

# Northern School Council Meeting

## January 13, 2022, 6:30 - 7:55 pm (Via Zoom)

### Principal's Report

**Grade 8 Open House.** Held on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, we had almost 500 attendees, who gave great feedback. Thank you to the Guidance team and student leaders for their fantastic efforts to make this event a success. Currently Northern's enrolment numbers remain the same for next year at around 96% occupancy.

**Stolen 3D Printers.** Over the holiday break, 4 3D printers taken out of the tech room. Currently working with Police & Insurance to sort this out. Security footage is being reviewed. Hoping to have replacement printers by the end of January.

**Robotics Competition.** We are hoping to move forward with participating in upcoming robotics competition. Final decision is required by Jan 18.

**Child and youth worker.** Our half-time child and youth worker, Lucy Fernandez, has now been increased to a full-time resource at Northern. We are glad to have her here every day and invest more time at Northern.

**Virtual Learning.** Transition to virtual learning after the holiday break went very smoothly; thanks to all for adapting so well. At the beginning of January, TDSB reopened the option to move to full time virtual learning for semester 2. 24 additional Northern students chose to move to virtual making a total of 92 students participating in virtual learning for semester 2.

**Elevators.** TDSB has approved fixing two elevators (one that has been broken, and one which has never been in service) that will provide access from cafeteria in basement to the 3rd floor.

**Underground parking/field.** Over the holiday break, work progressed so staff can use the parking lot again. However, the field will not be reconstructed until 2022/23 school year.

**Activity Fees.** We have only collected activity fees from 550 of the 1800 students. This level of participation is lower than normal and makes it hard to support school activities. The money raised from these fees covers the cost of the yearbook as well as other all-school efforts. It is administered by Student Affairs Council (SAC) to support the various clubs, sports and other student events.

A question was asked if there could be a yearbook only fee and it could be considered, though could make the cost of producing a yearbook prohibitive as it is approx \$25K.

**Return to Extracurriculars/Sports.** Currently all sports are on hold as per the City's mandate which is in effect until Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. TDSB will take their lead from the City for reinstatement of sports. Different sports have different risk levels and each sport will be evaluated individually. Hoping to be able to open sports but the priority is to ensure teachers are in classrooms.

**Gym classes.** More details to come on these classes.

**Covid update.** There is an updated screening tool to use to determine if the student can attend school. The school will be relying on families to communicate with the school about absences and any positive Covid cases. Impacted classes will be informed of positive cases but not asked to isolate. Two rapid tests will be provided to students as soon as they are provided to the school. If unable to attend school, and that class is a hybrid class (in person and virtual learners) then might be able to continue with the class virtually. If the positive case is in an in-person only class, the student will need to keep up with the work on their own via Brightspace. More details are expected in the coming days. Currently student vaccine rates at Northern are voluntarily disclosed, and 60% of the student body has disclosed their status on the TDSB app.

**Semester 2 format.** There is no indication right now of how semester 2 will roll out – regular or modified format. Hoping to have more clarity in the coming week as TPH and TDSB sort it out. New semester begins Feb 3.

**Credit recovery days.** There are three days at the end of semester 1 allotted for credit recovery. Two days will be the same as in the past where there is a day 1 & a day 2 credit rescue day. Students will be notified if they need to work with April Vibert in Student Success. Working out the details for day 3 right now.

**Staff Absences.** There is concern across the TDSB about the rate of staff absences given the prevalence of the variant. Northern has pre-booked 3 supply teachers for the first week of in-person school next week. There might be instances where classes need to be combined to manage staffing levels.

**Enhanced measures to keep staff safe.** N95 masks are being offered to teachers who request it. Staff can bring their own mask if preferred. Three-ply masks will be the standard. Students can use any mask they choose. We already had HEPA filters in classrooms. Northern didn't receive any additional HEPA filters.

**Late Wednesday start pattern.** For the remainder of semester one, it will be the last 3 Wednesdays of January. Pattern for semester 2 is TBD. Late start is Board-wide.