***NCIVS School Council Minutes***

***Tuesday, January 24, 2023***

***Room 105 - 6:30 pm.***

**Present:** Martina Carr, Sharon Chapman,Jody Charron, Lisa Fox, Amy Gilchrist, Nathan Jeffrey, Jen Latta, Melissa Mallette, Laurie Yuen Mark, Christine Murphy, Ade Ogunlade, Tara Pace-James, Kateryna Pavlinska, Dawn Roberts, Sandra Ross, Stacey Severs, Sue Tomback, Colin Winklmeier, Jen Winklmeier

**Regrets:** Stephanie Brogden

1. **Welcome**

* Christine Murphy, School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Treaty Acknowledgement**

* Nathan Jeffrey read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

1. **Student Council Update**

* No current updates as the students are preparing for their upcoming exams.
* The Canned Food Drive in December was very successful.
* Student Council has booked the therapy dogs for two visits in January. Last week when the dogs came for the first time, the library was packed with students eager to meet the therapy dogs.

1. **Student Services Update – Lisa Fox**

* Northern Open House
* Gr. 7 & 8 students and their families have been invited to attend the Open House, which will be held from 6 – 8 pm on Wednesday, February 15 (please note the date is different from the date printed on the school calendar magnets). There is a committee of staff organizing the event.
* Semester 2 Timetables
* Timetables will be emailed to students tomorrow. Students will notice teacher and room changes compared to their original schedules.
* Post-Secondary Deadlines
* The university application deadline, January 12th, has passed. After the first semester grades are finalized, the marks will be uploaded to the university application website. Typically, universities look at the first-semester final marks and the second-semester midterm marks before sending out offers of admission.
* The equal consideration deadline to apply for Ontario colleges is February 1, 2023.
* **Online Learning Requirement**
* Beginning with students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year, all students must earn at least two online learning credits as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) *unless* they have opted out or been exempted. All Grade 11 students will be given credit for one online course due to the online learning during the COVID pandemic.
* Parents who wish to opt-out or exempt their child from the online graduation requirement must complete the opt-out form available from their child’s school. The opt-out forms will be distributed when the counsellors do the course selection presentations in homerooms in February.
* A parent asked if a summer school online course would fulfil that requirement. Student Services has confirmed that online summer school courses count towards this requirement.
* Course Selection for Next Year
* Course selection forms for next year are due by Friday, February 24, 2023. Counsellors will be visiting all classrooms in February to discuss the course selection process.
* IPRC Meetings
* Students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) are entitled to an IPRC (Identification, Placement and Review Committee). IPRCs will be held in March.

1. **Provincial Reports**

* Report cards will be mailed home at the end of the first week or the beginning of the second week of the second semester.

1. **Principal’s Update**

* OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test)
* Northern just received the results from the OSSLT written in November. The Literacy Test results will be mailed home in February with the report cards. The Literacy team will target the unsuccessful students. Unsuccessful students will have an opportunity to rewrite the test in the spring.
* Some unsuccessful students will be offered the opportunity to take the Literacy Course this coming semester to meet this graduation requirement.
* Prom
* The prom is not a school-sanctioned event. Students and parents are planning something on their own. There will be no teacher volunteers. The school will not be promoting the event. For example, there will be no morning announcements, no posters around the school and no ticket sales at lunch. No LKDSB high schools host proms anymore.
* Graduation
* Graduation will be on Friday, June 9, 2023, at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena. It is a PD Day. There will be no limit on the number of guests that can attend. Last year, 99% of the graduating students participated in the event.
* Culminating Activities/Exams
* This marks the first year students have written exams since January 2020. The Ministry of Education has stated that 30% of a student’s final mark must come from a culminating activity. The LKDSB has decided that the culminating activity for each course must consist of at least two components (ex. an exam and a project).
* Many parents expressed that having a culminating worth 15% and a final exam worth 15%, both due in the final weeks of January, is too much for students. Some students have four exams and four culminating projects, all due in the last two weeks of January. Parents feel it is too much work in a short time frame. Another parent stated that at Lambton College, there is a policy that no culminating activities can be due the week before exams. Many parents agreed that it would be better for students if the culminating activities could be due well before exams.
* A parent said that students need clear expectations for the exams. Every student should understand what each exam entails and how to prepare. Many students are doing exam review.
* Parents would like more consistency within multiple sections of the same course. According to a parent, one section of a math class last year had multiple students with a final mark of 100%, and another section of the same course had very few students with marks in the 90s. Students compete for entrance into college and university based on their grade 12 marks. A student’s entrance to university or college should not depend on the teacher they get.
* Parents also expressed that it is difficult for students to know where they stand with outcome-based learning. A parent explained that their child was writing an exam and had no idea what type of mark they had going into the exam. Mrs. Mallette noted that students should have an idea of their marks going into their exams, as teachers must give students progress reports. Melissa encouraged parents to contact her if their child does not have an idea of what their mark is going into an exam.
* New teachers
* B. Biggers, N.Turner, C. VanHaaren and K. Martin will join the Northern staff for the second semester. There is one other posting still to be filled.
* Enrolment
* Northern’s enrollment has increased to almost 1200 students, and we have gained two lines due to the increase. Enrolment may still further increase for the second semester as there are new students trying to register.

1. **Parent Questions/Feedback**

* Cameras
* The contractor has been in the school for the past two weeks and has started the process of installing the cameras. The washroom situation is still an issue that the administration continues to focus on. The second and third-floor bathrooms are locked at lunch. Students need to use the main floor bathrooms, which allows the vice-principals to monitor the bathrooms more closely.
* A bathroom stall was significantly damaged during the evening recently. Going forward, the bathrooms will be locked after school. Coaches will have to open the bathrooms for their teams and monitor the bathrooms.
* Safe Schools Submission
* A parent said that they have still not received a response to their Safe Schools submission. The submission was sent in October. Melissa had previously followed up with this in November. She will follow up again tomorrow.
* Recent Fire Alarms
* Before Christmas, the fire alarm went off several times. One of the alarms was due to a small fire in the 3rd-floor boys' bathroom. Another of the alarms was due to a sensor issue.
* OFSSA Boy’s Basketball
* The OFSSA Boys Basketball tournament will be held in Sarnia at Northern on March 6-8, 2023. Parents were excited about this event. A parent asked how the tournament will affect Northern in terms of increased traffic flow, noise, etc. Mr. Jones has planned for this event. Melissa said she doesn’t anticipate many interruptions to the regular school routine. She will talk with Mr. Jones about his plans for the event and send an update.
* Buses for Exams
* All exams start at 8:30 am. Buses run as usual during exams. Students often leave after their exams. Students can leave the school after their exam and then return to catch their bus at the end of the day if they need a ride home.
* For students who have exams,
  + Period A exams are on Friday, January 27, at 8:30 am.
  + Period B exams are on Monday, January 30, at 8:30 am.
  + Period C exams are on Tuesday, January 31, at 8:30 am.
  + Period D exams are on Wednesday, February 1, at 8:30 am.
  + It is important to note that not all classes have exams. In addition, some teachers will be conferencing with students throughout their exam day, and students will be given a specific time for their conference.
* Curling
* A parent commented that the curling program is fantastic and has exploded this year.
* University Visits
* A parent asked how students and families can start to gather information about universities prior to Grade 12. There is a local University Night in October that all high school students are welcome to attend. There are also University Fairs in London and Toronto that students can attend.
* Student Services does a presentation for Grade 11 and 12 parents every fall.
* Individual colleges and universities come to Northern and do presentations every fall. Gr. 12 students are given the schedule in September and can sign up for the schools’ presentations that interest them.

1. **Meeting Adjourned**

* Next meeting: Tuesday, March 28, at 6:30 pm in Room 105.
* Future dates: May 30