

## **Northern Secondary School Council Minutes of September 24, 2018 Meeting**

**Present:** Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Scott Deveber (Co-Chair), Steve Sims (Co-Treasurer), Karim Hajj (Co-Treasurer), Joey Hotz (Student Rep), Yolanda Ricciuti (Staff Rep), Stephanie Signorile (Staff Rep), Tanya G. (minutes), Sue F., Linda R., Samir F., Marcia K., Judy S., Gail A., Melissa R., Alma D., Helen A., Reuben N., Silja Y., Rita G, Sylvia P., Barb W., Peggy J.

### **1) Welcome and Introductions (Scott)**

This is the last official School Council meeting of 2017/18. A new Council will be elected at the next meeting (October 15) which will be chaired by Gillian.

### **2) Principal's Report (Gillian)**

The new Staff Reps are Stephanie Signorile and Jenn Marr. The Student Rep will be elected shortly so Joey is standing in today.

Gillian reviewed staffing changes and facility improvement for the coming school year.

Reuben volunteered to be the Parent Rep for Caring and Safe Schools. Barb volunteered to be the Parent Rep for the Toronto Foundation for Student Success nutrition program.

Both marijuana and vaping are prohibited and the school conducts random bathroom checks.

Northern will continue advancing the TDSB's goals of achievement, wellness and equity through professional development for teachers. The school is also continuing with Google Classroom lunch and learns and teachers are being encouraged to use this platform.

A proposal to add a remark to the report card about inappropriate classroom cellphone use is being considered. Teachers would choose from a menu of standard comments.

Maximum class sizes are: University and mixed classes = 35, Academic = 33 and Applied = 25. The Grade 10 classes are particularly full this year.

### **3) Teacher's report (Yolanda)**

It has been a smooth start to the school year, establishing routines and setting expectations. Parent & teacher interviews will be in November. Otherwise parents may contact teachers by email or telephone to discuss any concerns.

Yolanda was thanked by Scott on behalf of School Council for her contribution during the 2017/18 year.

### **4) Staff report**

There is no longer a Staff Rep as Gillian explained the Union requires such a Rep to be paid for attendance at meetings.

### **5) Student's Report (Joey)**

Opening Assembly was a success. The SAC (Student Affairs Committee) would like to work more closely with School Council in the future, particularly regarding student funding requests.

### **6) Elections (Peggy)**

An email will be sent to all parents explaining the election process and asking for volunteers to serve as Parent Members and Executive. There are 19 voting Parent Member positions available and 6 Executive positions (2 co-Chairs, 2 co-Treasurers and 2 co-Secretaries). All parents are welcome to attend meetings and join committees regardless of whether they are an elected member. If more than 19 applications for Parent Member are received, there will need to be an election. Otherwise the positions will be filled by acclamation. The Parent Members, once named, will elect the Executive.

Peggy and Karim volunteered to manage the election process in coordination with the Constitution and Gillian.

### **7) Working Group re Website, documents and procedures (Sue and Karim)**

This Group made several recommendations to improve the website and communication and improve the processing of student funding requests. New documents were circulated for comment to streamline the funding process and require a report after the spending of funds.

A request was made to extend the time for the one time donation to School Council on TDSB cash online.

There was a brief discussion about changing the Secretary position to Communications but no decisions were taken.

## **8) Committee Reports**

### **a) Snack Program (Barb)**

Barb distributed a handout explaining the Snack Program administered by Dale Callender before school. School Council provides funding. It is Barb's last year at Northern so she is looking to train a volunteer to help out and take over the program next year. The commitment is about 2 hours per month. Sue volunteered. Anyone else willing to help is encouraged to contact Barb at [bwiseberg@bell.net](mailto:bwiseberg@bell.net).

This program does not qualify for external grant funding as it is not considered a full breakfast program.

### **b) Budget (Steve)**

Steve distributed information about last year's budget. The 2018/19 budget will be completed in the next few months. In 2017/18 we spent close to funding with the largest expenditure on fans (\$13,000 over 2 years) to alleviate the school's lack of air conditioning. Funding comes from approximately 1/3 of families through the one time donation.

### **c) LD (Helen)**

The Learning Disabilities Committee will meet on October 1 at 6 p.m. in Room 112. Brief discussion about changing name to Learning Differently Committee or some other name which may be more accurate.

### **d) GAC (Melissa)**

The Gifted Advisory Committee has already had one successful social evening. GAC next meets on September 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. There is a conference on giftedness on October 14 at the Ontario Science Centre.

### **e) Communications (Scott)**

A volunteer is required to assist with taking meeting minutes and posting them online and managing the email list. Someone is urgently needed to spend a couple of hours updating last year's email list so School Council can communicate with parents. Please send an email to [sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca) if able to assist.

**f) Cellphones (Sue)**

Sue has prepared posters for the school to remind students to turn off cellphones in class unless being used for instructional purposes. Brief discussion about British study showing significant increase in marks for students when not distracted by cellphones.

**g) Wellness (Tanya)**

Goals for the year include updating the resource list, engaging a speaker (conditional on Pro Grant) and preparing posters to remind students about all the free, confidential and immediate mental health resources available in the City of Toronto.

As this is Tanya's last year at Northern, she is looking to train a volunteer to take over this Committee next year.

**h) SSON (Peggy)**

The School Statement of Needs is a parent wish list for the attributes required if a change of Principal occurs. It is due the end of October. A volunteer is required to update the previous draft which likely requires minimal revision. Please send an email to [sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca) if able to assist.

**i) Caring and Safe Schools (Reuben)**

This is a provincially mandated Committee with Vice Principal, teacher, student, parents and community representation. The next meeting is September 25 at 4 p.m. in the Heritage room. Reuben has volunteered to serve as the Parent Rep again.

**9. Co-chair Report (Scott)**

Draft minutes of May 2018 were approved (moved by Steve, seconded by Karim).

Anyone interested in attending the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) banquet can send an email to [sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:sc.northernsecondaryschool@tdsb.on.ca) . The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be renewing its membership shortly. If interested in becoming involved, contact Melissa.

A middle school parent has suggested Northern run an all-candidates meeting for school trustee next week. A volunteer is required to assist. Gillian offered to assist with the permit process. There is information available on the City of Toronto website on all candidates.

**10. Community Member (Scott)**

Sylvia Perry, a parent of a former Northern student, attended to state her interest in this position as she cannot come to our next meeting.

**11. Committee Sheets (Scott)**

Scott encouraged all present to sign up for at least one Committee and sign the email contact list.

Meeting adjourned (moved by Melissa, seconded by Scott).

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