**NSS Council Meeting**

**October 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present**: Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 11), Scott deVeber, Melissa Durigon, Yolanda Riccinti (staff rep), Jackson Flagal (student rep), Peggy Judge, Karim Hajj, Kasi Kugapalan, Steven Sims, Shellie Suter, Silja Yates, Reuben Nelson, Sue Fisher, Melissa Rosen, Dion Durigon, Julia Schindeler, Joanna Strong, Tanya Goldberg, Maria Herrera, Ramón Ruiz, Rita Czarnecki, Kaan Yigit, Lili Zhao, Helen Aubrey, Diana Goldie, Gillian Marshall.

**Welcome and Introductions**

* + Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Shelley Laskin, Trustee, and introductions were made.

1. **Principal’s Report: Gillian Gibbons**

* Awards assembly was held last week.
* Post-secondary school fair will be held October 18th starting at 6:00 p.m.
* “Take Our Kids to Work” day is November 1 for Grade 9 students.
* United Way event November 6-10th
* Holocaust remembrance event coming up October 26
* PD day before Thanksgiving focused on the 3 pillars/goals:
  + **Achievement** – Last year focused on learning skills/self regulation and now moving to how best to support all learners in a class. Possible de-streaming and how to ensure what would be needed to teach in inclusive classrooms. Also looking at Sports/Student Leaders – how to balance more across student populations (e.g., DHH students, etc.).
  + **Equity** – Caring Adults designated to link an adult to help identified students. Watched video about assumptions people make and how to mentor people not like yourself – to help diversity.
  + **Wellness** – Reducing anxiety around assessments – last year they looked at reducing number of assessments but this didn’t seem to impact student anxiety. Now also looking at strategies around mindset, being present and helping students manage pressures throughout their day.
* In the middle of a re-org with the addition of 2.5 teachers which is going to help keep class sizes under 30.

*Principal’s Report cont’d*

* “Enhancing Equity Task Force” Report – Summary and draft recommendations handed out.

***Action: Parents encouraged to provide feedback to the Enhancing Equity Task Force by the end of October. Feedback form is on TDSB website, along with full document.***

* Melissa Rosen asked to speak about de-streaming and proposed a working group be assembled. Need parents to help research de-streaming rationale/pros/cons and liaise with other schools to assess recommendation being put forth by the Enhancing Equity Task Force Report.

***Action: Interested parents should contact Melissa if interested in participating.***

**2. Trustee’s Report: Shelley Laskin**

* Enhancing Equity Task Force: De-streaming is a provincial initiative looking at a few core subjects. There is a pilot project underway at TDSB. Public consultations have been held and the current document reflects voices of those who have contributed to the process. Will come to the Board in November.  
  Parents encouraged to provide feedback (as per Principal’s report above); perhaps hone in on a few key areas that are important to each parent, e.g., gifted, de-streaming, etc. Report also speaks to SRO (School Resource Officer) program.
* Parents can sign up for Shelley’s weekly emails or go to her website for information.

**3. Staff Report: Yolanda Ricciuti**

* Yolanda teaches French (been at Northern since Sept. 2012) and is on the PD Committee, which is currently gathering feedback from teachers to see what types of development will further support various NSS learners.

**4. Student Report: Jackson Flagal**

* One of 2 Student Academic Council senators and senior football captain. Tries to answer as many questions as possible about student life and keep everyone informed. Liaison between president of school (Mac) and NSS Council.

**5. NSS Council Election**

* Joanna Strong read out list of 19 parents volunteering to be on Council.
* School Council positions: 2 Co-Chairs (Scott deVeber, Melissa Durigon); 2 Co-Treasurers (Steve Sims, Karim Hajj); 2 Co-Secretaries (Silja Yates for posting minutes; the second co-secretary position is needed for Council meeting Minutes).

*NSS Council Election cont’d*

* Voting members are to read Constitution on NSS Council website.
* Voting members then read and signed Code of Ethics.

***Joanna formally moved to accept 2017/18 candidates on list.***

* Scott has emailed last year’s community representative Behzad Jazizadeh to assess interest in returning this year. (Following the meeting, Behzad confirmed his interest in remaining as community rep for the 2017/18 school year.)
* Scott thanked Joanna for all her work on organizing the election and welcomed Melissa as co-chair.

**6. Co-Chair Report**

* Minor changes/corrections to be made to September minutes, as indicated, by Peggy Judge.

***Scott motioned for September minutes to be approved; seconded by Silja Yates. September minutes approved.***

* PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) has a full-day conference/series of workshops on November 25. Details forthcoming at www.torontopiac.com

**Committee Reports**

1. **Budget Committee & Treasurer’s Report**

* Steven Sims reviewed draft 2017/18 NSS Council budget.
* Draft budget was proposed at the last meeting of previous school year to be approved at this meeting. Can always make changes to budget as requests come in throughout the year.
* In summary budget = **$30,350 budget total** (plus approx. $2,000 add’l funds just received) with expenditures estimated at $29,350. Actuals last year = $19,254 with remaining $11,000. Bought 68 fans for classrooms last year.
* 511 ($45) donations were received from parents (27% of school population) to account for $23,000 of the budget. Scott talked about the need to ensure that Council is prepared before next school year to send out a note in the Principal’s communication about what the $45 donation for Council does so that parents know when they log on to do their school payments. **Scott highlighted the need for a Communications person on Council to help with this kind of activity**.
* Also received a $1,000 PRO grant for speakers.

***Moved by Scott, Seconded by Peggy. 2017/18 Budget Approved.***

* Teachers, staff, students and parents can submit spending requests to council (for special speakers, etc.).
* Jackson stated that he communicates that the NSS Council budget is available for students/committees/clubs to make requests.

*Committee Reports cont’d*

1. **LD Committee**

* First meeting had 12 parents attend.
* Want to meet with Principal to brief on last year’s activities/decisions made with previous Principal.
* List of topics for potential speakers has been drafted. Plan to coordinate with GAC (Lunch-and-learn) and other committees, as appropriate.

1. **GAC Committee**

* Next meeting is October 19th at 6:15 p.m.
* Will be looking at list of speakers for lunch-and-learns and will coordinate with teachers and other committees (LD, Wellness) for alignment.

1. **Cell Phone Committee**

* Posters are being finalized communicating existing NSS policy on cellphones in the classroom = “phones off in class”

1. **Caring and Safe Schools Committee**

* No update as committee hasn’t met yet.

1. **Wellness/Breakfast Committee**

* Tanya Goldberg will provide brief overview of purpose of Mental Health resources and direct link to the updated list to Principal Gibbons. The link will be included in the weekly update email to parents.
* Last year Guidance held session on “Applying for Post-Secondary School and Dealing with Anxiety”, which was well-received. Principal Gibbons said she believed this was being planned again this year.
* PRO Grant – perhaps could focus on Technology and Kids/Distractions. Liaise with Chairs of committees for best speaker. Could have a panel.

1. **School Statement of Needs (SSON)**

* This document outlines qualities required in a principal and the needs of the school.

***Action: Diana Goldie and Peggy Judge to update current SSON, which is on NSS Council website. Due end of October.***

***Action: All Committee Chairs should review respective committee information on NSS Council website to ensure accuracy. Also, Julia will provide list to committee chairs of parents who applied to sit on respective committees. Chairs to email interested parents.***

*Misc. items*

* Reuben Nelson raised the possibility of having a Fundraising Committee, which is allowed if there is a specific item(s) to be fundraised for, which is clearly defined. Shelley Laskin and Jackson Flagal talked about the very successful United Way campaign (approx. $40,000 raised) that is organized by NSS students and Shelley commented that, generally-speaking, fundraising done at the high school level is outwardly focused. Reuben put his name forward for budget committee.
* Scott recommended inviting Cynthia Hamlin, from NSS Foundation, to next NSS Council meeting.

***Scott motioned to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Diana. Meeting adjourned.***

**Next School Council Meeting:**

**Wednesday November 15, 6:30 p.m. in the Library**