

Dear Northern parent/caregiver,

You may or may not be familiar with School Council and its role at Northern, so we've put together a summary of what we do, and how we can help you!

School Council 101- Who we are and how to get involved!

About School Council

Northern's School Council is made up of 19 parents, who work with a teacher, student, and community member to help support students to achieve their best. The principal is included on Council in an advisory role.

It is a provincially legislated body, whose purpose is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. We achieve these objectives through the active participation of parents through in-school initiatives (workshops for parents and students, fundraising for student initiatives and needs, helping parents get connected, etc.) and advocacy in educational matters.

We're here to help you! So, please...

- 1) **join our email list** to receive news "for parents, by parents". Send a message: "Count me in" to nss.school.council@gmail.com if you haven't done so already.
- 2) **check out our website** nsscouncil.com for valuable resources, tips, and more to help you support your student.
- 3) **come to a virtual meeting**. In 2020-21, they are scheduled for: Oct 14 (election), Oct 27, Nov 25, Jan 26, Feb 25, April 8, May 5.
- 4) **come to a virtual workshop**. We schedule speakers on a wide range of topics: Study Skills; Teenage Brain; ADHD, Anxiety, and Depression; Post-Secondary Planning, and more. Join our email list for dates and links!

You are always welcome to be part of our meetings, workshops, and committees. But, if you want to be more involved, being a voting member may be for you!

Expectations of a Parent Member

- 1) Attend a majority of the scheduled Council meetings.
- 2) Be involved in a leadership role and/or committees (budget, education, wellness/mental health, graduation, Roehampton shelter, Academic Resource/LD, Gifted, green, website).
- 3) Participate in online or in-person discussions between meetings.
- 4) Generate ideas on how to support students at Northern.

How to become a Parent Member or Leader

If you want to be a voting parent member, here's what you need to know:

- 1) Our elections are a simple process, open to all parents of students enrolled in Northern (regardless of if they go to school in person or virtually).
- 2) Parents who are interested in becoming a voting parent member ("candidates") should notify Council of their interest at nssc.elections@gmail.com by October 11.

- 3) **Elections will be held at the first meeting, October 14 at 6:30 on Zoom.** A description of School Council's work will be given by the co-chairs, then each candidate will have one minute to explain their interests in School Council, what their past contributions have been, and what their goals would be for the coming year as a voting member. Candidates who are not able to attend the meeting can send a written introduction to be read aloud by the moderator.
- 4) If there are 19 or less candidates, all will automatically become the new School Council.
- 5) If there are more than 19 candidates, there will be a vote by all parents present, and the top 19 candidates will become the new School Council.

If you want to run for leadership (co-chair, co-secretary, co-treasurer):

- 1) After School Council has elected its members, each candidate interested in leadership will be given 1 minute to describe their interest in the position.
- 2) If there are no more than 2 candidates for each position, they will automatically fill the position.
- 3) If there are more than 2 candidates for a position, the 19 Parent Members will fill the position by voting.

Getting involved in School Council is a great way to make friends, learn about the school, and make a big difference for our kids. Let us know if you have any more questions, and hope to see you soon!

Kind regards,

Tania and Rita,
Co-Chairs of Northern School Council

PS. We encourage you to reach out to these committees to help support your student with special education needs:

Academic Resource/Learning Disability Committee: northernldcommittee@gmail.com (next meeting October 6)

Gifted Advisory Committee: northerngifted@gmail.com (next meeting Oct 22)