

Northern School Council Meeting (Draft)

April 4, 2023, 6:30 - 8:00 pm (Zoom)

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

Regrets: Jonah J., Diana G.

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

- Welcome
- Land acknowledgement
- Code of Conduct reviewed

Operational Matters

- Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Beth L., Carried.
Approval of February 23, 2023 minutes - Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Beth L., Carried.

Co-chair Report – Andy A.

- Seen many budget requests which means students are aware of funding – encouraging.
- PIAC meeting – there is an upcoming consultation on school council fundraising, to clarify procedures or make changes for inclusivity. Council will be expected to follow policies and procedures of TDSB so there is no undue influence by satellite organizations. Council will be given details and be asked for feedback.

Student Report - Jonah J.

- Deferred to next meeting

Principal's Report – Adam

- Chat GBT – what are schools doing to manage it? Exploring consistent ways to check if students are using it. Board is trying to respond. Currently, it is used in colleges and universities, can help kids consider other perspectives and have other positive uses. Adam's take is that Chat GBT is a tool that can be used to supplement learning.
- Excellence in teaching award – Adam supports council in getting submissions on an annual basis.
- Gifted enrolment has been changing over last 10 years. Program was at one time larger. Other programs have been established throughout TDSB and catchment boundaries have been changed. Qualification for program was raised from 96 to 98 on WISC V test. SEPRC process was changed to happening during fall of Grade 9, instead of before

entering Grade 9. Many offers put out; Adam thinks we will be asking for more than 3 cohorts of staffing for incoming grade 9's in September 2023.

- Does opting in for online learning affect teaching allocation? No. E learning does not affect staffing. However, since there is no requirement for attendance at any time (it is asynchronous), if students choose online learning, it would have a big impact on our ability to run a safe and secure building. There are concerns about a large number of students being in the building but not supervised or accountable to any assigned staff.
- Budget – been working on staffing model – this year we have 103 staff. Next year, asked for 107.5 teachers. Additional staffing needed for gifted cohort. Have been granted additional hall monitor and .5 for ESL. Not additional Vice Principal.
- Graduation – prior to covid, grad costs were borne by school. This year's Grad will be on June 27 at U of T at 1PM, and will go up to 4 hours long. Cost is \$20 for gown, program. This does not recover the actual cost.
- Washrooms continue to frustrate - all exterior doors are open to make it a less comfortable space for vaping or paper throwing; they can be intimidating spaces for junior students

Treasurer's Report – Jen Ankenmann

- Council has spent almost \$24K with \$8K left. Budget committee update: requests approved since last committee meeting: Oceans Club \$200 to support fundraising efforts and upcoming cleanup event; BlackNSS \$600 to purchase hoodies for the club.
- Funding request: \$2,500 for graduating class gift. Discussion about the amount to be spent (4-500 students). In past years, there has been money in the budget for a grad (2019 \$500 towards grad ceremony; 2020 \$2000 for Tim Horton's gift cards (\$5 x 400) in grad package in lieu of ceremony; 2021 \$1600 spent on grad video ceremony; 2022 for grad gift (string bag and pen \$5 x 400)). Recommendation to form a committee, consult with Adam, ask what other schools spend/do, and make recommendation to SC. Approved funds will be available to be used, and excess funds returned. Parents of graduating students encouraged to join the graduation committee. Motion to approve: Diane C.; Seconded: Beth L. Carried. Complete report is posted [here](#).

Guest speaker highlights: TDSB Chair and Trustee Rachel Chernos-Lin, and Superintendent Roni Felsen

Trustee:

- Pandemic funding for last two years will expire in August 2023 (\$36m for 485 additional positions). During the pandemic, TDSB spent \$70m beyond what was funded for Covid-related expenditures (reduce elementary class sizes to 20, purchase masks, hire additional staff). This amount has not been repaid by the province; the TDSB used its reserves, which are now empty.
- Costs for TDSB have increased - annual expense of \$60m more than allocation for special educational needs; increased cost of \$48.5m for inflated costs of EI, supplies, etc.
- Worst case scenario - there is now a \$155M shortfall and no reserves, which will lead to cuts in the TDSB system. These cuts will not necessarily affect NSS.

- School-based staff allocations get funded first.
- Cuts will affect elementary and low-enrolled secondary schools. They are looking at things that do not affect programming: elementary VPs, outdoor ed staff, fewer librarians, etc.
- This year's GSNs (grants for student needs) have not yet been disclosed by the province, but should come out in April and may help offset losses (tho unlikely)
- TDSB is looking for parent voice to help lobby for more funding
- TDSB Survey will be sent to parents – please fill it in. They will be used in advocacy with province
- TDSB is doing a refresh of its multi-year strategic plan - will be looking to community for consultation

Superintendent:

- Unsure of funding for more vice principals. TDSB will be looking at making efficiencies in central administration, eg Elementary Guidance. This would mean Guidance for elementary would be delivered by a point person at each school instead of using itinerant providers.
- Question - what will be cut if there is not more funding?
- Discussion about social workers in schools, how they are allocated, and what is available to NSS.

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

- University admissions presentation in February was well attended – handout available on website
- Parent chat on families in crisis to be scheduled late April
- Feedback survey will be sent out at the beginning of the next school year on what parents are interested in – looking for more in-person activities.

Website committee

- Discussing new ideas about changing flow on website right on home page, so that it is easy to navigate. Process and layout improvements will be made.

Gifted Academic Committee

- Two events have been planned: Enrichment Fair was held in person at school library April 18; Post-secondary planning/info for gifted parents May 10.
- Materials for both will be circulated. GAC welcomes additional volunteers.

Motion to adjourn: Motion to approve: Diane C., Seconded: Beth L., Carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

2022-23 Remaining Meeting Dates



Wednesday, May 24, 2023 – hybrid – Library