

**N.C.I.V.S School Council Minutes**

**Monday, February 25, 2019**

**Rm 105 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jody Charron, Susan Ferguson, Robert Ham, Lori Hardy, Bonnie Helps, Birgit Lacey, Tracey Machan, Laurie Yuen Mark, Linette McNamara, Tara Pace-Jones, Tracy Simpson, Derek Stenton, Lisa Stewardson, Madison Winegard, Sarah Woods

**1. Welcome, Sign-In & Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**

- ✓ Tracey Machan, Northern's School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. All in attendance read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement in unison.
- ✓ The minutes from the November 2018 School Council meeting were accepted.

**2. Student Council Update – Madison Winegard and Sarah Woods**

- ✓ The week before exams, tea was served for students at lunch.
- ✓ For Valentines Day, Student Council sold candygrams. The candygrams were delivered to students in their homerooms. There was also a bake sale at lunch. Student Council earned a profit of \$200.00 on Valentine's Day (mainly from the bake sale).
- ✓ This Friday is PJ Day. Theme days are always well received and easy to do.
- ✓ Student Council is very excited to be planning a Spring Fling dance which will be held on Friday, March 29 from 6 – 9 pm. The dance is an exciting event because there hasn't been a dance in several years due to low ticket sales and poorly timed snowstorms. Early Bird tickets will be on sale during the first week of March and ticket sales will continue after March Break. The Early Bird tickets will be \$5 and then after March Break, the price will go up to \$7.00.
- ✓ They anticipate this dance being more popular with the Grade 9 and 10 students.
- ✓ There will be staff chaperones and 2 police officers present. There will also be rules in place to prevent any problems (ex. students must buy tickets in advance, the doors close at 7 pm, students cannot leave and re-enter the dance)
- ✓ All parents on School Council are welcome to help chaperone the dance or manage the coat check. Parents are welcome to come for a portion of the evening or the entire evening. If you are interested in helping to chaperone, please e-mail Mrs. Ferguson at [susan.ferguson@lkdsb.net](mailto:susan.ferguson@lkdsb.net)

**3. Cannabis/Vaping Community Information Night – Mr. Stenton**

- ✓ Northern is going to host a Cannabis/Vaping Community Information Night to educate parents and students about recent changes in the law. The evening will follow a panel format - each guest on the panel will do a brief presentation. The presentations will then be followed by a question and answer session.
- ✓ The panel will include representatives from Lambton Public Health, Tobacco Enforcement, Sarnia Police Youth Branch and the NCIVS Administration.
- ✓ There have been a lot of changes in the laws governing smoking and vaping and this has resulted in changes at Northern. For example, students must now be 20 feet away from the property line of the school if they are smoking or vaping. In the past, the school administration could designate a "smoking area" on school property where students would cluster to smoke or vape. This is no longer possible.
- ✓ The JUUL has also recently appeared and it is a smaller vaping device. The small size enables individuals to vape more discreetly.
- ✓ It is not illegal to have a vape machine in your possession. However, it is illegal to activate a vaping device anywhere within 20 m of the school property line.

- ✓ Northern has progressive discipline. For the first offence, students are given a one day in-school suspension, the info is sent to the Tobacco Enforcement Officers and most often, students are issued a warning letter. Unfortunately, there have been students that were caught vaping a second time and they were fined \$305 by the Tobacco Enforcement Officers. Students are also given a 1 day out of school suspension for the second infraction. The Tobacco Enforcement Officers are from Public Health.
- ✓ Mr. Stenton asked parents for suggestions on when this evening should be held. One parent suggested doing the presentation on the same evening as Parent-Teacher Interviews. Several years ago, the school used to have presentations for parents at 5 pm on Parent-Teacher Night. Parents can attend the information session and then go to the Parent-Teacher Interviews which run from 6 – 8 pm.

#### **4. Room 105 – The New (Yet to Be Named) Technology Room – Mr. Stenton**

- ✓ There are 5 tables and 25 chairs in the room. The chairs and tables are all on wheels, so the room can be easily re-arranged as needed. There are 5 large white boards and 5 large television screens around the room with HDMI cables. The hope is that students can work in groups and collaborate at stations around the room. There is also a projector and a smart board in the room.
- ✓ The students at the meeting asked if the room could be opened at lunch for students to work in. Mr. Stenton said that he would look at that option but the room would need to be supervised by teachers and that would mean reconfiguring the supervision schedule.
- ✓ The room could also possibly be used by clubs for meetings at lunch. The club staff advisor would be the teacher supervisor in the room.

#### **5. Literacy Test – Wednesday, March 27, 2019 – Mr. Stenton**

- ✓ The Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a graduation requirement. Students who fail the test typically re-write the test when they are in Grade 11. If a student is unsuccessful a second time, they will typically take the Literacy Course (either during the school year or in summer school). Each case is examined on an individual basis to plot the best course of action for the student.
- ✓ Information about the Literacy Test and practice tests can be found at: <http://www.eqao.com/en>
- ✓ On the day of the test, all Grade 10 students write the Literacy Test. In addition, some Grade 11 students will also be writing the Literacy test. Grade 11 students write the test if they were unsuccessful the previous year or if they did not write during the previous year (ex. illness, vacation, foreign exchange, etc.)
- ✓ On the day of the Literacy Test, the students writing the Literacy Test will arrive to school at their usual time. They begin writing the test at 8:30 am with their homeroom class. Each booklet is designed to take 75 minutes but students are permitted to have 150 minutes per booklet (double time). Each booklet has to be written in one sitting with supervised breaks. After the first booklet is completed, students will then start their second booklet. One student may start their second booklet at 9:55 am, while another student may not start their second booklet until 10:50 am.
- ✓ This year, Northern will be running an alternative day program on March 27<sup>th</sup> for all students not writing the literacy test. Students in Grades 9, 11, and 12 can come to the school if they wish but there will not be any regularly scheduled classes. If students wish to come to school, they can come to the school to receive extra help but the extra help won't necessarily be from their actual teacher. The advantage of this day is that there will be more teachers available to supervise the test and halls which in turn will allow the day to run smoother for the students writing the test. Many other LKDSB high schools have tried this approach in the past and found it to be very successful.
- ✓ A letter will be sent home prior to March 27 with each student not writing the Literacy Test. Parents will be asked to indicate if their child will be attending school on March 27. Once

administration knows how many students will be in the building, they will be able to schedule teachers accordingly.

- ✓ There will be prep sessions to help prepare students for the test. The prep sessions will start in March.
- ✓ If there is bad weather in Sarnia and the school buses to Northern are cancelled, students at Northern will not write the Literacy Test on March 27<sup>th</sup>. All Northern students would write on a make-up day which is typically in May. If buses were cancelled in other parts of the province but still running to Northern, students at Northern would write the Literacy Test.
- ✓ The Literacy Test appears on the high school transcript as a checkmark – there is no mark associated with it.
- ✓ Volunteers are needed to act as scribes for the Literacy Test. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Mr. Stenton at: [derek.stenton@lkdsb.net](mailto:derek.stenton@lkdsb.net)

## 6. School Council – Mrs. Machan

### • Money

- ✓ The School Council has \$500 available to spend. It must be spent this year.
- ✓ One suggestion was a screening of the movie “Screenagers” but someone stated they heard that the movie was dated despite not being very old. Everything is changing so quickly in the electronic world.
- ✓ Another parent suggested having an event associated with social media. No one had any specific speakers in mind but some people did remember a guest speaker a few years ago at Great Lakes Secondary School who spoke about hacking and social media. He gave an excellent presentation but no one could remember his name.
- ✓ Another parent suggested having a guest speaker do a presentation on addiction.

### • Breakfast for Teachers

- ✓ In the fall, the members of the School Council provided breakfast for the teachers on the morning after Parent-Teacher Interviews. The Chair asked if this was typically only done in the fall or if it was also done in the spring. A parent responded that it varied depending on the year. It was always done in the fall but only occasionally in the spring.
- ✓ A parent stated that the School Council at her child’s elementary school uses their \$500 to purchase dinner for the teachers on the night of Parent-Teacher Interviews.

### • Pictures for the Director of Education

- ✓ The Chair relayed a message from the PIC meeting that the Director of Education is always looking for pictures of great things that are happening in the schools. Sarah Woods indicated that she had some pictures from some of Student Council’s events.
- ✓ The minutes from the recent PIC meeting can be found on the board’s website when they become available.

## 7. Principal’s Items – Mrs. Ferguson

### • Awards Assemblies in December

- ✓ They were well attended and went very well.

### • Open House for Grade 8 Students in January

- ✓ The feedback from parents was good.
- ✓ One parent who attended felt the evening was good overall but she felt the French Immersion presentation wasn’t very strong - it wasn’t as informative as it was several years ago.

- ✓ This year, there was an early presentation and a later presentation which provided more flexibility for people. Due to the fact there were 2 presentations, the groups were smaller and parents seemed to ask more questions. This was noted as a positive change.
- ✓ A parent also commented that when she attended a couple of years ago, the parents went to the presentation and the students went with the peer mentors on a mini-tour. She felt her child would have enjoyed that more than sitting in the presentation.

- **Parent Teacher Interviews – April 4, 2019**

- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson is hoping that the board's climate survey will be ready for Parents' Night.
- ✓ The board is always trying to get more parents to do the climate survey.
- ✓ If the survey is ready, Mrs. Ferguson will have small pieces of paper with instructions on how to complete the survey. Also, there may be a bank of computers set up for parents to fill in the survey at the school. Another parent suggested putting the survey information on the spring report card.

- **Staffing**

- ✓ There have been several staff changes at Northern. Wendy Warner, Northern's IT specialist, retired at the end of first semester. Kiersten Brouwer accepted a position at Alexander Mackenzie High School.
- ✓ Vanessa Edgar has joined the Math and Science departments. Chris Schleifauf has joined the staff to teach Math and Business.
- ✓ Kayla Herdman is covering Erica Maczko's maternity leave.

- **Course Selection Information Night for Parents**

- ✓ The evening was good. Unfortunately, the Syner-voice message only went out the night before the event so some parents didn't have enough notice.

- **Syner-voice**

- The school has noticed that some people are not getting the messages and sometimes the messages are not going to the right phone number. During March Break, the office staff will be working to enter more e-mail addresses into the system and will make sure a phone number is entered for all students.

- **Construction**

- ✓ There will be construction at Northern this summer. Architects have looked at the school to brainstorm ideas for what Northern will look like in the future.
- ✓ This summer's construction will involve creating bus lanes on the school property by the library so the buses will be moved off Indian Rd.
- ✓ The small windows in the cafeteria will be replaced by a wall of windows. There will be a new electronic sign at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Indian Rd. There will also be a new sign at the front of the school on Indian Rd.
- ✓ There will also be some construction on the roof this year.
- ✓ At this time, it is thought that the school will remain open this summer for staff and camps.

## 8. Future Agenda Items – Mrs. Machan

- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson will ask the Math Curriculum Leader to come to a future meeting to explain the changes to parents in regards to the Renewed Math strategy.
- ✓ It is hoped that a school trustee will come to a future meeting to explain what trustees do and how they can help parents.
- ✓ The parents in attendance felt both of these speakers would be beneficial.

## 9. Meeting Adjourned

- ✓ Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Room 128.