

Northern School Council Meeting (Draft)

September 21, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 pm (hybrid)

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

Regrets: Jonah J., Natalie B., Willem M.

The TDSB no longer uses ZOOM for virtual meetings; the platform now is Microsoft Teams.

Meeting called to order at 6:41 pm by Janice B.

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Operational Matters

- Approval of Agenda – addition to the agenda was proposed – add a report from the Community Representative - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Anna R. Carried.
- Approval of May 24, 2023 minutes - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Anna R. Carried.

Co-chair Report – Andy A.

- Wrapped up business for past school year. Submitted business report for disbursements for past year. Co-chairs reviewed parent engagement and support.

Student Report - Jonah J.

- Deferred to next meeting

Principal's Report – Adam M.

- Parents are encouraged to send in questions to nss.school.council@gmail.com before each council meeting, for the Principal to answer in the meeting.
- Annual Activity fee: \$60 – typical cost. This covers students printing in the library, the yearbook and the Student Activity Council (SAC), which is an elected student council that administers the funds to fund proposals from teams and clubs at Northern.
- Attendance: in the spring, this year's attendance was projected at 1,935 – it's at 2,058 now. There are 561 Grade 9 students (projected 503), and this was the biggest adjustment in numbers (this is normal, as we have 30 feeder schools). There were also 90 Gifted students instead of the 80 expected. The school is allocated staff based on

projected numbers but until school actually starts, no changes can be made. As of September 21, 3 additional staff have been allocated (now 110 teachers on staff).

- Gifted Program Lead - Monique Cipollone is on mat leave. Interim lead is a new teacher, John Moyer, working with Jessica Pearson - VP; permanent lead will be confirmed soon.
- Kristin Beach, new staff, focus on student leadership.
- Room 137 – status: this is a new fitness studio and is expected to be ready in December (not this month as projected).
- School safety – discussed recent incident re: Snapchat threat – no credible threat confirmed.
 - Other questions:
 - Do families receive a yearbook even if they don't pay for it? They hopefully will, although it depends how much is received from all other families to compensate.
 - With increased enrolment, will more gifted classes open up? There will be no new unique gifted courses added, but all students will get their required courses.

Treasurer's Report – Jen A.

- Last year, Council had enough funding to support lots of clubs, staff and parent engagement; this was because we had two years' of spending to use due to lack of activity during Covid.
- Clubs and teams ask SAC (Student Activities Council) for funding first, then ask School Council for additional funding if needed.
- The 2023/24 year has started with \$5K available (intentionally left over from last year) but will settle back into a more typical budget of about \$12K.
- By the end of September, an email will be sent out asking for voluntary contributions to fund School Council; the target will be around \$15K (pre-Covid we annually received about \$20K).

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).

Academic Resource Committee – Tania O.

- The Academic Resource Committee plans parent socials, webinars, live calls, and keeps educational resources and a great virtual library on the website, all available to parents. – On Sept 27, Dr. Todd Cunningham will deliver an online presentation about IEPs. The Committee welcomes parent input, and is hoping to schedule a viewing of "Screenagers 3". Please contact nss.school.council@gmail.com with any questions.

Website committee – Jen A.

- Please check out our website, which has tips and news for parents, by parents. If you'd like to join the Website committee, or just share your ideas, please email nss.school.council@gmail.com.

Gifted Academic Committee – Anna R.

- With a larger cohort of gifted students this year, the GAC is trying to engage parents. On October 12, there will be a Q&A with the interim Gifted Program leads. The committee is also creating Whatsapp groups organized by grade, so parents can raise questions there instead of calling the office.

Social Committee – Tania O.

- The social committee plans events so that parents can meet other parents: Walking Buddies on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 9:30am at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery; Monthly games night - next one Oct 13; gathering for Parents of Students in Distress - TBA.
- Please contact nss.school.council@gmail.com with any questions.

Education and Academic Achievement Committee – John B.

- Please contact nss.school.council@gmail.com with any questions or if you would like to join this committee.

Community Representative – Melissa R.

- TDSB trustees voted to send Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) recommendation back to staff for review to reinstate the SEPRC process.
- There is increased interest in parent engagement and SEAC is energized due to program changes and violence in schools.

New Business

- Upcoming school council elections: Election period for this year's school council opens on September 29 for 10 days – the election will be held virtually on October 17. All parents are welcome to self-nominate. An email with more details will be sent out on September 29. The council comprises 15 voting members, two staff representatives, a community representative, and a student representative.
- The election committee this year is Steve Sims and Samir Fahs.
- Meeting format and dates: meeting format (in person, virtual or hybrid) will be determined by the new council.
- Finally, the Chairs thanked three Council members for their valuable and dedicated service, as they are stepping off council: Melissa Rosen, Diane Caltana, and Tania Osmond. We have been very fortunate to have their involvement.
- Student Networking Safety Presentation - Nov 16 - Paul Davis, former OPP officer.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to approve: Kristina T., Seconded: Diane C., Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.



2023-24 Meeting Dates

- Oct 17
- Nov 21
- Jan 16
- Feb 22
- April 4
- May 24