



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

ATTENDEES

Council Members:

In person: Jessica Miklos, Omar Becerri, Gavin McCulloch, Anna Rutledge, Catherine Wong, Sarah Flint

Online: Stephanie Nacawa, Keith Tong, Amanda Ricketts Fredrick, Kristina Turner

Council Member Regrets: Shelagh Durno, Julie Buckareff, Harp Thind, John Bakous, Wendy Li

Principal: Adam Marshall

Teacher Representative: N/A

Student Representatives: N/A

Community Representative: Bronwen Alsop

Attendees:

In person: Aimee Sulliman, Ulrica Jobe, Jennifer Ng, Brenda Perras-Winter, Alicia Soerensen, Margaret Yeung, Stacey Cline

Online: G. McFadyen, R. Stickle, Imran Kahn, Navdeep, Sabinne Scheibehenne, Dora, Brenda, Kit, C. Severin, BM, B. Lauer, Miri, Jen, Carla

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Omar Becerril

- Welcome to all attending the last school council of the past term. Welcome to the new Council members.
- Land acknowledgement

MOTION: to approve the September 29 agenda. Motion to approve: Catherine Wong;
seconded: Anna Rutledge. Motion carried.

CO-CHAIRS' UPDATE

Jessica Miklos

- Thank you to all school council voting members for their contributions to Council this year and thanks to all the members not returning. Thanks to our teacher rep who has moved to a new school and to last year's student reps.
- Welcome to all members of the Northern community and to the new voting council members.
- TDSB Supervision:



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

- the Province placed the TDSB under supervision and elected trustees have been removed from their roles and replaced with a single Supervisor. We should watch this process closely as information and support to parents may change.
 - School Council has been approached by the Samara Centre for Democracy about the possibility of surveying our parent community about their views of provincial supervision. This is something that the new voting members can review.
- Development on Roehampton - there is a proposed development across the street from Northern on Roehampton. Public consultation will take place on October 22nd. Look for more information in the Parent Post as it is available.
- Things for Council to monitor in the coming years:
 - **Support for the Student Nutrition Program.** Renovations are underway which will limit the available food options during this time. Student Success will almost certainly run out of money this year and will need support.
 - **Road Safety around Northern.** Traffic around Northern can be heavy when students, cars, buses, etc.. Advocacy to improve safety for our students may be required.
 - **Upgrades to the back field.** We have previously discussed looking into partnership opportunities to allow upgrades to the back field that are a priority. The TDSB has indicated that work cannot be started until work on the boilers is complete. This project may require advocacy, fundraising and other support from Council.
 - **Possible policy changes affecting Northern.** We will need to stay informed about decisions being made by the Supervisor. Key areas that may be affected:
 - Pools in schools (including Northern's pool)
 - Access to Schools Without a Boundary (including at Northern)
 - The size of the incoming Gifted cohort (there is room to add more)
 - **Northern's centennial.** This is five years out. It may be an excellent opportunity to implement the courtyard improvements that have been discussed. This may require fundraising with the parent community and will involve more than one year of planning.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AND ASK ADAM



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

Principal Adam Marshall

ASK ADAM QUESTIONS

1. How safe is it for a student to park a bike at school?

A: Very safe, but there can be 1-3 bikes that go missing each year. It can be under a security camera. The people who take them are well disguised, work quickly and look for expensive bikes. I recommend bringing a second-hand bicycle to school and leaving expensive bikes at home.

2. The TDSB is no longer providing 1-to1 devices in Grade 9. Are there any options for school devices or do we need to purchase them?

If your child is coming from a TDSB school, they should have been given a device to take with them. Reach out to your previous school to inquire about this and let me know if you can't sort it out that way.

3. Where can I find a current list of clubs/sports teams?

Go to the Northern website for the list of teams and clubs. The list is not fully up-to-date as new clubs are currently going through the approval process. By Thanksgiving weekend, you should be able to find an up-to-date list on the website. You can also go to the announcements page for updates. There's a link in the weekly bulletin.

4. How did classroom reorganizations affect Northern this fall?

Classroom reorganizations didn't impact us. If classes are over cap sizes, you need to split classes. This was not the case at Northern this year.

Principals Report

- There is a brand new HVAC system in the school and the work is ongoing. There will be air conditioning in the library. All throughout the school there are holes in walls, ceilings, floors and new ductwork. New pipes were added for the boilers over spring and summer and the work is ongoing. The school is permitted for Learn For Life classes on Monday nights, so less work can take place those nights. The bulk of the work will shut down on October 15th when the heating system switches on and will pick up again once the heating system is turned off.



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

- Enrollment at Northern is less than what was planned. We pushed the Board to expand our catchment area, as we are pulling in less than 70 students from the area. Grade 9 classes were 525-550 students in the last few years. This year it was capped at 425. In Grades 10 to 12, we always expect some students to leave Northern (they move, change school boards, attend private school, etc.). This is not an insignificant number. Because we no longer have large commercial and technical boundaries, we cannot draw new senior students from those areas. . Altogether, we are almost down 200 students, which could mean losing 8-10 of our newest teachers . These new teachers bring a lot of energy and personal time to the school. We support asking questions like can we add a 4th gifted cohort or additional LD students. Ideally, we would like to keep our numbers at 1900-2000 students. If we start to lose two digit numbers of staff in a year, we start to lose the things that attract students to want to come to Northern.
- We are fully staffed at Northern and are currently interviewing for office staff. Finding a ceramics tech person is challenging. There are currently two lifeguards and the pool is open every day.
- Parking at school is challenging. Two students were hit at lunchtime - everyone is fine. Construction coming to the south could lead to additional congestion. School buses, taxis, Wheel-Trans are picking up kids. We have cars speeding through the parking lot as a cut through. We're not sure what the solution is for this yet. Being vocal early about the construction across the street is a good strategy.
- Room 143 is taking shape. Mr Wong is working there and it looks amazing.
- There is a lot coming up at school: awards ceremony, informal marks update, PA day, parent/teacher meetings and SAC leadership retreat through outward bound. Around 800 IEPs are currently being written.
- Jessica Pearson, VP, has left the school as she was promoted to Principal. Ms Beach is our new VP and a great addition to the team.
- The school is looking to engage in messaging about risks of social media and the sharing of intimate images. There have been situations where a student is invited to an online group where inappropriate things were shared and then police got involved. Parents should be aware.



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

- AI usage: the school can't use Turnitin.com because it is an American company. All of us need to be aware of the issues with AI and academic integrity. The school is considering bringing in experts from our local universities to talk to Northern staff about how they currently deal with the use of AI by students.
- Thank you to the outgoing School Council - for the conversations, transparency and patience. Council has done a good job promoting the gathering of parents and building community.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

MOTION: approve the May 22, 2025 minutes. Motion to approve: Jessica Miklos; seconded: Sarah Flint. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee

Sarah Flint

- We had \$17,615 to spend in 2024-2025 and were happy to be able to invest just over \$15,000 towards Student, Classroom and Parent Enrichment. We ended the year with a surplus of \$2537, slightly above our target of \$2000. The carried-over funds are used to fund Student Awards handed out in October, the parent social after Curriculum night, and any funding requests received before funds are available from this year's School Cash Online Campaign.
- We were thrilled to restock the guidance department with tampons, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and other miscellaneous hygiene items for their student supply cart. We expect these supplies to last until January, and we will consider a restock then.
- We've received our first request for funding this fall, to be reviewed by our Budget Committee.
- The way funding works, submissions are received by the Budget Committee who rank them against our funding matrix which takes into consideration: Community Impact, Provincial / National Exposure based on Achievement, Skill Building, Self Initiated Fundraising, Duration of Impact and finally the # of students involved. This gives us a multiplier (i.e. \$25/student) which we then multiply by the number of students



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

participating which gives us the suggested funding amount. We also make funding decisions on a one-off basis depending on the situation.

- Any expenses under \$1000 can be approved by a majority of the Budget Committee, Any requests \$1000 and over will be brought to the full council for a vote. Our Budget Committee will share the link for funding requests. A lesson learned from last year is to save some funds for the spring when many clubs qualify for national and international level competitions, i.e. Robotics, Ethics Club
- The TDSB provides \$1500 to our Council to help us run the council, bank fees, etc, and also for Parent Engagement. We realized (too late) last year that we can use these TDSB Allocated Funds - applied towards Parent Nights - STEM Workshop & Arts & Tech Night, with Adam's approval.
- A draft budget for the upcoming year has been prepared and will be shared with the incoming Co-Treasurers who will present this year's budget for voting at the next meeting.
- School Cash Online campaigns are underway, we have received contributions of \$5,550 to date. Have also received donations through the tax-receiptable avenue but it could take months for these funds to become available for us
- Last year we raised \$10,500 through our School Cash online campaigns; the goal is \$12,500 for this year.

Gifted Advisory Committee

Anna Rutledge

- Welcome to new gifted families at Northern.
- We will organize speakers this year. If there are topics you are interested in covering relating to gifted students, reach out to Anna.

Social Committee

Kristina Turner

- Thank you to everyone who came out to the social after curriculum night
- October 4th at 9am: there's a social for grade 9 parents and caregivers - details are in the Parent Post. Please let us know if you are coming.



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

- October 5th at 9:30am: join us for Walking Buddies, which happens every second Sunday. The following one will be on October 19th.

Website Committee

Keith Tong

- The Committee has been making updates to the website and trying to make it more user-friendly.
- We launched the new Instagram account late last year and we've been increasing the follower count.
- We should consider including the Instagram address in the weekly bulletin
- We hope to attract new ideas and new committee members this year

Community Representative

Bronwen Alsop

Introduction: SEAC Rep for the DHH community, advocate for students

NEW BUSINESS

Election of 15 voting members of council.

- The Election Committee received exactly 15 nominations for School Council voting positions, so no election was necessary and all nominations were acclaimed.
- The following 15 individuals were acclaimed as voting members of School Council for 2025/26:
 - Omar Becerril
 - Ulrica Jobe
 - Imran Khan
 - Jessica Miklos
 - Gavin McCulloch
 - Jennifer Ng
 - Brenda Perras-Winter
 - Amanda Ricketts-Fredrick
 - Anna Rutledge
 - Alicia Soerensen
 - Aimee Sulliman
 - Keith Tong



NORTHERN SCHOOL COUNCIL

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

In Person and Virtual

- Kristina Turner
- Catherine Wong
- Margaret Yeung

Introductions were made by the acclaimed voting members of School Council.

Election of executive positions

- Gavin McCulloch and Aimee Sulliman expressed interest in the Chair role. The other voting members were asked if they had interest in running for the Chair role and there was no further interest. Gavin McCulloch and Aimee Sulliman were acclaimed as Co-Chairs of the School Council.
- Keith Tong expressed interest in the Treasurer role. The other voting members were asked if they had interest in running for the Treasurer role and there was no further interest. Keith Tong was acclaimed as the Treasurer of School Council. A co-Treasurer position is still available for any Council voting members who are interested.
- None of the voting members expressed an interest in the Secretary role. The task of taking meeting minutes will be rotated amongst the voting members. This role remains open if any Council voting members are interested.
- Committees were discussed and formed:
 - Gifted Advisory Committee: Anna Rutledge, Jessica Miklos, Brenda Perras-Winter
 - Budgeting: Keith Tong, Jessica Miklos, Sarah Flint
 - Fundraising: Margaret Yeung, Amanda Ricketts-Fredrick, Cathy Wong
 - Website/Communications: Keith Tong, Chris Maisson, Stephanie Nacawa
 - Social Committee: Kristina Turner, Imran Khan, Cathy Wong
 - Education: we've had this committee in the past with one member leading it. This committee's mission could be to report on decisions being made that affect us at levels above the school (the Board, Supervisor, etc.). We can form this committee if some parents are interested in getting involved.
 - All parents can join committees, not just voting members of School Council
 - There is room for other committees if parents want to form one.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.