

Northern School Council Meeting

October 17, 2023, 6:30 - 7:30 pm (virtual)

Attendees: Abby Dwosh, Adam Marshall (Principal), Ana Rodrigues, Andy Anderson, Anna Rutledge, Beth Lauer, Diana Goldie, Elena Comelli, Gaya Sathiyamoorthy, Giovanni Grasselli, Janice Barnett, Jen Ankenmann, Jessica Miklos, John Bakous, Kristina Turner (recording secretary), Melissa Rosen, Natasha Sachs-Pepe, Omar Becerril, Susan Woodward (staff representative), Tania Osmond

Regrets: none

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

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Principal's Report – Adam M.

- Enrolment update: 2,055 students as of last week; this puts Northern and Earl Haig both as the largest schools in the TDSB. Various solutions for finding extra space were shared - boundary changes, portables and renting nearby external space were not suitable; three rooms in the school will be refreshed for next year (rooms 312, 318, 143).
- Staffing update: many interviews for vacant teaching positions have been completed. Shortage of science teachers across the board.
- Facilities update: ventilation issues in the library and upper gym are being addressed (get uncomfortably warm). Undertaking two 4-year projects:
 - Courtyard revitalization project: Northern has a south, shaded courtyard and a north fairly functional courtyard.
 - Heritage room: two large windows might be cut into doors to lead into the courtyard.
- Questions:
 - Is there a lot of peeling paint in the building? Yes, there is.
 - Bathroom functionality? An ongoing challenge with standard problems such as damage by students, and vaping. 90% of issues are in the boys' washrooms.
 - Have Grade 9 Chrome books arrived? To be confirmed

Election results

The Principal thanked everyone for showing interest in the School Council, which provides essential voices to the school administration.

Principal confirmed that 15 members were acclaimed:

John Bakous – Co-Chair
Omar Becerril – Co-Chair
Gaya Sathiyamoorthy – Co-Treasurer
Jen Ankenmann – Co-Treasurer
Jessica Miklos– Co-Secretary
Kristina Turner – Co-Secretary

Abby Dwosh
Ana Rodrigues
Andy Anderson
Anna Rutledge
Beth Lauer
Elena Comelli
Giovanni Grasselli
Janice Barnett
Natasha Sachs-Pepe

Approval of 15 elected members - Motion to approve: Janice B.; Seconded: Andy A.
Carried.

Approval of appointment to elected positions - Motion to approve: Janice B.; Seconded: John B. Carried.

Principal then introduced the new Staff Representative, Susan Woodward, who is in her 24th year of teaching all grades of English at Northern. In her role, she will bring the voice of staff to council meetings.

Three council members were appointed as Co-Committee Members at large:
Diana Goldie
Melissa Rosen
Tania Osmond

These three individuals have all been valued Council members and will each bring strong and relevant viewpoints to the Council in their various areas of knowledge. They will share one vote.

Other business

Co-Chair John B. highlighted the TDSB's Fundraising Policy P021 which is currently being reviewed by the TDSB, and invited parents to give their input, as the proposed changes would alter the way that fundraising proceeds are allocated.

Specifically, the following policy is being proposed:

6.2.1. To facilitate improved equity of resources among schools with different socioeconomic status, a System Priorities Fund will be maintained to redirect designated/undesignated donations from external sources and/or voluntarily directed surplus funds generated by school communities. 6.2.2. A process for the allocation of System Priorities Funds will be determined by the accompanying Fundraising Procedure (PR508).

Background to this issue from the TDSB:**Fundraising Policy (P021) Consultation**

"The Fundraising Policy (P021) (the Policy) is currently being reviewed. The Policy supports the Toronto District School Board's commitment to fiscal responsibility and financial viability and promotes student learning opportunities when planning and implementing fundraising activities. The Policy is aligned with the Education Act and the Ministry of Education Fundraising Guidelines.

We would like to share the [draft Policy](#) with you and seek your input.

The community is invited to provide feedback via the online survey portal at: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations> or by email to businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca on or before **October 20, 2023**

Thank you for your time and attention to this request for consultation and for the work you do for our school communities."

Motion to adjourn: Motion to approve: Kristina T., Seconded: Jen A., Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Next meeting: November 21, 6.30PM, hybrid format (in library + Microsoft Teams).