar, Jenn Marr, Judy Steiner, Adam Gordon, Haimchand Katwaroo, Kasi Kugapalan, Stefan Banjevic, Steve, Sims, Mehrmaz and Michael Sekora, Rachael Cayley, Johanna Samuel, Jackson Flagal, Ethan Thompson, Shellie Suter, Katharine Dalton, Tanya Goldberg, Lucy Liu, Margaret Postlethwaite, Elizabeth MacLachlan, Joanna Strong, May Jean, Julia Schindeler, Bryany and Rick Suvanto, Revital Manor, Gillian Marshall, Jamshid Mortazavi, Scott deVeber, Kaan Yigit, Karim Hajj,

**PRINCIPALS REPORT- Ron Felsen**: Welcome to Adam Marshall Northern’s new Vice Principal coming from Newtonbrook. This year there have been fewer staff changes and fewer Teachers bumped. There are 115 Teachers now at Northern and approx. 1 new person in every department which is very manageable.

* **Election results:** 19 parents applied for the 19 Parent Member positions, so they were all acclaimed. There were 5 applications for the 6 executive positions, so these too were acclaimed. The 2016-17 School Council is:
* **Principal**: Ron Felsen
* **Co-Chairs**: Scott DeVeber & Bettina Hoar
* **Co-Treasurers**: Kasi Kugapalan & Steve Sims
* **Secretary**: Johanna Samuel (Co-Secretary position available!)
* **Co-Teacher Rep**: Stefan Banjovic & Jenn Marr
* **Staff Rep**: Nancy Matthews
* **Co-Student Rep**: Jackson Flagal & Ethan Thompson
* **Community Rep**: TBD
* **Parent Reps**: Rachael Cayley, Scott deVeber, Tanya Goldberg, Adam Gordon, Karim Hajj, Bettina Hoar, Marilyn Horrick, May Jean, Peggy Judge, Haimchand Katwaroo, Rob McCready, Kasi Kugapalan, Melissa Rosen, Johanna Samuel, Mehrnaz Sekora, Steve Sims, Joanna Strong, Shellie Suter, Kaan Yigit
* **Parent/Teacher Night-** great turnout
* **Cashless Program** has launched which will be a more efficient system for the school.
* $10,000.00 has been raised so far for the **CN Tower Stair Climb** taking place next weekend. The Assistant Director of the TDSB will be joining the climb.
* Emails will continue to go out to all parents each Friday and at the end of the month.
* Principal Felsen will publish the **Monthly Calendar** (one was sent out by email August 26, 2016) and this information is also be available on School Council website [nsscouncil.com](http://www.nsscouncil.com/whats-on.html)
* The TDSB and the Toronto Police Department have a partnership and for the last 9 years a Resource Officer has been at the school. A **School Resource Officer** will be at Northern three times a week.
* There are just over 1,800 Students and 1,100 Students with I.E.P.’s. This is an unusually high number (over 50% of the student body. Normally it is 10%). This is a big challenge for the school. IEP’s should be updated every term but it is unlikely that this will happen. Parents of students with IEP’s need to communicate with Teachers regularly.
* **Upcoming Events**: Post Secondary School Information Fair, Take your Kids to Work Day, November 3rd is another Parent/Teacher Information Night for Grades 11 & 12, November 18th is a PA Day, November 24th is a Post Secondary School information Night for Special Education Program Kids- kids with IEP’s etc. Mostly it’s for Grades 11 & 12 but all parents are welcome.
* Schools are no longer doing School Improvement Plans. The focus is now on Pedagogy instead of numbers. The new plan is **VISION FOR LEARNING** The Goals of this plan are:
* (a) **Achievement Goals** - Literacy, Math, providing learning opportunities where kids can create and communicate and learn to work together, supported by technology.

(b) **Equity Goal-** Each student achieving, challenging and confronting bias, and (c) **Well Being** **Goal**- Self confidence, Optimism and Self Esteem.

Parents are not involved in this process.

* Northern is now designated as being part of **Learning Centre #1**. Kathleen Wynn is our M.P. We are in the Don Valley West Network of schools. The TDSB has 4 Learning Centres for 140 Schools. This is an initiative which brings resources to schools (Special Education professionals, Coaches etc. based on the concept of Service and Support for learning and to respond to existing challenges in the schools. Each Superintendant in the TDSB is responsible for approximately 20 Schools. To access Coaches and Learning Professionals schools now go through their Superintendant and they assign the appropriate professional
* **VICE PRINCIPAL**- Adam Marshall: **Honour Roll**. Resolving a question from a several parents, staff determined that we will continue to require 8 credits from Grade 9 & 10 students to be considered for Honours. For Grade 11 students, a change to 7 credits required to qualify has been made. Grade 12 graduating students remain with a 6 credit course load minimum. Students who may be considering taking a reduced class load will be advised that this could affect their placement on the list (could you scan and attach the email?)
* **TEACHERS REPORT**: Nothing new to report yet. The chairs mentioned their gratitude that Stefan and Jenn have stepped forward to be part of School Council this year.
* **STUDENT REPORT**: Senators-Ethan and Jackson (Grade 10 & 11): **Carnival Day** was last week and the Senators met on the back field to discuss improvements. There are 30 Senators and 6 Executives on the Student Council. Class Reps speak to their Grade Senator. October 28th will be the **Club Fair** which will take place in the Foyer. Clubs have been finalized. Info will be posted on the school website.
* **CO-CHAIR REPORT**: nsscouncil.com (for minutes to Council Minutes). In order to respect our commitment to being a part of zero waste by 2020 movement started by NEMO, minutes will not be printed out but members are asked to read the drafts (available online on nsscouncil.com) and send any amendments to sc.northersecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca. Motion was carried for last year’s Minutes to be passed on and accepted (Judy Stein and Karim Hajj seconded the Motion). Many Committees have been started and School Council Parent Members are required to be on at least one committee as well as being part of the School Council. There is no limit to the number of Committees and anyone can join as many committees as they wish. There is also a Charitable Foundation at Northern ([NSS Foundation)](http://nssf.ca/) which has its CRA Status and is audited annually. This was created to receive tax deductible donations (i.e. The new field cost $1.1 million and the Foundation established a partnership with the TDSB and alumni and local Real Estate Developers to fundraise for this project). Alumni are primarily involved in fundraising for the school but if anyone is interested please join this Foundation. We are in Ward 11 and Ward Meetings are run by our Trustee Ms. Shelley Laskin. Parents are welcome to these meetings.
* **TREASURER REPORT**: Adam Gordon. A Final Budget Expenditure Report for 2015/16 was distributed to the School Council. $22,959.00 was spent on Students and enhancements at the school. We have $26, 268.16 in the bank and have spent $1,000.00 on the deposit for the Breakfast Club Program. In August we paid for the Water Bottles and we are expecting money back from this in 2016/17. 29% of the families gave donations at the beginning of the school year ($45.00 per student). The donations go to Students in need and help with paying for school application costs, food, uniforms etc. $4,800.00 was carried over from last year after the Water Bottle deduction. Our available balance is $26,268.16. There is a Budget Committee which can approve and disperse funds where required up to $1,000.00, paying various clubs etc. Anything above this amount must be approved or declined by the School Council. The final expenditures for 2016 were approved and seconded and the beginning budget for 2017 presented. Parents interested in funding matters are encouraged to join the Budget Committee.

 

* **L.D. COMMITTEE**- Advocacy Group begun last year and starting up again this year. Any parents of students with Learning Disabilities (regardless if formally identified or in the LD program) are welcome and encouraged to join this committee.
* **GIFTED ADVISORY COMMITTEE**: Peggy Judge: There are 60% new parents now and there will be a Committee Meeting on October 27th. First Lunch and Learn of the year will be held for teachers on October 21 on the topic of communication and validation.
* - **CELL PHONE COMMITTEE**: Scott deVeber: Ms. Shahnaz Kahn (Teacher at Northern) developed her own policy in her classroom for Parents to sign off on. A Survey will be going out to discuss whether or not this policy could and should be adopted by the school or if the school will continue to deal with this issue on a class by class basis. Currently the policy for policing electronic devices in school rests solely with the Teachers which is a big responsibility.
* **CARING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**: Nothing yet to report. Parents were alerted to the public safety issue a few weeks ago at Yonge & Eglinton and there was a police presence at the school to deal with issue of violence with people dressed up as Clowns and attacking people in the neighbourhood. An item under discussion will be the safety in the parking lot after school hours and when its dark.
* **CONSTITUTION REVIEW**- A parents volunteered to review the School Council Constitution
* **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE**: They will be updating a Guide to Resources which was initiated last year so that Students are able to access immediate help which will be confidential and will not require referrals. We applied for and were granted a PRO Grant. The date for the speaker from Parents for Education will be coming will be announced soon. This speaker will focus on whether or not our schools are teaching kids tools to be successful in life and not just focused on academics. This is an event for the Community. It was agreed that this event should not follow a School Council Meeting but should take place at another time.
* **SSON**: Adam Gordon agreed to look at the Statement of Needs Form (SSON) by the end of October. Peggy will join him in reviewing this.
* **COMMUNITY MEMBER** We need to find and appoint a Community Member to join the School Council Board which is made up of the Principal, 1 Teacher Representative, 1 non-teaching Representative, 19 Parent Representatives, 1 Student Representative, and a Community Member. This person can be an alumni, someone in the neighbourhood, an M.P. (Josh Matlow?). Looking for suggestions. If you know of someone you’d like to consider or nominate for the Community Member position, please send the name and contact details to sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca by November 14th. Further information about the role of Community Member can be found here (please scan and attach the description of Community Member).

SIGN UP FOR COMMITTEES: sign up sheets were distributed and parents asked to sign up for any and all committees that interested them. Committees are open to ALL. If you’d like to sign up – you can always fill in the online form at [nsscouncil.com](http://www.nsscouncil.com/volunteer-sign-up.html)

Adjournment: Motion: Karim, Second Bettina, meeting ended 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday November 16, 6:30 p.m., Library