

Northern School Council Meeting

October 27, 2020, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Via Zoom)

Attendees: Laura A, Andy A, Janice B, Grace D, Abby D, Samir F, Diana G, Sabina H, Ellie M, Tania O, Karri P, Sohinee R, Melissa R, Steve S, Mary Ann S, Adam Marshall, Gail Agensky, Leslie Usin-Rojas, Jenn Marr

Regrets: Rita C, Andrea F, Linda K, Debbie L

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Janice B, Council Co-Chair

Operational Matters:

The following items were approved by Council:

- Agenda
- Oct 14 Minutes
- SSON

Also approved were the following members for this year's Council:

- Gail Agensky - Community Member
- Gethin James - Student Rep
- Leslie Usin-Rojas, Jenn Marr- Teacher Rep (shared position)

Budget Discussion - Steve Sims, Budget Committee co-chair

[Click here to see the full budget report.](#)

- Spending last year was \$17,095 vs budgeted expenditures of \$30,550
- Underspent due to COVID shutdown, but Council was still able to support a variety of clubs, teams, events and programs prior to that
- We are starting this year with about \$10,000 that could be spent. Total cash on hand is \$12,231 and we usually plan to have a minimum cash balance of \$2,000 to carry into next year.
- Council has previously targeted spending as 50% student enrichment, 15% parent engagement, 15% teacher engagement, 10% environmental equity
- Budget committee will work on a budget for this year but as clubs and extracurriculars are TBD, it is unclear how much will be needed
- TDSB has put a moratorium on fundraising for now
- Breakfast program is being offered and is being funded through funds originally earmarked (and not being used currently) for lunch programs

Committees

- The list of committees proposed for this year are:
 - **Budget** - Steve Sims and Abby Dwosh- co-chairs, Andy Anderson, Janice Barnett, Sabina Holder
 - **Gifted Advisory (GAC)**- Melissa Rosen- chair, Tania Osmond, Andy Anderson, Debbie Levy, Grace De Souza
 - **Academic Resource (ARC)** - Rita Czarnecki- co chair, Laura Aguilar co-chair, Diana Goldie, Ellie Morch, Mary Ann Stewart, Diane Caltana
 - **Education** - Andrea Fowler- co-chair, Melissa Rosen - co-chair, Tania Osmond, Linda Kennedy, Laura Aguilar
 - **WellNSS** - Linda Kennedy- chair, Diana Goldie, Debbie Levy, Andrea Fowler, Sabina Holder
 - **Outreach** - Mary Ann Stewart- chair, Tania Osmond, Melissa Rosen, Sabina Holder, Laura Aguilar, Jamie Ker
 - **Website** - Karri Paradi- chair, Mary Ann Stewart
 - **Roehampton Residence** - Diana Goldie- chair, Tania Osmond
 - **Graduation** - Catherine Wong
 - **Green** - Andrea Fowler, Karri Paradi, Laura Aguilar

- Brief updates were given for each committee. If they have not yet met or decided on a chair, this will be done in the next few weeks.
- [Click here to see an update from the Roehampton Residence committee chair.](#)

- You do not have to be a voting member of Council to join a committee. Any NSS parent can join a committee by emailing Council (nss.school.council@gmail.com) and expressing interest.

Polling - Janice and Tania

A brief poll was taken of attendees to see preferred start times and topics going forward.

Principal's Update -Adam Marshall

OSSLT

- Grade 10 provincial literacy test -passing this is a graduation requirement
- Usually held in March or April. This year it will possibly be held online. We won't know until the spring.
- Students failing the OSSLT can retake the test - if they fail a second time they are required to take a course which may be offered during off hours (i.e. a night course)
- Students graduating this January will be allowed to take the test online this fall

EQAO

- Grade 9 provincial math test - not a requirement for graduation
- Province is looking at running an online version of this in November to test the tech issues
- Normally EQAO would be 10% of a student's culminating mark but this probably will not be the case for this year

Community Hours

- Grade 12 students will only be required to acquire 20 hours in order to meet this grad requirement (down from 40 hours)
- School admin has the leeway this year to approve hours that may not normally qualify (providing family support, paid work up to 10 hours, etc)
- Even non-graduating students can take advantage of the relaxed rules and add up to 20 hours this year on activities that would not normally be approved

Take Your Kid to Work Day - Nov 4

- NSS will not formally participate in this event this year
- Kids planning on missing the morning or afternoon class for TYKTW can let their teachers know what they are doing and they be marked absent with a special code

Virtual school

- Given that they are still dealing with issues from the virtual school set up in September, TDSB realized they could not handle the influx of new students wanting to switch from in-person to virtual for Q2
- They have passed the responsibility to provide virtual learning to those wanting to switch over to the the schools themselves, i.e. the original virtual school is now closed to new students
- For NSS, there were 121 students as of Oct 27 who wanted to make the switch
- Admin is currently looking at options for how best to accommodate everyone
- Some options: pairing with other schools, going fully remote for some courses
- NSS still has good numbers for their in-person learning, which makes it easier to offer a lot of different courses. Some schools do not have this option.
- Compulsory courses will take precedence, there could be limited menu of choices for other courses; enriched and gifted levels of courses may not be offered virtually
- On Oct 28 the deadline to switch will be over and the school will run timetables for those who want to switch
- That will drive the final decision on how these students will be accommodated
- Many different scenarios must be worked through
- This means that Q2 timetables for ALL students could be impacted
- Q2 timetables won't be finalized until right before the end of Q1
- Admin is trying to accommodate students but also trying to put teaching staff in a position to transition smoothly between in-person and virtual

Upcoming Events:

- Post-secondary planning info Zoom: Nov 4
- GAC Study Skills - Nov 10
- People for Education Conference: Nov 16-18
- ARC Meeting: Nov 30
- GAC Meeting: Nov 30
- Teenage Brain Zoom: Dec 3

NSS Council Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, November 25, 2020
- Tuesday, January 26, 2021
- Thursday, February 25, 2021
- Thursday, April 8, 2021
- Wednesday, May 5, 2021