

Northern School Council Meeting May 25, 2022, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (Via Zoom) Principal's Report

First Day of School. Starting on Wednesday Sept 7th. Calendar for 2022/23 year has been approved. Sept 7th is first day of semester 1. Timetables will likely be distributed electronically.
Aug 29th – Head start to high school. Grade 9 welcome day
May 31st – Open house welcoming Grade 9

Staff Parking Lot Construction. Underground parking and field still under construction. Meeting with the team on Friday am. Scheduled start is June 1st. Promise to be finished for first day of school. Wet weather impeded construction last fall.

Grade 9/10 parents in-school tour. School is very busy in the month of June and understand parents want this. Best option is a curriculum night in the fall and hoping to organize this.

Prom. Prom May 27th. 6pm – 11pm. Safe prom assembly was held Tuesday. Content will be sent to parents/guardians of Grade 12. It is at an awesome venue, Arcadian court and expect it to be a great night. The prom will be supported by staff, security and police.

Commencement. June 29th 1pm at Convocation Hall which can host 1500 guests and students. The inside is stunning. Northern staff will help the students, and Convocation Hall staff manages guests. Photographer on site to take pics in hallway post diploma. All must wear masks during ceremony due to UofT requirements.

Caps and Gowns will be given for students to keep. Interested students can donate their cap and down back to the school for use by future students.

Extracurricular Activities. Lots of great achievements in sports. We have qualified for OFSSA in Track, Tennis and Rugby. Busy time for students with arts and athletics activities in full swing now.

Question. With the events happening in the auditoriums, what additional measures will be taken to help with air flow - HEPA filters, propping over doors?

Adam Answer: Windows will be open and we will add what HEPA filters we can. The doors can be propped open doors so long as hallways aren't noisy.

Question. Will masking be encouraged?

Adam Answer: Will put out masks for anyone who'd like to take one. Fashion show is running two nights - Thurs & Fri – and the Fri night will be the busiest night.

Question. Heard at the ward forum about accommodation pressure and secondary review, including commercial and technical boundary. How does this relate to Northern?

Adam Answer: This is a good question. Next year Northern benefits from the commercial and technical boundary. The scope of the boundary ensures viability of those programs and allows us to offer very vibrant programming for these courses. Currently, Northern's attendance is larger than the board would prefer – they want schools to be at 90% capacity. To get us to that attendance level, the Board could review the boundaries for these programs. A big benefit of these programs to our student community is the diversity they offer.

Question. Who decides if school will be right-sized? And is there an exception?

Adam Answer. TDSB Planning is responsible for school population while boundary changes is a subject for the Trustees.

Question. Will Northern be semestered or full year for next year?

Adam Answer. As Board policy, TDSB has moved to semester. Would have to have demand from stakeholders for it to change.

Question: Will there be exams next year?

Adam Answer: Yes, exam days are in schedule. 5 days in each semester.

Question: What can be done to help students with exam preparation?

Adam Answer: There will be a focus on exam writing skills throughout the semester next year. Students can use quiz and tests to practice for exams.