**Northern Secondary School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 25, 2018  @ 6:30pm**

**NSS Heritage Room**

**Present:** Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Scott Deveber (Co-Chair), Melissa Durigon (Co-Chair), Karim Hajj (Co-Treasurer), Jackson Flagal (Student Rep), Helen Aubrey, Kasi Kugapalan, Reuben Nelson (minutes), Yolanda Ricciuti (staff rep), Kaan Yigit, Bererice Saracoglu, Ramon Ruiz, Joanna Strong, Maria Herrera, Robert Postlethwaite, Silja Yates, Melissa Rosen, Gail Agensky, Raziel Zisman, Bob Postlethwaite, Julia Schindeler, Peggy Judge, Behzad Jazizadeh, Samir Fahs

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1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Scott made a motion and Jackson seconded the motion to approve March Council minutes. Motion passed.

1. **Principal’s Message**:

Gillian spoke of Professional Development (PD) with Apple product on Friday with staff and spoke of Global Competency which will help with critical thinking and collaborating with the goal to develop critical thinkers. Ministry is looking to make changes to the competencies.

The Stage Production, Seussification, is taking place Thursday and Friday (week ending April 28).

School Prom is May 4, 2018 at Liberty Grande.

Reminders are being sent out on April 30 with students as a reminder about the upcoming Culminating Activities leading up to exams. Attendance is mandatory.

PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) is on April 30th. Notices did go to out to parents of students who will partake in PISA.

Gillian also expressed her thanks and for the support expressed in comments regarding how she is handling the recent incident of the defacing of a Jewish Heritage poster. Discussions were held with groups of students to find better ways to communicate and/or report such activities, such as defacing a poster. Investigation is ongoing.

**3)** **Teachers report**

Students are encouraged to attend and be in class on time by 8:50am when O Canada is being sung.

Council will cover the cost of 55 fans for the classrooms. Funding for additional items, presented at April 25th Council meeting, not covered by school budget, such as corkboards, whiteboards, office a/c , is being sought. Scott and Reuben have offered to pick up and deliver the fans when possible.

**4)** **Teacher Appreciation**

Based on previous budgets for teacher appreciation, $1000 have been allocated for breakfast, luncheon, bbqs, etc. This year, $1000 has been asked to be used towards teacher appreciation. Partial funding for a June Jubilee has been allocated. Julia Schindeler may organize, but will wait for approval.

**5)** **Student Report**

Jackson explained to council the Culmination Projects takes time and effort eg. dissecting a book. He reminded parents of the stress students may be facing. Student Council and Gillian have met to discuss the Dress Code of Conduct and is close to being finalized. Parent Council with high approval, accepted the Dress Code presented at Council.

**6) LD**

Session called Helping Your Anxious Teen presenters were Melanie Strassis, one of our guidance counsellors and Lisa Kreindler, who is a social worker.

**7) Budget**

No Draft Budget for 2018/2019 has not been provided at this time. Any input for next years budget must be submitted by May 10th, 2018. NSS garden project has been approved for $1000 and is asking for an additional $200. Scott passed the motion and Bazad 2nd the motion for $200. Council approved the request for additional funding for the NSS Breakfast Club. Closing balance is $15, 458.

**8) GAC**

April 30 a speaker will be visiting NSS to discuss the Art Of Living with Anxiety in adults and teens/children and how to deal with it. Free admission 7-9 with Q & A to follow Potential 2nd speaker near the end of May. More information TBA.

**9)** **Caring and Safe Schools**

Poster made by the Jewish Heritage Club in NSS was defaced. Police and media were contacted. Discussions with the student population were held following the incident. A police investigation is currently ongoing to determine the timeline who and when the alleged incident occurred. Next Safe School Committee is May 29.

**10)** Julie proposed a booth be set up welcoming students to NSS and to help encourage parents to join NSS council

**11)** Ad Hoc Committee presented report from April 11, 2018 meeting:

**Report to Northern School Council from the Ad Hoc Communications Committee**

The Ad Hoc Committee met on April 11, 2018 to discuss a broad approach to communications from Committees. It was generally recognised that such communications can be considered representative of Northern and hence reflect on the school.

The following principles were generally agreed upon:

1. Emails from Committees to their members are an important way to communicate significant information outside of meetings.

2. A reasonable effort should be made to communicate such information factually. It is recommended to use a neutral tone and avoid criticism of individuals and organizations.

3. An email should clearly indicate on whose behalf (i.e. person(s) or Committee) it is sent.

There was some discussion about whether Committee communications should be funneled through a single channel but the consensus was that such a step would be unmanageable and unnecessary. However, in the event of a sensitive topic, it is recommended that Committee Chairs consider consulting with other Committee Chairs, the School Council Chair(s) and/or the Principal, as appropriate.

None of the above is intended to fetter the important work of Committees or create any barrier to parental engagement.

There was some discussion about the role of advocacy and it was generally agreed that advocacy is an important part of parental engagement. Whether there should be further discussion about the role of advocacy at Council and in the Committees can be considered by School Council at a later date if desired.

*Council was adjourned at 8:50pm. Melissa 2nd the motion*