

Northern School Council Meeting (Approved)

January 19, 2023, 6:30 - 8:02 pm (Zoom)

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

Regrets: Diana G

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Janice B.

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Operational Matters

- Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve: Beth L.; Seconded: Diane C. Carried.
- Approval of November 22, 2022 minutes - Motion to approve: Beth L.; Seconded: Diane C. Carried.

Co-chair Report – Andy A.

- Jan 10 - Parent Member Social to connect in person after holidays
- Jan 12 - successful turnout for Grade 8 Information Night
- Committees have been meeting, funding requests have been approved, bylaws on agenda

Student Report - Jonah J.

- Safe School Senator
- Finds the school safe, does not encounter threats or feel unable to ask for help
- Washrooms are not always the cleanest, can be missing supplies or doors - due to student disrespect

Principal's Report – Adam

- **Safety** : Recognizes that some junior students may not feel as comfortable as senior students in the building
- **Boys' washroom:** 1st floor south end continues to be closed - no timeline yet for re-opening (needed repairs are an invasive job so will take some time). There is another

washroom available on the 1st floor north end though. Discussing options of propping open external doors on bathrooms to discourage mischief.

- **Dale Callendar's departure:** effective June 30. We do have a TDSB social worker who is at Northern Mondays and Thursdays (takwahin.kibalian@tdsb.on.ca) along with a full time Child & Youth Worker (lucy.fernandes@tdsb.on.ca).
- **Exam prep and update:** level of comfort with upcoming exams depends on the student. There was a presentation by TDSB psychologist, Dayna Morris, on coping strategies for stress ([recording](#) link and [slides](#)). Exam weightings: Principal was seeking feedback about other high schools' evaluation methods, especially for Grade 12 students, and would like to see the TDSB make a rule about weightings to ensure consistency across the Board. Right now, exam weighting is decided by each school.
- **Communications policy regarding violent incidents:** Parents wanted to know more about the school's rationale for dealing with violent incidents between students in a private way instead of openly, with all students. Can we share outcomes for bystanders and students involved? If not, it was felt that students (online as well as in person) may feel that there were no consequences and that they need to take matters into their own hands, which is troubling. Principal responded that TDSB policy is that only lock down/hold and secure incidents get communicated to public. The policy tries to avoid causing alarm for parents unnecessarily and to respect privacy issues for minors.
 - Parents asked if/how students receive bystander training. Toronto Police Services do presentations about bystander issues; teachers and students are asked to help by: Drawing attention to the incident (loud voice); interrupting the altercation; getting help (don't intervene physically). If they take a video, they are asked to give it to the office – do not share on social media.
 - A safe school assembly was held in September - may have a follow up in second semester, or one specifically for younger students who are most impressionable.
 - TDSB has an anonymous tip line, but Principal encourages students/parents to email the office directly - will still be kept anonymous. If it happens on school property, what can be done immediately at school to take action with students?
 - One suggestion was a program such as Paul Davis, who does speaking and training on the topic of social media safety and how to manage teen usage. <https://socialnetworkingsafety.net>
 - Question about visibility of extra police in school recently: police were on site to deal directly with specific students. Parents may have noticed a TDSB security guard at dismissal because we are down a hall monitor, vice principal, and are also working through an incident investigation.
- **Staffing changes for Semester 2:** at semester change, we are dealing with staffing changes, which is normal. We have added one new teacher for business and ESL. Principal aims to ensure all is settled for semester 2 day 1.
- **Facilities:**
 - Cafeteria closed: plaster repair. Leak from radiator in auditorium linked to cafeteria. Facilities has scraped half ceiling and will finish scraping late January. Replastering will be scheduled for next summer?
 - Pool repair starting late January for at least a week. Scheduled for exam week, but will look at contingencies if delay.
 - Elevator: one elevator has passed inspection and hopefully the second one will be up and running in the near future.
- **2023/24 course selection:** Parents reminded to check guidance messages for 2023/24 course selection in February.

- Student Course selection fairs Feb 10 and 13 at lunch
- Pick courses carefully that you want. Very little room to make changes. Less than 50% chance at your elective.
- **Optional attendance:** closed except for siblings - essential because of very high enrolment numbers (estimated at 500 for Grade 9 in Fall 2023). This year, Grade 9 enrollment was projected for 420; actual was 525.
- **Commencement:** Moved U of T to June 27 - probably around 12.30pm or 1pm (Eid is 28th). Will need to manage exam dates.

Treasurer's Report – Jen Ankenmann

- The budget document was reviewed.
- **Treasurer update:** we started the year with \$28K available for distribution - \$17K has been distributed so far, with \$11K remaining (\$2K is kept for carry over to new school year). Complete report is posted [here](#).

SSON (School Statement of Needs): this [document](#) has been updated for this year and can be accessed on website. Approval of SSON - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Beth L, Carried.

Bylaw Update

- The TDSB has mandated that all School Councils update their bylaws according to a [template](#) they provided. The matter was referred to a committee, comprising Willem M., Melissa R., Tania O., Omar B., and Diana G.
- This group agreed to review the template and the existing bylaws and bring them back to the February meeting with a recommendation and approval.

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).

Due to a lack of time, committee reports were deferred to the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to approve: Tania O., Seconded: Beth L. Carried.

2022-23 Remaining Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Wednesday, May 24, 2023