

Northern School Council Meeting

April 6, 2022, 6:30 - 7:55 pm (Via Zoom)

Principal's Report

E-Learning. New requirement from the Ministry of Education to complete 2 e-learning credits. These are asynchronous learning credits (not a Zoom class with interaction; assignments are posted and work submitted online). Grade 9 students already have one credit as government is recognizing the last year's period of school from home. Students can opt out of this requirement with no impact to graduation. There will be a form offered in the coming weeks to opt-out, no explanation needed. If student changes their mind, they can opt-in again. At Northern, we don't have a teacher allocated for e-learning and won't have a menu of courses available for upcoming school year. Potential issue in that this allows students to have a spare in their schedule, with no staff supervision provided.

Athletics. A concern was expressed that there are more opportunities available for males than females. That isn't the case as there are the same number of athletics available for male & female students. At Northern we usually have at least a junior (grade 9-10) and senior (grade 11-12) team for each sport. In the case of Basketball, we also have a bantam team. Varsity teams are generally senior teams at Northern, but at other schools more grades can be involved depending on the interest from the student body. This year, the only two sports that didn't run were Curling (facility issue) and Golf (no staff sponsor).

Parent/Teacher Interaction. Will there be opportunity to get meet face-to-face? School is looking at upcoming events as opposed to starting with parent/teacher interviews. Parents can come to the school to watch sports and can make appointments to meet teacher in person.

Assembly. First big assembly since start of Covid is being held on April 28. It will focus on the Holocaust and geared to Grade 10 students.

Perspective on Covid now. Adam is feeling less stress as less time is devoted to COVID management with no QR code checking in the morning and no individual letters at night. That said, cases are up board wide. It is becoming more frequent to hear of cases. Happy about students being able to restart 'normal' things.

Student Fees. A request went out earlier in the year through the weekly bulletin asking for \$50 from families to cover Student Activity Fees. So far, 652 families made a payment for a total of \$32600. Yearbook costs are just over \$32000 which means there would be no money left for other student activities. This raises the question if we should be producing yearbooks. The school is covering the cost of yearbook this year so SAC has an operating budget. The intention

is that everyone gets a yearbook. For reference, \$35 of the \$50 fee is for yearbook. The minimum order for cost effectiveness is 1200 yearbooks. Discussion of a digital copy in future years to save cost.

There are 1811 students enrolled at Northern. While we don't expect everyone to contribute, having more contributions means there would be more budget for activities and SAC to work with. Will add the request back to the next few bulletins. Council suggested that a designated email with an explanation of what Student Activity Fees covers be sent to parents.

Commencement. It will be held June 29th 1pm at Convocation Hall at University of Toronto. Interested in hearing feedback on suggested cost of \$55/graduate for gowns, programs etc. This cost can be reduced if the ceremony is held at Northern but not everyone can fit in the auditorium. Is the expense warranted to hold the ceremony at U of T? Please send thoughts to the School Council chairs.

Prom. It will be held Friday May 27th at Arcadian Court. Doors will open at 6pm and it will be a personal choice to wear a mask. There will be a Smart Risk assembly held for prom in advance.

2021 Graduates – Yearbooks + Diplomas. Composite was done but virtual school students were unintentionally missed. The composite is being corrected by Edge Imaging. New versions will be available for all graduates. Students can come in and pick up now that restrictions are lifted.

Track & Field. The Athletics Head has created a website. Watch the weekly bulletin for the link, and NSSAir announcements.

Staffing Allocation. Northern will receive it April 7th. This leads to teachers being allocated to classes. There is a large Grade 9 class coming to the school. 519 kids which is higher than predicted. The largest class up till now has been 480. The gifted program has extended 90 offers and 65 have accepted so far.

Robotics Club. They are competing in Hamilton this weekend and then will be at Provincials next weekend. A big thank you to Stephen Wong who has given up a lot of his personal time to get this club to where it is now.

Incoming Grade 9 students. There will be a Welcome night, in person, in June.

Closing Exercises. Will get to do.

OSSLT Evaluation. To accommodate the writing of this for semester two students, the schedule will be adjusted for 4 days. Watch the bulletin for details.

Credit rescue days. These will be held on April 11th & April 20th

Elevator Project. Progress is being made with the staging process beginning. Expect to have them up and running in September.

Conversation Starters. This is a new inclusion in the weekly bulletin, stemming from the hate incident at the school. Many parents contacted the school to express they were afraid to send their child(ren) to school after this incident. Many groups were offended. Felt it wasn't enough to say we are working on it and felt a personal obligation to address it.

Masks. Mask wearing has decreased since March Break. Estimated approximately 70% of the student body was wearing them post March Break. Now a couple weeks later, that is closer to 50%. It is not a requirement to wear one.

Lauren – Model UN Club Presentation

- Northern has a Model UN (MUN) club, where each member become a delegate.
- Members have to network, engage in collaboration to find creative solutions to real world problems.
- The club is a group of passionate students who like working together to find solutions.
- Recipient of \$950 of School Council support to attend events including three conferences. The club was successful at these events. It was the first time attending the UTMUN conference and came away with awards (Best Delegates, Best Small Delegation).
- Hosted 3 crisis committees, which involves developing solutions in progressing crisis situations.
 - Halloween Graveyard
 - Winter Wonderland
 - Historical Valentine
- Why MUN?
 - Helps students learn about world events in an inclusive manner. Active mind-set to problem solve vs. being passive listeners
 - Hone public speaking
 - Team building
- Thank you for support for funding.

Next month: Robotics club to present.