***NCIVS School Council Minutes***

***Tuesday, September 27, 2022***

***Library 6:30 pm.***

**Present**: Mardina Carr, Sharon Chapman, Jody Charron, Lisa Fox, Tara Pace-James, Nathan Jeffrey, Ade Laniya, Dapo Laniya, Jennifer Latta, Melissa Mallette, Laurie Yuen Mark, Christine Murphy, Adeleye Ogunladu, Katevyva Pavlinska, Stacey Severs, Sue Tomback, Jennifer Winklmeier

**Regrets**: Stephanie Brogdan and Sandra Ross

1. **Welcome**

* Tara Pace-James, School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

1. **Treaty Acknowledgement**

* Nathan Jeffery read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

1. **Student Council Update – Melissa Mallette, Northern Principal**

* The Student Council co-presidents could not attend tonight but will attend the next meeting to provide an update.
* Student Council is planning a Spirit Day for the fall. More information will follow.

1. **School Council Co-Chair Elections**

* After some discussion, Christine Murphy and Tara Pace-James agreed to continue as Co-Chairs for the 2022-2023 school year.

1. **Parent Involvement Committee**

* The Parent Involvement Committee consists of parents from across the LKDSB. A parent who participated last year explained that the committee learned about various school board procedures and offered feedback to help shape the school board policies. For example, the Parent Involvement Committee requested that PD Days align more closely with holidays, where possible. This year, there is a PD Day before Thanksgiving weekend.
* The committee meets four times per year. Last year, the meetings were virtual. A parent asked whether the meetings would be virtual or in person this year. Melissa did not know but will look into that.
* Anyone who would like more information or is interested in joining the Parent Involvement Committee is asked to contact Melissa Mallette by October 7.

1. **Student Services Update – Melissa Mallette**

* **Parent Post-Secondary Information evening – Monday, Oct 5, 2022**
* The annual Parent Post-Secondary Information Night is Monday, October 3rd in the Library at 7 pm. Student Services will go over the application process and answer questions.
* This is a very informative evening for Grade 12 parents. Grade 11 parents are also welcome.
* **TOKTW Day – Nov. 1, 2022**
* Take Our Kids to Work Day is a day when Grade 9 students go to a workplace with a parent, family member or family friend. Last year, students did activities at the school. Hopefully, employers will welcome students back into their workplaces in November. More information will follow.
* **Supports for Students**
* Shelley Pretty, Brandy Victor and Todd Whitlock are the counsellors in Student Services this year. Shelley Pretty is the new Curriculum Leader of Student Services as Mark Scott retired.
* The counsellors have been visiting classrooms to help students with MyBlueprint and explain the available supports.
* Available supports for students include:

o Karla Veens, the school’s social worker. She is available 5 days a week.

o Brian Dewagner, Northern’s Student Support Officer. He is in Student

Services 3 half days each week.

o Tracey Palumbo, the Mental Health & Addictions Nurse. She is

available 3 days per week.

1. **Principal’s Update – Melissa Mallette**

* **Gr. 9 Parent’s Night**
* 150 parents attended this event. To start the evening, Brian McBain did a presentation on outcome-based assessment. The parents then visited classrooms to meet the teachers.
* A parent asked if more information about outcome-based assessment would be coming home for all parents at some point. Several parents had attended one of Brian’s presentations last year but would still like more information. Parents would like a one-page summary in each subject area that explains how outcome-based assessment is being implemented in that subject.
* The administration said they would discuss this idea with the curriculum leaders. Ideally, a summary sheet could be sent home with the progress reports after Thanksgiving.
* Not all teachers are using outcome-based assessment this year. It is not a ministry mandate that teachers must use it.
* Parents suggested that it might be helpful to have Brian McBain do another outcome-based assessment presentation for Grade 10-12 parents. The school administration will try to arrange presentations on the evening of Parent-Teacher Interviews.
* **School Start-Up**
* The student population, as of today, is 1192. That is an increase of 50 students from last year. The school is full.
* **Twitter/Online Platform**
* Parents were asked what online platforms they prefer. The school would like to showcase the good things that are happening at Northern.
* Northern is currently posting on Twitter, which gets many views. Many parents in attendance requested that the school continue to use Twitter.
* The school has started to put the morning announcements on Twitter. The Twitter feed can be seen at the bottom of Northern’s web page.
* Some parents suggested Northern get a Facebook account. All elementary schools have Facebook pages, and many parents are used to using Facebook. Northern currently doesn’t have a Facebook page.
* Parents were in agreement that they love seeing pictures on Northern’s social media platforms. Nathan Jeffrey explained that pictures are often challenging to post because the school needs consent from every student in the picture.
* The topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.
* **Staff Changes**
* There are 11 new teachers in the building.
* **Terry Fox Run**
* The students raised over $3000, which exceeded their initial goal of $2448.00
* Nathan got a pie in the face (twice!) The students had a great time walking on the track and watching the festivities in the gym. The positive energy in the building was great.
* This event was a class project for the Recreation and Healthy Active Living Leadership class and the event was very well done.
* <https://www.sarniathisweek.com/news/local-news/pies-fly-during-northern-collegiate-terry-fox-fundraiser>
* Parents watched a six-minute summary video of the day made by the GPP class.
* **Noelle’s Closet**
* Noelle’s Gift is a fantastic organization that provides money so that school administrators can purchase items that students need. School administrators can spend up to $250 on an item(s) for a student.
* Noelle’s closet has been placed in a discreet location in the library. The closet will be filled with items for students in need. There will be food, toiletry items, feminine products, etc. The school will be seeking donations.
* **Peer Mentors**
* The first Mentor Monday of the year went very well.
* **Orange Shirt Day – Friday, Sept. 30**
* The school had hoped to have a guest speaker, but that didn’t pan out. Instead, students will watch a series of videos and do an activity in their homerooms.
* **OSSLT – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test**
* Similar to last year, there will be two sessions of the OSSLT this year. All Grade 10 students will be able to write the test in November. Unsuccessful students will have a second opportunity to write in the spring.
* The Literacy team met today to start the preparations.
* The Literacy Course is running this year. Students who write the Literacy Test and are unsuccessful can opt to take the Literacy Course.
* A parent inquired as to how they can view their children’s OSSLT results. Northern mails the results to parents, and the results are uploaded to MyBlueprint. Students who pass are just told that they were successful. Unsuccessful students are given a mark. Unfortunately, no other information is shared with the school, so it is difficult to identify and address areas of weakness.
* **Parent-Teacher Interviews – Wednesday, Oct. 20, 6 – 8 pm**
* Parents were asked what time they preferred for interviews. Many parents said they preferred 6 – 8 pm.
* Organizations such as Rebound, St. Clair Child and Youth, and Alliance Against Hate have been invited to set tables up on Parent-Teacher Interview evening. The school wants parents to be aware of the community resources available to help students.
* Parents suggested that Diversity Ed. should also be invited.
* If parents have any other suggestions, they are invited to contact Mr. Jeffrey.

* **School Climate Survey**
* The data from this survey can be beneficial when making decisions in a school. Melissa has just received the data. Unfortunately, only 309 students filled out the survey, which isn’t ideal when there are 1192 students in the building.
* Several parents in attendance stated that they found the ‘Count Me In” survey last spring very difficult to complete. Some parents could not complete the survey. Melissa said she appreciated the feedback and would pass that information on.
* **Final Evaluations**
* Final marks will consist of 70% term work and 30% culminating activities. The final 30% will be a combination of tasks such as exams, assignments, presentations, etc. There will not be any final exams worth 30% of a student’s final mark.
* **School Tone**
* On the afternoon of the Terry Fox Run, a student lit a fire in a garbage can in the 3rd-floor boys bathroom. The fire department was called. The culprit has not been found.
* The first two weeks of September were hectic. The police have been called several times due to fights. Northern is cracking down. Some students have been suspended. Students will be suspended if they aren’t willing to follow the rules. Things have settled down in the past week.
* The administration has been circulating in the halls and the washrooms daily. The administration will continue to work on these issues.
* Nathan encouraged parents to let the school know if they hear things.
* **Parking Lot Changes**
* The large parking lot off of Michigan Ave will have new signs posted shortly. The signs will direct traffic so that traffic only flows in one direction. This will reduce the congestion in the parking lot and make it safer for everyone.

1. **Parent Questions/Feedback**

* **Why is the 3rd Floor Bathroom Closed?**
* The 3rd-floor boys bathroom is closed due to fire damage.
* The 2nd-floor boys bathroom was closed temporarily because someone punched a hole in the wall, and the drywall started getting pulled back. Getting a person into the building to repair the damage took some time.

The 2nd-floor bathroom re-opened this week.

* **Attendance on the SchoolMessenger app**
* Parents explained that they can only mark their child absent for the entire morning and/or the entire afternoon on the SchoolMessenger app. Parents would like the ability to use the app to excuse their children for an appointment that is only part of the school day (ex. please excuse my child at 10 am for a dental appointment for one hour.) The administration will look into the app further.
* If parents want to excuse their child for an appointment at a specific time in the middle of the day, they must call the school directly.

* **Date of Grade 12 Graduation**
* Graduation will be on Friday, June 9, 2023. It is a PD Day.
* **School Calendar Magnets**
* All parents loved the school calendar magnets that were mailed home.
* **Extra time on exams**
* A parent asked what students get extra time on exams.
* Melissa explained that two groups of students get extra time:
  + Students with an IEP that lists extra time as an accommodation.
  + English Language Learners may also get extra time. With ELL students, it depends on the rating that is given to an ELL student after they complete testing. Northern often doesn’t get the student’s rating; the school is just told that the student requires extra time. Each student’s situation is different.

**9. Meeting Adjourned**

* Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:30 pm in Room 105.
* Other meeting dates: Jan. 24, Mar. 28 and May 30