N.C.I.V.S School Council Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2017
Library - 7:00 p.m.

Present: Christine Brayer, Jody Charron, Ian Clarke, David Crosbie, Judy Garrett, Lyne Guthrie, Lori Hardy, Bonnie Helps, Birgit Lacey, Angie McKenney, Linette McNamara, Kelly-Lynn Musico, Christine Murphy, Tara Pace-James, Zachary Palmer, Tracy Simpson, Derek Stenton, Sue Tomback, Laurie Yuen Mark, Eric Zhou

1. **Welcome and Sign-In**
   - ✓ School council members were welcomed by Northern's vice-principal, Mrs. Judy Garrett. Northern's principal, Ms. Ferguson, has been recovering from a concussion for the past year. Ms. Ferguson is almost back to 100% duties and plans to attend a School Council meeting in the near future.
   - ✓ Mr. Derek Stenton, Northern's new vice-principal, introduced himself. Mr. Stenton was a vice-principal at North Lambton last year. Prior to that, he was a Program Consultant with the LKDSB, specializing in literacy, and a teacher at NCIVS.

2. **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
   - ✓ Mr. Stenton read an introduction followed by the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement. The Traditional Territory Acknowledgement will be read at all LKDSB schools. At Northern, it will be read every morning on the morning announcements. Teachers will be discussing this with the students before it starts tomorrow morning.

3. **Student Council Update – Zachary Palmer & Eric Zhou**
   - ✓ Zac and Eric were elected as Student Council Co-Presidents in the Spring for the 2017-2018 school year.
   - ✓ Grade 9 Activity Day was held last Friday and it was a big success based on the students' feedback.
   - ✓ Student Council are planning many activities, including "Banana Day." Students will bring in a banana and then buy ice cream from Student Council to make a banana split. Proceeds will be donated to a charity.
   - ✓ Spirit Day is coming up. Students will be encouraged to wear their red, black and white to show their school spirit. There will be a Pep Rally. The senior boys football team will be playing UCC on the back campus beginning at 2:00.
   - ✓ A semi-formal dance is being planned for December.
   - ✓ Elections to elect the Grade 9 Representatives for Student Council will be held on October 2.

4. **Selection of School Council Chair and Vice-Chair**
   - ✓ In recent years, Northern's School Council has had 2 co-chairs rather than a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
   - ✓ Christine Murphy and Lori Hardy expressed interest in the co-chair positions. Christine Brayer, one of last year's School Council Co-chairs, discussed the role and offered to assist with the transition.

   Note: Official titles of the positions to be confirmed at the next School Council meeting.

5. **Principals' Items**

September		October	
5	First Day of Classes – Semester 1	2	Curriculum Leader Meeting – 2:40 PM
	Staff Meeting – 2:40 PM		Parent Post-Secondary Information Night
7	Grade Assemblies: A – 10/11; B – 9/12	4	Open House – 5 PM
13	Deadline to Change a Course	9	Thanksgiving
	Grade 9 Parent Night	13	Spirit Day / Food Day
15	Picture Day	16	School Council
18	School Council Meeting – 7 PM	17	Progress Reports
22	Ontario University Fair Field Trip	19	College Information Program – 10:30 AM
28	Orange Shirt Day		Parent – Teacher Interviews – 6 – 8 PM
29	P.D. Day	27	P.D. Day

- **Calendar Review**
  - ✓ 250 parents of Grade 9 students attended the Grade 9 Parents Night on September 13. Grade 9 parents had the opportunity to follow their child's timetable and meet the Grade 9 teachers. Parents of Grade 9 students who attended the event provided positive feedback.
  - ✓ Picture Day was held last Friday. There will be picture retakes in October.
  - ✓ Orange Shirt Day will be held on September 28th in all LKDSB school. The purpose of Orange Shirt day is to "honour the survivors of residential schools as well as those children and young people who never returned home" (from the LKDSB website). Staff and students are encouraged to wear orange and use this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people and communities."

- **P.D. Day on September 29, 2017**
  - ✓ The theme of the first P.D. Day will be to set literacy and numeracy goals for the year. Teachers in the building will have an opportunity to develop ways to incorporate literacy and numeracy into their subject specific curriculum. In turn, this will help students develop better literacy skills in order to be successful on the Grade 10 Literacy Test.
  - ✓ This year's Literacy Test will be written in April and it will be written with paper and pencil. There will be no computer trials this year but a computerized test may return in future years.

- **Parent Post-Secondary Information Night – October 2, 2017 (Library)**
  - ✓ Mr. Scott, the Head of Student Services, will speak to parents of Grade 12 students who plan to apply to post-secondary education. He will review the post-secondary application process.
  - ✓ A parent who attended the evening last year highly recommended the event. The parent found it very informative and suggested that parents of Grade 11 students would also find it helpful.

- **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast – October 20, 2017**
  - ✓ It has become a tradition that School Council provides a Teacher Appreciation breakfast in the staff room on the morning after Parent-Teacher Interviews. The breakfast typically consists of baked goods and fruit.
  - ✓ School Council members who wish to contribute to the breakfast are asked to bring baked goods or other contributions to the school on the evening of Parent-Teacher Interviews and place them in the staff room.
  - ✓ More information will be provided closer to the event.

- **Summer Construction**
  - ✓ The South and the East parking lots were both re-done over the summer. The parking lots were repaved; new drainage and new curbs were installed. In addition to the parking lot, work was completed in the cafeteria, the main office and Student Services. (Mrs. Garrett led everyone on a tour of the new facilities after the meeting was adjourned.)
  - ✓ The summer construction this year was Phase 3 of 5 phases of planned construction.
  - ✓ Next summer's construction, Phase 4, will involve the North end of the building. An accessible washroom is one of several items planned.
  - ✓ The Courtyard needs to be updated to be a more student friendly area. Last year, the Key Club had an architect draw up plans for a new courtyard and they are now fundraising to carry out the architects' plans. The first phase will cost approximately $35,000 dollars. The second phase will cost another $30,000 and the final phase will be $25,000. The Key Club has been fundraising for the first phase and currently they have approximately $15000. The first phase of the courtyard is dependent on Board construction plans.

- **Enrolment**
  - ✓ 1110.5 students are enrolled at Northern this year. This is up 60 students from last year. There are 25 international and exchange students. The exchange students are staying for various lengths of time.
  - ✓ A parent encouraged other parents to consider student exchanges as her family has had a wonderful experience participating in an exchange recently. There are a variety of student exchange programs available with exchanges of varying durations of time.
  - ✓ There are 70 teachers and 5 educational assistants. Including office staff, administration and the custodial staff, there are 90 people on staff in the building. There are 12 teachers new to the building.

- **Start Up**
  - ✓ Many sports teams are up and running including the golf team, football, soccer, volleyball, tennis and cross country. Intramurals will be starting at lunch next week.

- **Website and Twitter**
  - ✓ There were no magnetic calendars mailed home with the school newsletter in September. Several parents expressed their disappointment.
  - ✓ There is a calendar on the website, so parents can subscribe to the calendar. Some parents indicated that they tried to subscribe to the calendar but they received a message that the calendar was unavailable. Mrs. Garrett will look into this.
  - ✓ Northern's Twitter account is up and running.

- **Technology Enriched Learning Plan - Grade 9 iPads**
  - ✓ There are 239 iPads with Grade 9 students at Northern this year. The Grade 9 students will hand in the iPad in June to be updated. The students will get them back in Grade 10. In grade 11, students will either use their own devices, or will have access to devices available at the school. Funding for the continuation of TELP will be determined.

- **Literacy Test Results**
  - ✓ The Literacy Test results from last year will be released on September 20.

- ✓ For the Literacy Test written last March on paper, the students will find out their actual mark. The test is marked out of 400 and a pass is 300 marks. Some students fail because they get a mark of 295. The test is marked in 5 mark increments.
- ✓ On the test results that get sent home, the student can see their final mark. However, the school receives more detailed information. The school can see where the student had difficulties and this info can help prepare the student if they need to re-write the test.
- ✓ In October, all the Grade 10 students at Northern will write a practice literacy test. The test is written just like Literacy Test – it runs in a morning over 2 periods. The tests are marked by the Literacy team at the school. This practice test allows the Literacy team to see what students need extra help and areas of needs for students.
- ✓ Every month, all Grade 10 students will do an activity geared towards preparing students for some aspect of the Literacy Test (ex. writing newspaper articles, doing multiple choice, etc.)

- **Open House**
  - ✓ The format will be similar to last year. All departments, clubs and athletic teams will have booths set up. We will be doing "passports" again this year. Students will go to various booths and get stamps. Then, once the passport is filled in, students can put it in a draw for prizes.
  - ✓ If anyone knows of any businesses that might be willing to donate prizes, please contact Mrs. Garrett.

- **Exam Schedule**
  - ✓ There will be a trial of a new final exam schedule this year.
    Period A classes will all write on Day 1 of the exam period.
    Period B classes will all write on Day 2 of the exam period.
    Period C classes will all write on Day 3 of the exam period.
    Period D classes will all write on Day 4 of the exam period.
  - ✓ This schedule will ensure that students only write one exam per day.
  - ✓ Students in the same course, for example Grade 10 English, will write different exams on different days. The exams will have a common format and be an equivalent level of difficulty. Curriculum leaders and teachers will work to ensure the same difficulty level of exams for the same course.
  - ✓

6. Parent Issues

- **Volleyball**
  - ✓ 32 boys tried out for the junior boys' volleyball team. The coach took 14 boys for the team. The coach asked if there could be a midget boys volleyball team for the extra boys to play on but was told that it was not possible. Chatham Kent and John McGregor in Chatham both have midget volleyball teams this year.
  - ✓ A midget boys' volleyball would have allowed more boys to participate in sports and feel more involved in the school.
  - ✓ Mrs. Garrett indicated that she would look into the situation.

- **E-mail and Voice Mail Communication**
  - ✓ Currently, parents receive messages from the school via recorded phone calls. It was mentioned last year that the school was looking into sending e-mails. A parent asked if e-mails would be sent this year.
  - ✓ Mrs. Garrett stated that the goal this year is for the office to start sending e-mails to parents. Due to the construction, there is a bit of delay in starting this.

- ✓ A parent asked what percentage of the forms that are mailed home for parents to sign are actually returned. Two parents stated that their students returned the forms to the homeroom teachers and the teachers did not know where to send the forms. Another parent felt that the paper forms are often misplaced. It would be easier to provide the required information online.
- ✓ The plan is for the LKDSB to develop a parent portal over the next few years, similar to what other school boards currently have.

- **Twitter**
  - ✓ A parent expressed that some local high schools make more use of their Twitter feeds. The other schools put more info – morning announcements, sports scores, the School Council agenda, good news stories – on their Twitter feed. This is an area where Northern could improve.

- **Volunteer Opportunities for Students**
  - ✓ A parent shared a newspaper article about Sarnia's first Youth Volunteer Expo. The event will be held on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:30 am to 3 pm at the Lambton Mall. There will be 30 non-profit organizations with volunteer opportunities and information for youth.
  - ✓ The newspaper article can be viewed here: http://www.sarniathisweek.com/2017/09/15/youth-volunteer-expo-set-for-sept-23-at-lambton-mall

7. Meeting Adjourned
- ✓ Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Room 128.