**Northern Secondary School**

**School Council Meeting**

**November 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present**: Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Scott deVeber (Co-Chair), Andrew Steeves, Behzad Jazizadeh (Community Representative), Chrysta Musselman (Minutes), Cynthia Hamlin (NSS Foundation), Diana Goldie, Helen Aubrey, Jackson Flagal (Student Rep), Joanna Strong, Julia Schindeler, Kaan Yigit, Kaleigh McKye (Student Rep), Karim Hajj (Co-Treasurer), Mandy Birch, Margaret Postlethwaite, Maria Herrera, Marianne Boyce, Melissa Durigon (Co-Chair), Melissa Rosen, Olga Fowell, Peggy Judge, Ramon Ruiz, Reuben Nelson, Rita Gamecki, Shelli Suter, Silia Yates, Stacey Ryan, Steven Sims (Co-Treasurer), Sue Fisher

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   * Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.
   * Approximately 30 parents attended as well as Principal Gibbons and 2 students.
2. **Principal’s Report: Gillian Gibbons**

* Principal Gibbons gave an overview of United Way activities this week.
* Principal Gibbons gave an overview of sports teams accomplishments.
* Reminder that this Friday is a PA day where staff will be working on "mixed learning", the strategies coming out of this day will be presented in the spring.
* Parent – Teacher interviews will be on November 30 from 1:30 to 3:00pm and from 6:00 to 8:30pm. This information will be out in the bulletin this week. There will also be information about online sign-up which opens at 09:00 on November 24th. There are limited spots for interviews, parents were reminded to choose interviews with teachers where it will be most beneficial.
* The Term 1 marks will be ready on the 23rd. This report card will be a full report card, not just a progress report.
* Reminder for the Fashion Show on December 6th and 7th. This is another United Way Fund Raising Event with a long and successful history.
* From facilities, the electronic sign for the front of the school will be replacing the current TDSB sign that requires manual placement of letters.
* TheCaring and Safe Schools Committee meeting will be on November 28th at 4pm in the Heritage Room. Arising issues are: reminders to share the sidewalks (seniors who live near-by have been knocked over by groups of students); the mis-conception that vaping is permitted on school property; the SRO study has been completed and the recommendation is to end the program in all TDSB schools (some discussion/clarification regarding options for this outcome since the main purpose was to build relationships with law enforcement and now other ways to do this will need to be explored).

1. **Teacher’s Report:**

* Teacher Representative absent, no replacement attended. Staff Representative role has not been filled as of yet, however new staff coming on board may be approached.

1. **Community Report: Behzad**

* Attended the Fix our school's initiative meeting – pushing politicians to push forward the agenda for the funding formula ($150 000 000) which is the backlog for school disrepair. There was a Q & A at Queen's Park where the MPP and the Premier had a heated discussion. A pledge was designed for nominees who want to run and support this agenda item.
* Also attended a work forum by Trustee A Brown with M. Hunter, an MPP and City Counsellor regarding EDC for condo's. ie. the TCDSB gets the funds back to spend at will. For the TDSB, the province takes control of the funds due to under and over utilization of the properties. The Trustee was a great champion for trying to get the funds back in the hands of the TDSB. Josh Maslow (Toronto City Councillor for Ward 22) was also on board particularly with putting a stop to the OMB allowing any developer to go ahead.
* Community Meeting for VRA (Vaughn Road Academy) about the future use of this building since the school was closed. This school did not go for sale due to push back from the OVAP. The community wants a say in what this building can be used for ie ESL, Recreation, Seniors etc. At the meeting, there was talk of relocating students from other wards to this school.
* Josh Matlow, Toronto City Councillor for Ward 22, may come to one of our next 2 meetings.

1. **NSS Foundation Report: Cynthia**

* History of the foundation that was started in 1999 by alumni and teachers was reviewed. It is a conduit for parents who want to support on-going activities, clubs and other endeavors. There are awards for kids in grades 9-11. Usually raise $5000. Would be great to raise $10 000 to be able to give these out if not this year then next year. The on-going fund-raiser for this foundation is the "Thank You Notes" for teachers. $20 buys 1, $50 buys 3. Reps will be present to promote this fundraiser at PT interviews, end of year, and commencement. The goal is notes for 150 teachers. Please find information at the website: **NSSF.ca and email:** [**info@NSSF.ca**](mailto:info@NSSF.ca)
* The other fundraiser is a hockey game on Saturday November 25th at 1:30pm at the ACC featuring the Marlies. Tickets for sale in the principles newsletter. These tickets were donated by an Alumni. There will also be dinner after at "Real Sports" for anyone interested even if they did not attend the game.
* Please note that this foundation is on the radar as an advantage to this particular school. Not all schools have a charitable foundation.
* If someone wants to donate to a specific program, the foundation takes a 5% admin fee and receives a receipt for the whole amount. Any money given towards a scholarship has no admin fee.
* Please direct any fundraising initiative ideas to Cynthia.

1. **Student Reports: Jackson and Kaleigh**

* OUAC numbers were received by grade 12 students. These are necessary when applying to Ontario Universities.
* College applications have a different process.
* Grad photos are this week – home forms handed out flyers. Can be found in the VP's office if missed. Codes on the flyers are necessary.
* The fashion show proceeds go to the United Way. Takes place in the evening of December 6th and 7th.
* The fall Athletics Assembly were this Monday morning. There were awards, achievements and a re-cap of United Way Week.

1. **Co-Chair Report:**

a) October minutes were approved.

b) PIAC Conference November 25th. (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee). This is an advisory body like the school council. Different wards included. Parents and the community plan to talk to the school board. It's a great event to talk about needs, bigger umbrella issues. Trustees are present to talk to directly. An opportunity to connect with other school councils. This conference is full. There may be a waitlist. The number of seats went from 400 to 600 since last year. It's very informative. One of the workshops at last year's conference was about school's councils and mis-information and gaps – NSS was highlighted and the NSS website got a number of hits in response after this.

c) School Statement of Needs: Peggy and Diana. Last years has been tweaked/condensed. It is an important document that gets sent to the super-intendent.

d) Co-secretary role – this is needed.

e) Communications Role – need a volunteer to send emails about what exciting

things are going on at council! Every committee needs one voting member and

members of council are expected to be a part of 1-2 committees. Julie is the only one on the Volunteer Committee.

1. **Committee Reports**

a) **Committee status up-date** – see above.

b) **Budget:** Karim

* Melissa D. posted today
* Approved for 2017/2018: Balance of $32 256 pending 3 requests: Girls Volleyball for $2000 for an overnight travelling tournament. Council voted and approved $950 which brings total to $1500. (line item under GAA); Science Fair as the TDSB is not funding this year, teacher requested to $1000 which covers 10 project entries, this was voted on and approved; Environmental group asking for $1200 for an expansion of the garden project for 6 more raised beds. This was voted on and approved.
* Discussion/clarification on how funds get allocated and how students know they are available to request. Suggestion of reviewing how to fill out the form for this request.
* FYI - There was also a previous request for the "breakfast club" which typically gets funded (last year $3000), this was carried forward to this year.
* FYI – the "buddies" camp for training deposit of $2500 continues from last year.
* FYI - TFSS – all schools apply for funds. We don't get as much as we need. Other school's may get more. We are topping up the amount funded. This is not unusual.

c) **LC Committee:** Shellie

* Irene (teacher support)
* Grade 9 will have a new program not unlike the buddy program. 36 kids were signed up to go to a movie – 12 went. Next activity is a dinner. The idea is to get to know someone you could say "hi" to or talk to in the halls etc.
* On November 23rd, a guest speaker (annual event) form York University will be coming to talk about accommodations at University.
* 441 Gifted, 411 LD, 22 DHH
* The Equity Task Force (ETF) recommendations were high-lighted. Half of the population at NSS could be affected. This affects all schools. For example, this population of students class size could go from 16 to 30 in the core subjects. See more below, item m)

d) **GAC Committee:**  Melissa R.

* Good turn-out of Grade 9 parents.
* Co-ordinated with LD
* ++ interest in the ETF
* NSS has the longest running Gifted Program, seen as a flagship/hub for other schools.

e) **School Survey** – if needed for any issue/subject of interest to send to parents/students, Kaan can help with this.

f) **Green Committee** – no one present from this committee.

g) **Welcome Committee** – no meeting yet – need to meet sooner rather than later.

h) **Volunteer Committee** – Recommendation to combine the Welcome Committee with the Volunteer committee.

i) **Caring and Safe Schools Committee** – meeting on November 28th.

j) **Constitution and By-law Committee:** Diana

* There have been no changes to the constitution this year, Diana formed the committee to review the constitution and to ensure it is being followed by school council.

k) **Wellness/Breakfast** - The committee description is posted. There was a phone conference.

l) **School Statement of Needs (SSON)** - This document needs to be reviewed annually and submitted by the end of November. It is being currently being reviewed by Diana and Peggy (SSON committee).

m) **Equity Task Force Committee:** Melissa R.

* See below.
* Deadline for feedback is on November 20. Motion carried to ask for more time as most parents and members of the community are only just becoming aware of these recommendations. Discussion around the wording of the letter which the Principal will take to the Board. The wording was altered to be factual and objective.

9) **Any other business** – Cell Phone Committee: Sue

* Feedback on 3 posters for halls/classroom reminding students to put phones away in class. These will be posted this Friday (the PA day) on each floor. Gillian to write a blurb to the teachers.

**Adjourned: 8:55pm.**

**Motion passed by School Council of Northern Secondary School**

November 15, 2017

WHEREAS the TDSB’s Enhancing Equity Task Force (“EETF”) sought and obtained feedback on equity issues;

AND WHEREAS the TDSB’s EETF released a Report in October 2017 with numerous recommendations that will have a significant impact on all ~250,000 students in the TDSB;

AND WHEREAS the EETF’s Report was not initially widely distributed to all TDSB parents, and most parents do not know about the recommendation;

AND WHEREAS an extremely short time has been provided for feedback, but parents require and have been requesting a sufficient opportunity for consultation and feedback;

THEREFORE Northern Secondary School’s School Council moves that Northern’s Principal ask TDSB senior administration and the TDSB’s Board of Trustees to:

1) Obtain an extension of time of an additional four months for parents to have more reasonable and sufficient time for reviewing the recommendations and for consultation and for providing feedback;

AND

2) Withdraw or reject the current EETF Report and reissue a new Report following more broad-based and comprehensive feedback and consultation.