

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

**Monday, January 22, 2018**

**Library - 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jody Charron, David Crosbie, Susan Ferguson, Lynn Guthrie, Lori Hardy, Tim Korstanje, Birgit Lacey, Linette McNamara, Kelly-Lynn Musico, Christine Murphy, Tara Pace-Jones, Tracy Simpson, Sue Tomback, LeeAnnah Whitworth, Laurie Yuen Mark

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

- ✓ Kelly-Lynn Musico, Northern’s School Council Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. After everyone in attendance introduced themselves, the sign-In list was passed around.
- ✓ Susan Ferguson, Northern’s principal, read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.
- ✓ There were no issues with the minutes from the previous meeting (November 2017).

**2. Student Council Update – Ms. Ferguson**

- ✓ Due to the upcoming exams, the Student Council Co-Presidents were unable to attend this meeting.
- ✓ The Christmas dance was cancelled due to weather. Student Council is planning a Valentine’s Day dance. After the Christmas dance was cancelled, students were offered refunds. It is not too late to still get a refund.
- ✓ Student Council has had some activities to help students deal with the stress before exams. For example, Student Council made tea for students outside the cafeteria at lunch one day.

**3. Principal’s Items**

• **Calendar Review**

<b>January</b>		<b>February</b>	
8	Classes Resume	1	Ontario College Application Deadline
10-24	Grad Photos	2	P.D. Day
15	Mentor Monday – Period C	5	First Day of Classes - Semester 2
17	Ontario University Application Deadline	8	Semester 1 Report Cards and Newsletters
17-18	Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment	9	Exam Review – last 10 minutes of each period
18	Grade 7/8 Open House & Info Night-6:00 PM	13	Deadline to Change a Course
18	Textbook check	19	Family Day
22	School Council Meeting - 7:00 PM	26	School Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
25	Last Day of Semester 1 Classes	27	Mentor Monday – Period A
26	Period A Exams – 8:30-10:30 AM		Math Contests
29	Period B Exams – 8:30-10:30 AM	28	Course Selection Sheets Due
	E-Learning Exams – 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM		
30	Period C Exams – 8:30-10:30 AM		
31	Period D Exams – 8:30-10:30 AM		

- **Grade 8 to 9 Transition Activities**

- ✓ There have been a variety of activities planned for this year's Grade 8 students to ease the transition to high school.
  - In October, Northern hosted an Open House for the community. Many Grade 7 and 8 students from the feeder schools came with their families.
  - During Take Our Kids to Work Day in November, the Grade 8 students from the feeder schools came to Northern for a day of activities and a barbeque lunch.
  - Last week, Student Services did an evening presentation for the families of Grade 8 students. A mixture of parents and students attended. Counselors noticed that the students seem more comfortable in the building.
  - Counselors from Student Services have been visiting the elementary schools to explain the course selection process.
  - In the Spring, Mrs. Colvin, Northern's Resource teacher, will be running the "Heads Up, Head Start" program for incoming Grade 8 students who have been identified as needing extra supports. The program consists of 5 after school sessions which will teach students study skills, time management skills, etc.

- **Bike Storage**

- ✓ To date, 4 bikes have been stolen this year from Northern – one bike wasn't locked up and 2 bikes were locked to a fence. Mrs. Garrett has researched some of the options that were discussed at the November meeting. Bike storage lockers are very expensive - \$1500 to \$3000. It is not possible to open a classroom to store bikes during the day. Bikes cannot be put in the library as the library needs an emergency exit.
- ✓ The bike racks are currently at the front of the school – the vice principals' offices overlook the area. There is video surveillance of the area.
- ✓ Mrs. Garrett has talked to the police and this is an issue for the entire community.
- ✓ To deal with the problem, Northern may run a campaign to educate students on the proper procedure to safely lock up a bike. The school is also considering the purchase of some kryptonite bike locks that students can sign out in the main office for the day.

- **Environmental Club**

- ✓ The Environmental Club is run by Trevor Jamieson, a teacher at Northern. Earlier this year, the Environmental Club realized that the recyclable matter placed in blue boxes in the classrooms was not consistently being placed in the blue boxes outside for pick up by the recycling contractor. Sometimes the Environmental class collected the recyclable matter, while other times the custodians collected it. There were times when the recyclable matter was placed directly in the garbage. There was no one group or individual in the school directly responsible for the disposal of the recyclable material.
- ✓ The Environmental Club determined that the Board did not have a policy on recycling. The club wrote a letter and presented their letter to the Student Senate and then to the School Board.
- ✓ The Environment Class did an audit of the cafeteria garbage and found that 30% of the garbage was actually recyclable material. As a result, the Environmental class and the Environmental Club have joined forces and want to educate students about what is recyclable and what is not. There are currently only 2 recycling bins in the cafeteria, so the school is going to purchase more recycling bins in an effort to promote more recycling.
- ✓ Locker clean out has been delayed this year. Students from the Environmental Club are going to do short presentations to 2 or 3 classes each day to help educate students about recycling. Hopefully,

during locker clean out, more materials will be recycled rather than simply being thrown in the garbage.

- **Parent Teacher Interviews**

- ✓ Parent – Teacher interviews will be on Wednesday, March 28. The change to a Wednesday evening was made because Friday, March 30 is Good Friday.
- ✓ A parent noted that the school’s website doesn’t yet reflect this change. Ms. Ferguson thanked the parent for the information and stated that she will update the school calendar.

- **4Northern**

- ✓ 4Northern is Northern’s charitable organization that fundraises money for the school. The organization’s new website is finally up and running.
- ✓ The website can be found here: <http://www.4northern.ca/>
- ✓ The website allows individuals to make online donations. Donations can be directed towards a specific project (ex. the track, courtyard, awards) if desired. Donors receive a tax receipt for their donations.
- ✓ In December, 4Northern officially unveiled the mural in the front lobby. The event went really well.
- ✓ A parent suggested that it would be good to have a list of what the donated money is actually used for. Parents would like to know what portion of the money collected goes to scholarships, sports, the arts, etc. This info could be placed on the new website.

#### **4. School Spirit Wear**

- ✓ According to Ms. Ferguson, no one is currently selling Northern Spirit wear. Teachers that had organized spirit wear sales in the past did not want to do it this year due to changes in the Board’s purchasing policies.
- ✓ Individual teams (ex. cross country, basketball, etc.) often order their own hoodies and spirit wear.
- ✓ Parents would like to be able to come to the school and order Northern sweatshirts or baseball caps for their children. Parents thought it would be nice to have some standard items that are available to all students.
- ✓ A parent suggested that it would be more practical to have several times a year when spirit wear is available for purchase (ex. first week of the school, parent – teacher interview evening, etc.) rather than having ongoing sales.
- ✓ Ms. Ferguson is hoping that spirit wear can be sold using the School Cash-Online system once it is up and running. Ideally, there would be samples in the main office.
- ✓ Several parents in attendance are involved with Cathcart’s School Council. In the past, Cathcart’s School Council had always ordered their spirit wear from a local company. However, due to changes in the board’s purchasing policies, the School Council had to order the spirit wear from large out of town company this year and it is taking several months to receive the items. The Cathcart School Council has sent letters to various individuals in the Board and the newspaper about the issue.
- ✓ Ms. Ferguson will discuss the issue further at the next meeting.

#### **5. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update – Mrs. Musico**

- **School E-mails**

- ✓ At the last PIC meeting, the Director of Education, Jim Costello, stated he had spoken to “the Manager of IT for Synrevoice. School Messenger recently purchased Synrevoice. There are issues around US Patriot Act and the storage of student data on servers outside of Canada. Synrevoice data is stored in Burlington. Messenger had to move servers from US to Canada which could delay functionality of email. The IT Manager believes the email function exists within the package

purchased. We are waiting to hear from Messenger regarding costs.” (PIC Minutes, November 2017)

- **TELP (Technology Enriched Learning Plan)**

- ✓ All of this year’s Grade 9 students received an iPad when they were in Grade 7. Students are permitted to take the devices home. iPads will stay with the students until the end of Grade 10. The idea was that by Grade 10, students should know which pathway they are on and parents can purchase a device of their choice to meet their child’s needs.
- ✓ The cost of issuing iPads annually is approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000 depending on the number of Grade 7 students. The current TELP model is in jeopardy due to the increased costs of iPads. The Ministry has also reduced Technology Enriched Learning Funding (TELF) to school boards.
- ✓ The Board is requesting feedback from parents. Options being considered going forward are moving to a 2:1 iPad model where an iPad is shared between two students; providing a class allocation of iPads for students to share or a BYOi model where students would bring in their own iPads. The BYOi option could pose an equity issue.
- ✓ One parent really loved the iPads as it was easy for her to see what her child was doing in classes that use Google Classroom. Another parent expressed that she felt the iPads were often used for non-educational purposes at home.
- ✓ A parent expressed concern that students spend too much on electronic device and it can cause headaches.
- ✓ Parents were concerned about the technology inequity in the board – there are some schools that have lots of technology (due to sponsorships or an active parent council) and other schools that are lacking.
- ✓ Mrs. Musico requested that parents e-mail her their opinions on this issue before the end of January so that she can send this feedback to the next PIC meeting in early February. Mrs. Musico’s email is: [kmusico@cogeco.ca](mailto:kmusico@cogeco.ca)

## 6. Parent Issues

- **Cellphone Use**

- ✓ A parent expressed that she was concerned about student cell phone usage at school. All parents agreed it was a big issue.
- ✓ At the school assemblies earlier this year, Mr. Scott and Ms. Ferguson both encouraged students to put their phones away and talk to their friends.
- ✓ After a lengthy discussion, several suggestions were made:
  - School administrators can research what other schools have done to deal with the problem.
  - Teachers can make students put their cellphones in a box or shoe rack as soon as they walk into a classroom.
  - Maybe a school club/group could develop a program to educate students about the dangers of cell phone usage and proper cellphone etiquette.
  - A guest speaker for the students and/or parents could be booked to educate students/parents.
  - PIC (the Parent Involvement Committee) could book a guest speaker on this topic for their parent education evening in the spring.

- **Odor in the Hallway**

- ✓ A parent was in the building after school one day and there was a strong unpleasant odor drifting from the male bathroom. Her child also complained there was no soap in the restrooms. Ms. Ferguson indicated that this was not a typical occurrence and she will investigate.

## **7. Meeting Adjourned**

- ✓ Next Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Room 128.