

Northern School Council Meeting (Draft)

October 18, 2022, 6:30 - 8:02 pm (Zoom)

Attendees: Andy A, Jen A, John B, Janice B, Natalie B, Omar B, Diane C, Elena C, Abby D, Diana G, Jonah J, Everton L, Beth L, Willem M, Tania O, Anna R, Melissa R, Kristina T, Adam Marshall, Jenni Marr

Regrets: none

Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Janice B.

- Welcome – this is the final meeting of the 21/22 council
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Operational Matters

- Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve: Melissa R.; Seconded: Diane C. Carried.
- Approval of Sept 25, 2022 minutes - Motion to approve: Beth L.; Seconded: Diane C. Carried.

Co-chair Report – Andy A.

- Thank you from co-chairs for everyone's support during 21-22 school year
- New funding requests brought forward since last meeting: Ethics club, and Dale's healthy snacks (see budget report)
- Andy mentioned that each year the TDSB's Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) provides training opportunities for School Councils across the system to support the important work of School Councils. Virtual mini courses about aspects of school councils are available to new Council members for their information.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils/Workshops>

Introduction of New Council – Election Committee

- Principal Marshall listed the 22-23 School Council parent members (Andy Anderson, Jen Ankenmann, John Bakous, Janice Barnett, Natalie Bassani, Omar Becerril, Diane Caltana, Elena Comelli, Abby Dwosh, Everton Lewis, Beth Lauer, Willem Maas, Tania Osmond, Anna Rutledge, Kristina Turner) and welcomed them, along with the staff and student representatives and community co-representatives.

Election of Executive – Election Committee

- Co-chairs: Andy A. and Janice B.
 - Co-Treasurers: Jen A. and Abby D.
 - Co-Secretaries: Tania O and Kristina T.
- Approval of Executive Committee: Motion to approve: Beth L., Seconded: Diane C. Carried.

Introduction of Staff, Student and Community Representatives – Co-Chairs

- Staff representative: Jenni Marr
- Student senator: Jonah Jojkic
- Community co-representatives: Diana Goldie and Melissa Rosen

Principal's Report – Adam

- List of all school clubs was shared on Northern's website (click [here](#))
- Extra help available: peer tutoring after school, teachers' office hours (all teachers have office hours; students are encouraged to use these as opportunity to seek extra help), and extra afterschool drop-in help TBA. Also, there is daily math drop-in help at lunch (Room 108), student success office (April Vibert), and Academic Resource (Amanda Kearney)/ Gifted (Monique Cipollone)/ Deaf and hard of hearing (Eric Laroque) for special needs.
- Exams – on all schools' radars. All secondary school principals are receiving the same questions from schools. There are some concerning differences in weighting through Ontario. Adam is gathering info about how various schools are doing things this semester; there is a general pattern, but there are also outliers. Exam prep: some departments in Northern are putting info out; we plan to create a central place on the school website to consolidate the information. Will start building in some practice exam format in the interim (eg giving students practice with doing work or tests with the classroom set up as it would be during a formal exam). Exam schedule aim to be out in late October.
- Budget: Good response to student activity fee collection. But school budget is down, school population is up, and costs are higher than pre-pandemic. May be costs that will need to be charged for various things that used to be covered within the budget.
- Questions: students vaping in washrooms. One washroom in particular is a concern for vaping and for social hanging out (furthest away from offices). To remedy: Hall monitors have been trying to watch out to discourage behaviour. Vaping is not a new issue here or at any school. Staff is aware that it's going on and know that from history, grade 9 students may feel intimidated. In the All Gender washroom there has been serious graffiti and damage to wallpaper (it was a \$5K installation); wallpaper will be stripped and painted. Short term solution is to prop the door open (there is no direct sightline into

the bathroom) but if the door is removed then it makes it impossible to lock the space if needed.

Parent Teacher Interviews & Progress Reports.

- Progress reports: recent updates from teachers were sent out to help parents understand if they need a meeting with the teacher, and to shine a light on issues early.
- Parent/teacher interviews – this is not the same format as curriculum night; interviews to be held primarily on the first floor, with Buddies helping to direct parents.

Spirit Wear.

- Parents are asking about buying branded t-shirts and hoodies: the options are to purchase the standard phys. ed attire; or clubs may order their own; or families can order spirit wear items on the upcoming online shop (will open around mid-late November; purchases handed out early January). There may be a second sale of merchandise in April

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 – Abby D

- The budget update was reviewed.
- Council disbursed \$14K last school year, and is starting with \$15K for the 2022-23 year.
 - Aim is to end school year with a minimum cash balance of \$2,000.
- This year's disbursements thus far:
 - \$4,862
- Request to approve \$2,500 total spending for the year on the breakfast club - Motion to approve: Abby D; Seconded: Anna R. Carried.

Academic Resource Committee – Tania O. We want to highlight several resources available for students and parents about learning differences:

- 1) The next Shift Live Youth and Parent Call is Wed, Oct 26 at 7 pm discussing School and Stress, facilitated by staff from Bright Lights Psychology and Susan.
- 2) Shift Your Thinking Virtual Summit - Change is Now! Nov 4-5
- 3) Bright and Quirky Summit Recordings (part of our SC website library)

Looking forward, we are planning regular social gatherings to encourage parent connection. We will be hosting Saturday morning parent walks and our next social evening at the Granite Brewery will be Thursday, November 3.

Visit nsscouncil.com for more details on all of these and the latest news from ARC!

Gifted Advisory Committee – Melissa R. GAC parent social in September - great response, next social is October 25.

Education Committee: JP Bacchus will lead – anyone else interested, please let Council know. Info for parents: last December SEAC passed motion to have ADHD recognized officially as a Learning Disability. To enhance the initiative, TDSB plans to work with CADDAC experts (Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada) to provide input into TDSB solutions. Specialized programs at risk: complaints were made to the Ombudsman, requesting that the decision to cancel these programs be deferred until better data can be received.

Website – Jen A. and Tania O. are heading up the website committee, where they design and update the School Council website with news “for parents, by parents”.

Besides official Council minutes, agendas, and budget, they post important news of presentations, recordings, events, and core information like schedules, maps and parent ideas to make the journey at Northern a little easier to navigate.

Please visit the website nsscouncil.com to see it for yourself, and if you have an interest to help develop it, please send your ideas or volunteer at nss.school.council@gmail.com!

New Business

Format for Council Meetings.

Discussion about future meeting formats - hybrid is not offered at this time; next meeting in November will be Zoom. Agreed that a mix of in person and Zoom meetings is beneficial.

Council Committees – seeking additional members (there will be a committee fair at next meeting)

The Committee Lead brings a report to main meeting. Committees are:

- Budget committee (5ppl)
- GAC – Gifted Advisory committee
- ARC – Academic Resource committee
- Website committee
- Grad committee (ad hoc) – March or April
- Social committee
- Education committee (engages in TDSB consultations)
- Safe and caring schools committee



2022-23 Remaining Meeting Dates

Tuesday, November 22, 2022 - Zoom

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Motion to adjourn: Motion to approve: Tania O., Seconded: Diane C. Carried.