**Northern Secondary School**

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 28th, 2018 at 6:30 pm**

**Northern SS Library**

**Present**: Gillian Gibbons (Principal), Scott deVeber (Co-Chair), Karim Hajj (Co-Treasurer), Jackson Flagal (Student Rep), Kaleigh McKye (Student Rep), Stephanie Signorile (Teacher rep), Samir Fahs, Silja Yates, Tanya Goldberg, Peggy Judge, Joanna Strong, Melissa Rosen, Maria Herrera, Ramon Ruiz, Helen Aubrey, Reuben Nelson, Kaan Yigit, Kasi Kugapalan

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Principal’s Report – Gillian Gibbons**
3. Staffing for 2018-2019 school year will be the same as this year. Kids changing courses at this point is not recommended.
4. Teens and Technology workshop on Tuesday, March 27th had very good discussions and was very positive.
5. Wall paper in bathroom has been repaired to get rid of the graffiti. Damage in boys’ washroom is being assessed.
6. Sounds of Toronto is taking place on Thursday, April 12th at Massey Hall. Cost of tickets will be confirmed.
7. OSLLT for grade 10 students will take place on Tuesday, April 10th. Links for preparation and test examples have been provided on the weekly newsletter. Reading will be the main focus of the Literacy test. It is recommended for kids to ask their English Teachers about after school help for the test.
8. Information session re: EQAO test for Grace 9 students will take place on Tuesday, April 10th. No regular classes schedule for that day. Notice will be sent out next week. No time limit for this year’s EQAO test and school is working on getting kids organized in groups based on the estimated time they will need to complete the test.
9. Official Report Cards will be sent home on Friday, April 13th which will include comments and marks. Gillian clarified that there are three official report cards and one non-official report card in a school year. 1st, 3rd and 4th Report Cards are Official 2nd is not.
10. Mainstage production of “The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet” will take place on Thursday, April 26th and Friday, April 27th. Tickets will be available for sale
11. Welcoming session for Grade 9 students accepted to Northern will happen on Wednesday, June 6th. Council will be able to make a presentation that and volunteers are needed to answer parents questions and collect email addresses for future communications.
12. Staff has been attending Equity Learning Sessions. Goal is to ensure we have inclusive classrooms, all voices are heard and kids feel welcome and supported. Three teams in the school are working on expanding equity goals.
13. The Brickworks has been confirmed as the venue for the 2018 Commencement that will take place on Thursday, June 28th at 2:00 pm. Gillian will try to push it to 1:00 pm. Northern will give two (2) tickets to each grad student at no cost. There will be cost of $10 per tickets for students who required more than two tickets as this is a huge cost for the school. Parking will be available at an extra cost. Approximately 400 parking spots are available. School is looking at bussing staff to the venue and there are two (2) shuttle buses available from two (2) subway stations. It is expected that The Brickworks will be the venue for future Commencements.
14. **Teacher’s Report – Stephanie Signorile attending the meeting on behalf of Yolanda**
15. Thank you for the support and the gardening program.
16. **Community Member Report (Not in attendance)**
17. **Student Report – Jackson Flagal & Kaleigh McKye**
18. Rugby for boys and girl has started. Northern’s team is historically one of the best teams in Toronto. Jack reminded parents this is a contact sport
19. The school President will be attending next Council Meeting. Jack encouraged all parents to attend the meeting and ask questions. An agenda will be provided.
20. Student Council has been working on changing the students’ Dress Code to make the language more specific. A draft was read and a final draft will be presented at the next Council meeting.
21. **Co-Chair Report**
22. Melissa Rosen requested that paragraph 6-d) of the minutes for the February meeting be changed to “…due to alleged significant…” Parent council members agreed to the change and meeting minutes from February meeting were approved.
23. **Co-Secretary Role** – Still vacant.
24. **ProGrant** - Tanya Goldberg prepared and submitted application for the Foster Parent Engagement ProGrant last year (up to $1,000). She advised there are some changes to this year’s application criteria and requested ideas from parents as to what events/speakers they would like to see in order to be more successful with the application and attract more parents. Criteria for the application is as follows:

* Improve student achievement
* Human Rights and equity (new)
* Wellbeing

1. **2018-19 Budget** - Draft budget ready before the end of the year. Will be presented at the next Council meeting on April 25, 2018

Communications meeting will take place the week of April 10th with the goal of establishing better practices for future communications and define the role of school Council and Committees.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. **Budget**
3. Next year budget will be prepared based on what and how the funds were spent in previous years. It was suggested that if the funds allocated to a specific area/category were not spend the funds should be transferred to another area/category.
4. Balance budget is almost $16,000 and it was requested to Student reps and Teachers rep to encourage spending of these funds.
5. A wish list from Teachers was suggested which should include items that not represent conflict with TDSB purchase channels. Teacher rep and Gillian to present list at the next Council meeting.
6. **GAC**

The Committee hasn’t been able to schedule speakers this year due to engagement in other priorities but will work on two speakers before the end of the school year.

Next year will focus more on Committee work and spend allocated budget. Will work together with Wellness and LD Committees. Inviting parents from other schools may be a good idea.

1. **LD**

There was a request for funds from the LD Committee ($600) for a workshop re: Anxious Worried Kids taking place on April 24th. Scott reminded the LD Committee that all requests for funds should be made using the form on the Parent Council website or through Budget Committee.

LD Committee requested more ways to communicate with people. Use of School Council website was suggested, providing a word document that can be uploaded to the website or direct access for the Committees to the website can be provided.

1. **School Survey**

To be deleted from the list.

1. **Welcome & Volunteer Committee**

Volunteers are needed for the June 6th Welcoming session

1. **Caring and Safe Schools**
2. One of the Boys washroom has been closed for bad use (back to Principal’s report)
3. An exterminator was in school taking care of pest, mice and bugs
4. Dollarama store has reported bad experience with students
5. Yonge & Eglinton Centre has had people arrested and has announced will have zero tolerance regarding shoplifting
6. Eglinton Crosstown construction still a concern. Next Metrolinx information session on May 29th at 4:00 pm

Tanya wants to thank VP Mr. Adam Marshall for the preparation and distribution of the Caring and Safe School Minutes

1. **Wellness / Breakfast**

Funding continues for Breakfast Committee

1. **Other Business**

Applications for Scholarships still available. Last day for applications is April 20th. Application forms available on the NSSF website.

Window on the hallway used in the past by some of the clubs will be taken by the NSSF.

Meeting adjourned.