



Northern School Council Meeting

May 27, 2026 6:30 - 8:00 pm (hybrid)

Attendees:

Council: Gavin McCulloch, co-Chair; Ali Soerensen; Cathy Wong; Ulrica Jobe; Kristina Turner, recording; Tianna R. student rep; Jessica Miklos; Amanda Ricketts Fredrick, Anna Rutledge

Parents: Chris Maissan, Tania Osmond, Jen N., Morgan Hedges, Beth Lauer

Regrets: Brenda Winter, Aimee Sulliman, co-Chair; Keith Tong, Treasurer; Margaret Yeung; Omar Becerril; Bronwen Alsop, Community Rep; Imran Khan; Jennifer Ng.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Gavin (did not reach quorum)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda - Motion to approve: Ulrica.; Seconded: Jessica. Carried.

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Minutes

Approval of April 14, 2026 minutes - Motion to approve: Tianna.; Seconded: Jessica. Carried.

Student Rep Update -Tianna R.

- a. Exam schedule – medical make up day is June 23. Reviewed remaining upcoming student events.

Co-Chair's Update - Gavin

- a. Discussed proposed **council meeting dates** for the next school year; these will be posted on the school council website <https://nsscouncil.com/school-council>. The first meeting will be October 1, with the election for the 2026-2027 council taking place on October 8. Ali Soerensen and Tania Osmond are the Election Committee this year.

- b. Teacher Wish List update – we have a list which has been reviewed by Principals and others. It will be used to guide the purchase of items and that may spill over into the fall.

Principal's Report and Ask Adam

Adam shared the following updates:

1. **Staffing process** for 2026-27 continuing.
2. **Upcoming/current events:** Grade 8 welcome event June 3. Teams have qualified for OFSA. Banquets for music and athletics coming up.
3. **Food program:** NSS had a food program that ran until 2017; heating and ventilation system work has made the kitchen unusable this year, but we hope that it will be functional for the upcoming school year. This will allow the school to run a robust food program, and also provide food for students in need ourselves instead of having to pay for an external provider.
4. **Pool** being drained on June 1 – maintenance, regrouting etc.
5. **Courtyard renovation project** – windows are being replaced (funded by Board) and access doors will be created in the courtyard (funded by carryover funds by NSS) – target for completion is Fall 2027. Council support would be welcome for the courtyard fittings (outdoor furniture, landscaping etc) and hopefully will be completed in the summer of 2028/2029.
6. **Classroom enhancement for teachers** - eg two recent AI education sessions - very successful and appreciated.
7. **NSS Centennial** coming up in 2030. Alumni and a student committee will be the drivers. Administration in 2030 will deal with permitting and organization.
8. **Ask Adam**
 - a. TDSB has announced a change in focus for Child and Youth Workers in schools, from mental health to special education. NSS has one Child and Youth Worker (typically a half-time position) – how will this shift affect NSS?
 - b. Is there an interest in growing the size of the gifted program? Possibility of new SHSM in food preparation – is there a role for parent advocacy?

Subcommittee Updates

If you are interested in joining a subcommittee, please visit our website to learn more or reach out to School Council via email (nss.school.council@gmail.com).

9. Council Business
 - i. **Budget Committee** – Gavin - excellent fundraising this year raised \$21K. We spent \$7K, leaving \$14,500 for the next school year (including standard \$2,000 – 2,500 carryover). Discussion about spending on any needs for the last few weeks of the school year.
 - ii. **Fundraising Update** - Ulrica - Staff Wish List items to be funded include photography supplies, blood pressure monitors, music supplies, and fans for the classrooms. Next year, funding will be promoted early in the school year – a google form to apply for funding will be circulated to staff and students. Granting will be done 3 times a year. Any remaining funds will be moved over to next year's budget.

Discussion about fundraising for bigger projects like robotics; options for teacher appreciation.

- iii. **Social Committee** - Kristina – last two events this year are **June 6** post-secondary parents coffee and **June 7** Walking Buddies.
- iv. **Website Committee** - Chris/Tania – we are looking for a **volunteer** to help provide and format content. You don't have to be capable, just curious! Chris is a parent who is a web developer and he needs a parent to assist with content for the website, Parent Post, etc. Students could get volunteer hours if they would like to work with Chris, too. Please contact Chris through nss.school.council@gmail.com
- v. **Gifted Advisory Committee** – Jessica – recent post-secondary session presented by Melanie Stassis, Guidance Counsellor, was very successful and will be put on again next year. There are also plans for 3 external speakers next year.
- vi. **Community Update** – Gavin - May is Speech and Hearing month.

Other Business

- 1. Question about the impact on students of the new legislation to tie high school attendance and participation directly to grades. For TDSB students, attendance now accounts for 15% of the final mark in Grades 9 and 10, and 10% in Grades 11 and 12. Adam will share more information with students as he receives it.
- 2. Discussion about whether Student Council could work with Parent Council to use any additional funds toward teacher appreciation.

New Business

- 1. Jessica Miklos invites parents to contact her if they are interested in becoming involved in advocacy related to education cuts and changes. Please email her care of nss.school.council@gmail.com

Valued, long-time council member, **Tania Osmond**, has completed her time on the Council. We thank her very much for her incredible dedication, commitment, and generosity over many years, helping to make Northern an even better school for all of us. Thank you, Tania!

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Kristina, seconded by Ulrica, all in favour. Meeting adjourned at 8.22pm.

See you next year!!