

Northern School Council Meeting

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

Principal's Report

- 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