**Northern Secondary School**

**School Council Meeting**

**January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present**: Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Scott deVeber (Co-Chair), Melissa Durigon (Co-Chair), Steven Sims (Co-Treasurer), Karim Hajj (Co-Treasurer), Jackson Flagal (Student Rep), Kaleigh McKye (Student Rep), Yolanda Ricciuti (teacher rep), Ran Manor, Mary Carrino, Julia Schindeler, Samir Fahs, Kaan Yigit, Melissa Rosen, Peggy Judge, Reuben Nelson, Rita Czarnecki, Shelli Suter, Ted Bravakis, Helen Aubrey, Victoria Johnson-Lee (minutes), Kasi Kugapalan

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Principal’s Report - Gillian G
   1. Over $32 000 was raised during the United Way fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who was involved.
   2. Grade 8 Information Night is January 18.
   3. February 8 is report card distribution. Course selection will occur after that.
   4. College/University admission process should be in full swing for applicable students.
   5. Electronic sign to replace the one in front of the school is imminent.
   6. Roof repairs are ongoing.
   7. New air exchange in the pool will be completed soon.
   8. One room is being renovated into a Design/Recording Studio.
   9. Commencement is a bit of an issue in terms of space for graduates and their families. Should we consider an external venue such as Convocation Hall? There are logistical and financial implications to this. We would need a space for about 1200 people. Different options were discussed based on experiences with other schools. This will be discussed at more length when more information is obtained.
3. Teacher’s Report - Yolanda R
   1. Yolanda is back as the Teacher Representative. Our next staff meeting is on January 23. Yolanda will bring up any requested items and will report back with applicable information.
   2. There is money in the budget for Lunch and Learns. If there are teacher requests for budget items, Yolanda should let the council know.
4. Green Northern Report - Iva K
   1. Iva spoke about community partnerships. There is a whole school assembly on January 11 that will have the Water Brothers speaking. The speaker fee is $950. Iva is asking for funding to cover the speaker fee. She has submitted a funding request.
   2. Iva is asking for suggestions on other community outreach partnerships that may support Green Northern initiatives.
5. Community Member Report
   1. Regrets were sent from Behzad Jazizadeh
   2. PIAC dinner is on February 22. There are 2 tickets available for school council members. It’s a good opportunity for networking with council members from other schools. Let Scott or Melissa D. know if you’re interested.
6. Student Report - Jackson/Kaleigh
   1. There was a Senate meeting today. The subsidy amount for prom was requested. The budget has it listed as $500.
   2. The dress code was discussed. Some students feel the wording of the current dress code is vague and that it may marginalize certain groups of students. School council has been asked to review the dress code and how it is enforced. Gillian will be happy to discuss the dress code with the student representatives and how it is enforced. Any proposed changes to the dress code would come back to school council.
7. Special EETF/GAC Committee Report
   1. The Gifted Advisory Committee sent an email to the GAC mailing list in November with a very strong message. Khan is asking whether council members should have been consulted about sending messages on behalf of a sub-committee of the school council.
   2. Scott clarified that in some cases messages sent out ‘under the guise’ of School Council, could be seen as the views of the school council, therefore email communications around potentially sensitive issues may need to be reviewed and voted on by the council before distribution.
   3. Melissa R. suggested that this could have been fixed by changing the signature of the message.
   4. Khan put forth a motion regarding emails sent out by sub-committees advocating for positions on contentious issues. The motion was not voted upon.
   5. Shellie expressed that this was a unique situation in which time was as issue.
   6. Peggy clarified that it is important to differentiate between speaking as a parent and speaking as a GAC council member.
   7. Melissa R. is speaking on behalf of the LD/GAC/EETF committees.
      1. The Enhancing Equity Task Force has a mandate of being in favour of equity and against racism/discrimination.
      2. The reports were somewhat abstract, and the timelines seem short for such drastic, sweeping changes.
      3. Director Malloy struck the EETF two years ago. It sought to gain insight from advocates of certain groups. The draft report was published, and closed feedback was sought until October 31. There were a number of petitions and comments circulating. The feedback period was extended to November 20. The next report was released on December 8. By January 20, Director Malloy needs to submit his plan for implementation. On January 31, parents can appear as a delegation before a trustee sub-committee. February 7 is the final vote for the trustees. There are concerns about this process.
      4. Parents should get informed. You can write to trustees, city/provincial politicians, the Director, etc. about the lack of feedback opportunities and any other concerns. You can go online to sign up for the delegation list and express what you are concerned about in the feedback box. If a lot of people sign up, they may be forced to change the meeting time.
      5. Gillian spoke about the process that was followed for the removal of SROs from the schools.
      6. Shellie discussed the EQAO consultations that took place and how limited they were.
      7. Some of the main recommendations of the report:
         1. Destreaming/delayed pathways including the possible integration of Core students into regular classrooms
         2. Cancelling Optional Attendance
         3. Changes to Staffing and Hiring Practices
      8. If you’re interested in getting involved in the EETF committee, let Melissa R. know.
      9. A motion was put forth to send out an email to the school council distribution list from the EETF committee giving a small amount of information about the EETF and inviting all recipients to an EETF meeting on a date to be confirmed. The motion was passed.
8. Special LD Committee Report
   1. Shelie communicated some upcoming dates/next steps:
      1. January 10 - GAC and LD Meetings. Next steps will be discussed at these meetings.
      2. January 23 - Meeting at North Toronto CI
      3. January 26 - recommendations will be published
      4. January 31 - Delegation Meeting
9. Committee Reports
   1. Budget - Funding Requests
      1. The budget was distributed, and changes were discussed.
      2. Art Club has requested $500. This was approved by the budget committee.
      3. The Science Fair request was withdrawn due to funding from the TDSB being reimplemented.
      4. SmartRisk/WellNSS has requested an additional $1500 for their retreat due to a budget oversight. This needs to be approved by council since it is an amount over $1000. The funding request was approved by council.
      5. Jackson (student rep) explained how he has communicated the budget request process to the senate/club heads.
      6. There have been fewer funding requests this year.
      7. The cell phone posters have been posted throughout the school and the feedback has been positive.
   2. *School Survey*
   3. *Welcome & Volunteer Committee*
   4. *Caring and Safe Schools*
   5. *Constitution & Bylaw Committee*
   6. *Wellness/Breakfast*
   7. *School Statement of Needs (SSON)*
   8. *Website/Communications*
10. Co-Chair Report
    1. Approval of November Minutes
       1. The motion was passed to approve last meeting’s minutes.
    2. *School Statement of Needs*
    3. *Co-Secretary & Communications Role*
11. *Any Other Business*

*\*Italicized items were not addressed.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:04.