***NCIVS School Council Minutes***

***Tuesday, October 3, 2023***

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

**Present:** Rudy Bhola, B.J. Biel, Martina Carr, Sharon Chapman, Jody Charron, Hailey Clothier, Natalia Ferrar, Tara Pace-James, Nathan Jeffrey, Melissa Mallette, Marty Passmore, Kateryna Paulinska, Dawn Roberts, Sandra Ross, Wayne Ross, Stacey Severs, Darshan Shah, Dave Shortt, Colin Winklemeier

**Regrets:** Stephanie Brogden, Jen Latta

1. **Welcome**
* Last year's School Council Co-Chair, Tara Pace-James, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
1. **Treaty Acknowledgement**
* Hailey Clothier read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.
1. **Introductions**
* This year, Northern’s administrative team consists of the principal, Melissa Mallette, and two vice-principals, Nathan Jeffrey and Marty Passmore. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the group.
1. **Student Council Update – Hailey Clothier and Darshan Shah - 2023/2024 Co-Presidents**
* Student Council held their first official meeting today, and 53 students showed up, which was great.
* The school administration would like participation in the Student Council to be more equitable. Grade representative elections for Grades 10, 11 and 12 were held in the spring, but new students moved into the area over the summer. Other students feel uncomfortable participating in the elections. All students are encouraged to participate, not just the elected representatives.
* Students who participate in the Student Council develop many beneficial skills, such as leadership and communication skills.
* October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Next week, the Student Council is planning activities related to breast cancer awareness. There will be a bake sale and other activities.
* Later in October, there will be a homeroom pumpkin carving contest and other Halloween-related activities.
* Student Council is hoping to have some dances this year. A winter-themed semi-formal dance will likely be held in late November/early December. Last year's winter semi-formal was a big hit with the students.
* A Spirit Week is in the works for later in October. More details will follow.
1. **Selection of School Council Co-Chairs**
* Tara Pace-James and Sharon Chapman were selected as the 2023-2024 Northern School Council Co-chairs.
1. **Student Services Update**
* Parent Post-Secondary Information Night on Oct. 2 was well attended.
* This week and next week, Grade 12 classes will be attending presentations on post-secondary pathways. Information will include application procedures, important dates and frequently asked questions.
* Representatives from colleges and universities are visiting Northern in October and November to share information about their programs. The schedule has been given to students, and they must sign up in Student Services. Class tests take precedence.
* On Friday, October 13, there will be a College Information Program at Lambton College. Busses are booked and permission forms have been handed out. All students who plan to attend college are invited. The event will feature all 20 Ontario colleges. Students will be able to speak to representatives from each school.
* The University Information Fair at the Meto Toronto Convention Centre is on October 21, 2023. The Ontario Universities Regional Fair will be held on November 6th in Windsor and November 7th in London. There are afternoon and evening sessions in London.
* Grade 12 students are also encouraged to attend the Fall Open Houses at universities and colleges.
* A Specialist High Skills Major Blitz was held on Monday by The Beanstalk Project founder, Joel Hilchey, who explained what SHSM is and offered a certification in customer services skills to grade 11 students. Last week, students in the Energy sector of SHSM did Working at Heights training.
* Upcoming SHSM workshops include CPR/First Aid Training and a field trip to the Lorne Henderson Conservation Area where students will do a “Healing Hike” and discover the positive impact of nature.
1. **Courtyard Update – Natalia Ferrar**
* Natalia Ferrar, a Northern French Immersion teacher, is the staff advisor for the Key Club. The Key Club is an international student-led organization that provides its members with opportunities to:
	+ - Provide service (inspiring action and service to one’s community)
		- Build character (by everyday acts of kindness, integrity and teamwork).
		- Develop leadership skills.
* There are currently 30 members in the Key Club at Northern.
* Years ago, Northern’s Key Club got a grant from the Kiwanis Club to renovate and revitalize the courtyard and create a place where students can connect.
* Mrs. Ferrar shared the blueprints for the courtyard. The plans include:
	+ - An outdoor classroom with picnic tables and umbrellas
		- A reading & games space
		- An event space with a stage area & barbeque
		- A sensory space with a water feature
* At the current time, the courtyard is underutilized. The Key Club hopes to make the courtyard a usable space.
* In the past 2 years, the pond and landscaping have been removed, and the rebuilding process has started.
* This project will not be completed quickly – it will take time because all the work is being completed by students. Mr. Hanly’s construction class has put in the cement pathway. They have put in the forms and poured the cement.
* The Key Club has applied for more grants and has gotten some additional grant money. Many community organizations are searching for money during these difficult times, so it is challenging to find money for this project.
* The Key Club did a fundraising event for Mother's Day through DeGroots last year and raised $1400.
* The estimated cost of the plan is $100,000. Adjustments have been made to reduce the costs where possible.
* Parents in attendance offered suggestions:
	+ - A barbeque/pizza fundraiser could be held during Parent-Teacher Interviews. The Key Club could sell pizza or hot dogs to parents as many arrive directly from work and have yet to have time to have dinner. A donation jar could also be placed on a table explaining the project.
		- The Key Club could make a list of the items needed and create a signup.com website, allowing people to purchase specific required items.
		- The school should work to connect with skilled tradespeople in the area. It is wonderful that the students are doing the work, but a project of this scale would benefit from having some skilled tradespeople involved.
1. **Principal’s Update – Melissa Mallette**
* Spirit Week
* The administration is looking at options at the current time. The administration won't commit to having an event until the safety of students can be assured.
* Last year, Spirit Day was centred around a girl's basketball game. There is a football team this year, so the possibility of a Spirit Day involving a football game is being explored.
* Graduating Students
* All grade 12 students should be signed up for the Grade 12 Google Classroom. All the information about grad pictures, convocation, post-secondary application deadlines, and university visits will be posted in Google Classroom.
* Last night, there was a Grade 12 Parents Post-Secondary Information Night. A parent mentioned that she would appreciate it if that information was shared with Grade 11 parents so they could attend and be more prepared for next year.
* Parent-Teacher Interview Night – Thursday, October 19, 2023
* There will presentations for parents before parent-teacher interviews. Tentative topics for the evening include SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major), Mental Health & Well-Being, Hosting International Exchange Students, OBA (Outcome-Based Assessment), and Post-Secondary Applications & Scholarships.
* Parents will be able to attend two of the sessions between 5 and 6 p.m.
* Parent-teacher night is not on the school calendar as of right now. Parents suggested it be added to the school calendar as soon as possible to give parents enough notice.
* Police Partnership
* The police might do a training session In the building after school hours.
* CUSP Trial – Grade 10 students
* The Grade 10 students taking Civics and Careers this semester will be asked to do a survey. The information about the survey was sent home to parents. Parents can opt-out – it is entirely voluntary.
* The results are analyzed, and then the group will do presentations to the students.
* More information can be found here: <https://redcap.link/cusptrialstudentinfo>
* PD Day – Friday, Oct. 6, 2023
* On Friday afternoon, the teachers will work on setting goals for the students. We will be using the School Climate survey as the goals are set.
1. **Parent Questions/Feedback**
* Parking Lot
* The parking lot is crazy in the afternoon. The LKDSB Facilities Manager has come to Northern and studied the issue. There are too many people parking in fire zones.
* The bus company and the fire department are also coming. Everyone will be working together to find a solution. The biggest priority is the safety of the students.
* The buses will likely be moved off Indian Rd and lined up in the parking lot.
* The drainage in the parking lot is bad. Building Services is working with the city to determine the problem.
* Heating and Cooling – the 1st two weeks in September
* The air conditioning was not functioning during the first week in September. Many classes were impacted. Gym classes were moved out of the gym because other classes were moved into the gym.
* The air conditioning was working perfectly fine the day before school started. This was a completely unexpected issue.
* The source of the problem was a heating/cooling tower that went down suddenly and unexpectedly. Two parts in the tower broke. One part was easily replaced, but another part took longer to arrive because it is an older system.
* All of the school’s systems are regularly inspected.
* Bathrooms
* The principal and the vice principals spend a lot of time monitoring the bathrooms.
* The second door was removed from the female bathrooms last year, so the principal can open the door and see while remaining in the hallway.
* Some students don’t feel safe going into the washrooms which is unacceptable. The school is working to address the problem.
* The gender-neutral washroom is not serving the students that it was designed to serve. The administration has talked to the GSA club and the staff advisor and is working to redesign the bathroom in some form. One possibility is that the gender-neutral washroom would be locked and only accessible to students with a key.
* A parent suggested painting the gender-neutral washroom with a design or mural that reflected the true purpose of the washroom.
1. **Meeting Adjourned**
* Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023