

Northern School Council Meeting

Principal's Report

May 5, 2021, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (Via Zoom)

Principals Report - Adam

- We have been going through a rough stretch this past week with the death of Desi Pena. While we are never fully prepared for these moments, the staff have been great dealing with this tough topic where we have no playbook. Unfortunately, our Covid restrictions have made dealing with the grief all the more difficult. The school will be looking for a way to properly remember Desi, in time and after Covid restrictions ease, but in the interim there is a Go Fund Me set up for the family here.
- We are happy to be in the last Quad despite still dealing with the stress of the unknown ahead of us. Right now we are hoping for stability in the fall, and hopefully the ability to make plans and follow through.
- In Q3 there were only 40 credit failures; a huge thank you to April Vibert, our student success teacher, and all staff who helped our students get their credits this year.
- Looking ahead, some things of concern are:
 - Book and device distribution and collection
 - Scheduling for next year
 - Virtual school next year
 - There are still day to day challenges to provide the help that is needed while adhering to Covid protocols/restrictions
- Some positives:
 - The credit accumulation mentioned above
 - We have a concrete plan for virtual graduation (see below)
 - Teachers are through the difficult Q2/Q3 stretch
 - Proud of what we have all accomplished together this year... parents, teachers and students. NSS is the biggest school operating in TDSB and we are doing a great job

Parent Submitted Questions for Adam:

Will we be continuing with Quadmesters next fall?

- This is a TDSB decision, not a school decision and no official announcement has been made as of this meeting. There are scheduling meetings over the next two days and the board should let us know more then. One possibility would be two quads followed by one longer semester.

Is it possible to balance schedules to meet certain needs of students (e.g Grade 12 students applying to post secondary).

- It's very difficult at this point to balance the teacher's schedules and our large class sizes while meeting every student's schedule preferences. For example, while we recognize that having math in Q1 of this school year and having it the last part of next year is not ideal, we can't make any promises at this point that we can address that imbalance.
- Likewise, we can't guarantee that students "reaching ahead" will be able to get the courses they'd like this fall. For example a student taking grade 10 math over the summer and wishing to take Gr 11 math in the fall would only be allowed to take that course once all the Gr 11 and 12 students requiring it for graduation are accommodated.

Any plans to support students who have missed writing exams with workshops?

- Yes, we will have something but we are not sure at this point what the format will be - could be after school, could be an assembly.

What do we need to know about the end of the school year?

- We are still working out how we will deal with returning books and devices, safely. We need to hear from TPH first but it could be drop off bins.
- Last day of full classes is June 23. Credit rescue days will be June 24, 25 and 28th. June 29th is a PD day.
- Summer school will be virtual.

What are the grad plans? (See the Grad Committee section for more info)

- June 28th we will have a recorded ceremony featuring speakers (guests, valedictorian etc), graduating student's names on the screen and some fun stuff too. The link will be able to be shared with family so grandparents etc can watch at home too.
- We will also have an in person grad kit pick up arranged, where students can pick up a gown, cap etc and have a photo taken. We'll use these photos in the class photo for the hallway and the grad book we will send them.

Will the Covid vaccine be required for teachers and students?

- Teachers are all eligible. As of today, kids aged 12-15 are approved for Pfizer but we do not yet have any indication from the Ministry or the board on if there will be any vaccine requirements for next year or beyond for Covid vaccines.

Education

- IPRC proceeding at a normal rate, there's been no slowdown of referrals.
- We expect about 16 Core students next year.
- We have made 130 offers for Gifted, about 75 have accepted with many others choosing to move to private school.
- 446 grade 9 students are projected for September with 30 Optional attendance offers.

Roehampton Shelter

- We will be keeping an eye on the property over the summer holiday to ensure the residents of the shelter (who don't like living there) don't move into our grounds as they did last year.