

# Northern School Council Meeting

## September 20, 2022, 6:30 - 7:45 pm (School Library)

### Principal's Report

**Activity Fee.** Why are there fees and are they mandatory?

The activity fee at Northern is \$60, of which \$35 is put towards yearbook, \$25 towards Student Activity Council account. The SAC account has \$33K thanks to contributions over past 3 weeks. These funds are used by student organizations which are evaluated with an equity and impact lens. If yearbook ends up needing less money due to economies of scale, that extra money is put into the SAC account. The fee is not mandatory and is waived if not afforded. Paying the fee is not required to access timetables.

School Cash Online wasn't used initially because were told it wouldn't reach everyone in the Northern school community. As a result, moved forward with cash or cheque.

**Covid Protocol 22-23.** Hepa filters are in rooms and masks are available in the lobby for students. Teachers have masks available to them if desired. Masks not mandatory. Deep cleaning not part of process any longer.

**Attendance.** 1721 projected. 1899 as of Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. Originally expected the higher numbers would mostly impact Grade 9 but also picked up 75 students grade 10-12. Have submitted request for 3 additional teachers. Need to redistribute students, primarily in Grade 10. Some classes in Grade 11/12 are large but have the expectation that the classes will be split in half. Several new teachers in the building.

**Room 137.** The vision for this room is a cross-fit gym to support phys-ed, as well as the health and wellness SCSM. Funding for this was approved in early summer. Architects have been in and are assessing. Hope to benefit staff wellness as well.

**Elevators.** Still using the freight elevator. However good news is the 2 new elevators have been installed. Now waiting on signoff by inspectors. Will be swipe access. So far it has taken 36 months to get to this point.

**Security.** Locked doors after morning entry and adding a camera on exit 1. Teachers will have swipe cards to get back into building if take class out. Exit 6 also needs camera.

**Exams.** Causing anxiety among students. SAC brought it up already and looking at ideas to ease tension. Also looking provide tips and tricks to students and reaching out to teachers and past students for tips. Adam mentioned Dr. Greg Wells as having a good wellness approach to being a good student which includes resting, eating, moving well and practicing excellence with all academic opportunities.

- Question about exam length. Adam suggested that exam length will 90 min in January, with senior exams might be a bit longer.
- Question. Do teachers coordinate to avoid 2 exams on one day? Adam clarified that the office sets the exam schedule, not teachers. First priority is to ensure don't have two exams scheduled at the same time. Try to avoid 2 exams on same day but can't guarantee. There are only 5 days allotted for exams so could have two exams in a day.
- Question. How is exam weighting set? It is determined by department/course lead, with some general guidelines from office (i.e. not 30% in grade 9/10; college level classes). Lower grades capped on percentage to the mark, higher grades can be upwards of 30%.
- Question. When does student exam schedule come out? Students should have exam schedule by mid October.
- Question. Are all TDSB schools having exams? Yes.
- Question. With exams coming back, are there credit rescue days? No. Previously done on PA Days and typically used for Civics and Careers. Credit recovery through summer school or other avenues.
- Question. In quiet days, is there ARC support available? Yes.

**OSSLT Results.** They should be available in the next week or so. Currently coordinating with staff to distribute over 500 results.

**Cafeteria.** It is open for students to eat lunch and open all day to study for those who have spares.

Adam shared that there is tons of energy in the building. Lots of students wanting to participate. Fun to be at school again.