

Northern School Council Meeting (Draft)

May 25, 2022, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (Via Zoom)

Attendees: Andy A, Jen A, Janice B, Rita C, Abby D, Diane G, Samir F, Sabina H, Laura M, Karri P, Rhonda S, Claire S, Steve S, Adam Marshall, Jenn Marr, Leslie Usin-Rojas

Regrets: Diana C, Tania O, Melissa R

Meeting called to order at 6:33 by Janice B

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Crimson Revolution – Robotics Club Presentation

- This is the first year of the club and there were 20 members. Mr. Stephen Wong is staff advisor.
- This club is focused on the STEM field: mechanical, electrical, software engineering
- Participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition, which is the largest competition of this kind. It was a great experience, filled with lots of teamwork and learning. The team received two awards.
- The team's projects are limited by the amount of tools. Other teams who have been involved for some time have more funding to build more competitive projects.
- They also participated in the CETA competition. This was sponsored by the TDSB and was focused on programming and electronics.
- Next year, the team would like to focus on:
 - More fundraising
 - Outreach in the community
 - Promote to other schools
 - Connect to other teams
 - Offseason event
 - Grow membership and provide mentorship to new members
- Sponsors
 - club + parents \$2300
 - limited budget – has down sides

Question: What was the funding for the club this year?

- \$26K was spent this year. The school was able access \$20K through TDSB funding. SAC provided funding, as did club parents. In comparison, Alpha Dogs – a team from another school – has a budget of \$60K this year.

Stephen Wong

- All are welcome to join the team and there is lots to learn
- Business / Project Management / Engineering
- Robotics is expensive and looking for funding from school and other areas (School Council, School, Foundation)
- Grow student and parent involvement

Rhonda volunteered to help with business side of the club.

Operational Matters

- Approval of Agenda Motion to approve: Steve; Seconded: Rhonda. Carried.
- Approval of April 6 minutes. Motion to approve: Jen; Seconded: Sabina. Carried.

Co-chair Report – Andy

- Very busy wrapping things up for the year. Met with budget committee and had discussion around budget.
- TDSB advised that discussion on by-law template for school councils has been pushed out to the fall as they are revisiting articles in template.
- Thank you to Steve Sims and Melissa Rosen. Involved in council for many years and want to thank them for dedication, time, enthusiasm, and hard work. Provided much support through GAC and Budget on behalf of the council.
- Janice – Thank you to everyone for all their hard work this year. Congratulations to the other graduates Diana G, Samir and Karri. Also thank you to our teacher reps – Jenn and Leslie.

Principal's Report – Adam

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.
May 31st – Open house welcoming Grade 9
Aug 29th – Grade 9 welcome day

Staff Parking Lot Construction. Underground parking and field still under construction. Meeting with the team on Friday am. Scheduled start is June 1st. Been given the promise it will 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 semester 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.

Subcommittee Updates

If you are interested in joining a subcommittee, please visit our website to learn more or reach out to School Council via email (nss.school.council@gmail.com).

Treasurer's Report – Steve

- Janice and Andy thanked Steve for all his work as Treasurer for the past many years.
- The budget document was reviewed.
 - We are ending the year with approx. \$18K
 - In a normal year, we'd target to have \$2K to end in the year.
- At this time, we prepared a preliminary version of next years' budget for approval to support any spending in September. It is proposed that the preliminary budget is the same as last year, with adjusting ARC's allocation to \$1000.

Motion to approve the 2022-23 Prelim Budget: Rhonda. Seconded: Sabina. Carried.

ARC – Rita/Tania

We enjoyed hosting a gathering of ARC parents at the Granite Brewery on May 5. It was refreshing to spend an evening face-to-face, share experiences and support one another and our students with learning differences. We brainstormed some ideas for next year including having a monthly parent chat on dealing with ADHD, hosting a "video club" to watch recordings of speakers on learning differences with live discussion afterwards, and connecting parents to quality online networks, resources and virtual conferences.

We are pleased Council has approved the purchase of a library of recordings from the virtual "Bright and Quirky Conference" that ran in April. There are many excellent webinars by experts that include topics like learning differences, ADHD, anxiety, tech use, motivation and more. All Northern parents will have access to this library to view on their own schedule. Look on the "What's On" page for more information in the upcoming weeks!

We appreciate the financial support that School Council has given to our many activities this year, and thank Monica, Rita, and Diane for their time and teamwork throughout the year. We

look forward to what we can do together next year for Northern parents and beyond - new volunteers always welcome!

Gifted Advisory Committee – Janice

Melissa couldn't attend the meeting. Melissa, thank you for all your time and effort. Hoping to have some volunteers take on her work and look forward to meeting those reps next year.

Grad Committee – Janice

Melissa and Stacey are working on graduation and are looking to purchase penants much like were given two years ago. Hoping to distribute during commencement.

Website – Jen/Tania

We have made many changes to the website this year, mainly concentrating our efforts on making "need to know" information clear and accessible on our homepage, and consolidating links to webinars and resources at Northern and beyond on What's On.

There has been much discussion on the scope and type of content on the website. We think these are significant decisions and deserve more discussion in a committee with all parents invited for feedback. So, we are deferring any decisions about these matters to the 22-23 Council.

From feedback we have received throughout the year and in our survey at the last Council meeting, we know our most used pages are the home page and "What's On". So, we are considering a streamlined School Council website that will only feature the home page, What's On, and our official School Council business (agendas, minutes, budget). We believe it would be beneficial to have the website in an easily maintained structure for volunteers to maintain. As well, this focus for content would require less time and discussion in Council on an ongoing basis. With the year wrapping up now, we will undertake that in the fall if that is the direction Council members agree on.

We'd like to thank Karri for her creative leadership and investment of time in transforming the website over the past three years. We will miss Karri's energy and expertise and wish her well as she graduates as a Northern parent.

As we look to the future, we continue to welcome feedback, new ideas, and anyone who enjoys building connection and communication between parents! Thank you for the opportunity to serve Northern as the website committee.

Janice. TDSB will be issuing guidelines for website and social media.

New Business

No new business.

Upcoming Events and Reminders

School Council Members Social. June 8th 6:30pm. More information to come.

To the council for your time and dedication to conversation. Thank you Janice and Andy for your leadership. It has been good working with you. To our teacher reps, Jenn and Leslie, thank you for putting your hands up.

2022 Remaining Meeting Dates

- Fall 2022