

**N.C.I.V.S School Council Minutes**  
**Monday, November 12, 2018**  
**Rm 128 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Tiffany Cadotte, Jody Charron, Ian Clarke, Katie Colameco, Sue Ferguson, Lyne Guthrie, Robert Ham, Bonnie Helps, Birgit Lacey, Nannan Liu, Tracey Machan, Linette McNamara, Kelly-Lynn Musico, Tara Pace-Jones, Tracy Simpson, Madison Winegard, Sarah Woods

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

- ✓ Tracey Machan, Northern's School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. After the newcomers introduced themselves, the sign-in list was passed around.
- ✓ Sue Ferguson, Northern's Principal, read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

**2. French Immersion Update – Sue Ferguson**

- ✓ At the September meeting, a parent requested statistics regarding Northern's French Immersion program.
- ✓ The following French Immersion courses are offered at Northern:

French as a Second Language	Other Courses
FIF 1DZ French Immersion FIF 2DZ French Immersion FIF 3UZ French Immersion FIF 4UZ French Immersion	MPM 1DZ - Principles of Math (Immersion) CGC 1DZ - Issues in Canadian Geography (Immersion) CHV 2OZ - Civics and Citizenship (Immersion – 0.5 credit) GLC 2OZ - Career Studies (Immersion - 0.5 credit) CHC 2DZ - Canadian History Since WW1 (Immersion) MPM 2DZ - Principles of Math (Immersion) HSB 4UZ - Challenge & Change in Society (Immersion)

- ✓ French Immersion students have 2 options in high school. Students can work towards earning a Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits) or an Extended French certificate (7 credits).
- ✓ To earn a Certificate in French Immersion Studies, students must complete 10 credits in French. Four of these credits are French as a Second Language courses and the remaining six credits are other subjects in which French is the language of instruction. Northern offers 10 courses for French Immersion students. Thus students must take all of the courses in the above table.
- ✓ To earn the Extended French certificate, students must complete 7 credits in French. Students take 4 French as a Second Language classes and any 3 "Other Courses" in which French is the language of instruction.

## 2015 Graduates

	<b>Course Code</b>	<b># of students enrolled</b>
<b>2011-2012 School Year Grade 9</b>	FIF 1DZ	44
	MPM 1DZ	25
<b>2012-2013 School Year Grade 10</b>	FIF 2DZ	47
	MPM 2DZ	21

Students wanting to earn the Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits) would need to be enrolled in both FIF 1DZ and MPM 1DZ in Grade 9. According to the above table, there were 25 students on this pathway in Grade 9. An additional 19 students may have been working towards the Extended French certificate. After Grade 10, there were only 21 students that could potentially graduate with the full Certificate in French Immersion Studies.

<b>Upon Graduation</b>	<b># of Students who earned</b>	<b>Overall % of students who earned a French certificate</b>
<b>Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits)</b>	10	68% (30 of the 44 students who took FIF 1DZ)
<b>Extended French Language Certificate (7 credits)</b>	20	

## 2016 Graduates

	<b>Course Code</b>	<b># of students enrolled</b>
<b>2012 -2013 School Year Grade 9</b>	FIF 1DZ	37
	MPM 1DZ	21
<b>2013-2014 School Year Grade 10</b>	FIF 2DZ	40
	MPM 2DZ	19

There were 21 students in Grade 9 that had the potential to earn the full 10 credit certificate. After Grade 10, there were only 19 students still eligible.

<b>Upon Graduation</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>% of Students who earned a French certificate</b>
<b>Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits)</b>	12	73% (27 of the 37 students who took FIF 1DZ)
<b>Extended French Language Certificate (7 credits)</b>	15	

## 2017 Graduates

	<b>Course Code</b>	<b># of students enrolled</b>
<b>2013 -2014 School Year Grade 9</b>	FIF 1DZ	35
	MPM 1DZ	21
<b>2014-2015 School Year Grade 10</b>	FIF 2DZ	31
	MPM 2DZ	12

There were 21 students in Grade 9 that had the potential to earn the full 10 credit certificate. After Grade 10, there were only 12 students still eligible.

<b>Upon Graduation</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>% of Students who earned a certificate</b>
<b>Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits)</b>	9	68.6% (24 of the 35 students who took FIF 1DZ)
<b>Extended French Language Certificate (7 credits)</b>	15	

## 2018 Graduates

	<b>Course Code</b>	<b># of students enrolled</b>
<b>2014 -2015 School Year Grade 9</b>	FIF 1DZ	35
	MPM 1DZ	20
<b>2015-2016 School Year Grade 10</b>	FIF 2DZ	31
	MPM 2DZ	20

There were 20 students in Grade 9 that had the potential to earn the full 10 credit certificate. After Grade 10, all 20 students were still working towards the full certificate.

<b>Upon Graduation</b>	<b># of Students</b>	<b>% of Students who earned a certificate</b>
<b>Certificate in French Immersion Studies (10 credits)</b>	17	82.9% (27 of the 35 students who took FIF 1DZ)
<b>Extended French Language Certificate (7 credits)</b>	12	

85% of the students who started on the pathway towards a Certificate in French Immersion Studies graduated with the Certificate in French Immersion (17 of 20 students).

- ✓ There are various reasons why students do not earn the full certificate. One parent indicated that her daughter and her friends chose not to attempt the 10 credit certificate because they didn't want to do Grade 10 math in French.

- ✓ Another parent stated that his children both completed math in French and didn't have any issues with it.
- ✓ A parent noted that all of the French Immersion courses are Academic or University level courses which is a stumbling block for some students.
- ✓ A parent asked why Grade 9 and Grade 10 math had to be completed in French. Mrs. Ferguson said French Immersion teachers are difficult to hire. The school has some flexibility in what courses are taught in the French Immersion program but the school has to take into account the French Immersion teachers' qualifications. Northern has a math French Immersion teacher on staff.
- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson added that this is something that the school has looked at. There is the possibility that Grade 9 and 10 math could be replaced with Grade 9 and Grade 10 science at some point in the future.
- ✓ More information about the LKDSB French immersion program can be found here: <https://www.lkdsb.net/Elementary/FrenchImmersion/fiprogram/Pages/default.aspx>
- ✓ It was suggested that the school may want to examine the data to determine if certain elementary schools are better preparing students for success in the French program. This is something that the board should be looking at as well in order to sustain the French Immersion program.

### 3. LKDSB Mental Health Lead – Katie Colameco

- ✓ Ms. Colameco is working to develop the board's policy on Mental Health.
- ✓ There are 4 pillars of the LKDSB's Mental Health policy:
  - Building Capacity to Deal with Mental Health Issues
  - Collaborating and Aligning with Community Partners (ex. Bluewater Health, CAS, St. Clair Child and Youth)
  - Reducing the Stigma of Reaching Out
  - Promoting Student and Staff Well-Being
- ✓ Ms. Colameco welcomes input from parents and students. Parents are welcome to e-mail her with their suggestions. She can be reached at: [katie.colameco@lkdsb.net](mailto:katie.colameco@lkdsb.net)
- ✓ She is also in charge of the board's Climate Survey next spring. There will be a student survey, a parent survey and a staff survey. In addition to having current students complete the survey, a parent suggested that it would be great if former students of the board could also be included somehow. The survey will be available during the first two weeks of April.
- ✓ A parent expressed that she feels the school needs to create a message of hope and give students options of hope. Katie agreed that we need to shift the conversation from a message of illness to a message of hope. This is particularly important given the recent student death at Northern.
- ✓ Tamara Lumley, a Grade 12 student at Northern, passed away on the morning of Thursday, October 25, 2018. The news quickly spread to the students via social media. The school found out on Thursday morning. The Tragic Events Response Team (TERT) was in the building by noon on Thursday to help students deal with this difficult situation. Friday was a P.D. Day.
- ✓ An announcement was made to the student body on Monday morning. Student Services and the School Administration visited every homeroom on Monday morning to check in with students. The Tragic Events Response Team was at the school for 2 days. School psychologists were available all week to help students.
- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson consulted with the board's mental health staff to develop a plan that would best support student needs during this difficult time.
- ✓ A parent expressed that she wasn't sure if there was enough support for students. The Student Council Co-Presidents, both Grade 12 students, stated that they felt supported by the school. They felt the school's response was very quick as there were Mental Health professionals in the building

by lunch time on Thursday. Some students wanted to stay at school and they gathered in Student Services and the Library. Other students chose to leave the building and many gathered with their friends outside of the school. The office staff and school administrators made many phone calls home on Thursday and Friday to check on students.

- ✓ Teachers were asked to notify the School Administration about any students that they had concerns about. The School Administration then followed up with students and parents.
- ✓ In addition, students were asked to look out for each other. Students have come forward to express concern for other students which is great.

#### **4. Student Council Update – Madison Winegard and Sarah Woods**

- ✓ Every morning the Co-Presidents end the morning announcements with a joke. They have been doing motivational quotes for the past week in light of the recent difficult circumstances. After some discussion, it was decided that the Co-Presidents would end the morning announcements with either a joke, an inspirational phrase or an odd, crazy fun fact. By mixing it up, students will be surprised every day. Thursday's odd fact courtesy of the Co-Presidents – it is illegal in Switzerland to own only one guinea pig.
- ✓ The Co-Presidents said they might do a yellow ribbon campaign for suicide awareness. Parents suggested that green ribbons for mental health awareness may be better. The parents felt it was important to shift the focus from suicide to mental health.
- ✓ Spirit Week went well. There were a variety of theme days that week (ex. Rainbow Day, Black/White day, etc.) The week ended with Spirit Day on Friday and everyone wore their red, white and black. The pep rally went very well – the Northern dancers did great.
- ✓ To celebrate Halloween, there was no Halloween costume contest or pumpkin carving contest this year. Instead, Student Council purchased 1300 pieces of candy and handed out candy to the student body.
- ✓ Student Council is now distributing the money to clubs. This is a work in progress as they try to balance the conflicting needs of various clubs.
- ✓ Student Council's new Twitter account will be up and running very shortly. They don't know the password to the old account and thus, had to create a new one.
- ✓ For Christmas, Student Council is going to set up a Giving Tree and do a food drive to collect food for the Inn of the Good Shepherd. There will be a variety of holiday activities such as candy-grams, Ugly Sweater Day, a Door Decorating Contest, a Holiday Bake Sale and the Holiday Extravaganza Show.
- ✓ In January, there is exams. There will be Tea Time at lunch to relieve stress.
- ✓ In February, there may be dance. A parent suggested not having a dance but instead having a music festival or musical event that is not a dance. More people might attend if they don't have to find a person to go with.
- ✓ Prom is Saturday, May 4, 2019.

#### **5. Principal's Items**

- **Parent Teacher Interviews**

- ✓ The lines were long according to parent feedback. The evening was well attended which was great.
- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson is open to suggestions regarding ways to improve the process.

- **School Twitter Account**

- ✓ Northern's Twitter account is now being run by a staff member who is doing a great job.
- ✓ Lots of info is regularly posted to the Twitter account which can be found here:  
<https://twitter.com/NCollegiate>

- **Awards Assemblies**

- ✓ The Junior Awards Assembly for students receiving Grade 9 and 10 awards will be on Friday, December 21, 2018 at 8:30 am.
- ✓ The Senior Awards Assembly for students receiving Grade 11 and 12 awards, will be on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018 in the evening.

- **Treaty Recognition Week**

- ✓ In September, LKDSB participated in Orange Shirt Day to honour the survivors of residential schools as well as those children and young people who never returned home.
- ✓ Last week was Treaties Recognition Week (November 5-9). LKDSB joined the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and school boards across the province to promote education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships.
- ✓ At Northern, homerooms classes had small activities each morning. The resources were shared with homeroom teachers on Google drive. On the morning announcements, there were trivia questions all week and prizes for winning students.
- ✓ On Wednesday at lunch, students made a Wampum belt. It is still up near the cafeteria.
- ✓ The hope is to build more student awareness and knowledge each year.

- **Final Exam Schedule in January**

- ✓ Period 1 classes – final exam is Friday, January 25, 2019.
- ✓ Period 2 classes – final exam is Monday, January 28, 2019.
- ✓ Period 3 classes – final exam is Tuesday, January 29, 2019.
- ✓ Period 4 classes – final exam is Wednesday, January 30, 2019.
- ✓ Parents were cautioned that if there is inclement weather, the exam schedule may shift.
- ✓ In January, the Board's inclement weather policy will be posted on the school website.

- **Smoking**

- ✓ Marijuana has become legal but it has not been much of an issue as people need to be 19 years old to legally use marijuana.
- ✓ There have been changes to the smoking area due to the Smoke-Free Ontario Legislation. The benches that are in the current smoking area will be moving. Students cannot smoke or vape within 20 m of the school property line and if caught, they can be fined \$300. If they are caught handing a cigarette or vaping device to another student, they can be fined an additional \$400. The Health Unit does try to help people quit but they have found that ticketing people is the most effective way to ensure compliance.
- ✓ The Lambton Health Unit has come to the school to educate students.

- **Education Reform Consultations**

- ✓ This information was sent out to School Council members earlier this month. A parent also suggested this information should be tweeted out on the School's Twitter account.
- ✓ Parents are encouraged to share their thoughts.

## Education Reform Consultations

- STEM Achievement
  - Skilled Trades & Coding
  - Financial Literacy
  - HPE Curriculum
  - Standardized testing
  - Cellphone Use in Classrooms
  - Parents' Bill of Rights
- [www.fortheparents.ca](http://www.fortheparents.ca)
- Closes December 15, 2018



### 6. School Council 2018-2019

- **Signage and welcoming**
  - ✓ Tracey Machan said that the signage in the school to direct people to tonight's meeting was excellent.
- **Budget/Account**
  - ✓ There is \$195 in the School Council's school generated account. School Council also receives \$500 every year from the Board.
  - ✓ There was some discussion about possible uses of this money. One possible event discussed was a screening of the movie "Screenagers" for Northern. Great Lakes Secondary School recently had a daytime viewing of the movie for students at the school and then an evening screening for the community. Mrs. Musico is going to investigate pricing to bring the movie to Northern.
- **PRO Grants**
  - ✓ PRO Grants are on hold due to the change in the government.

### 7. PIC Items

- **Items of Interest from the recent PIC meeting**
  - ✓ The new LKDSB trustees will be sworn in at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.
  - ✓ The Ministry of Education has identified graduation rates and mathematics as their main focus.
  - ✓ The minutes of the PIC meeting can be found on the LKDSB website under the board committee tab.
- **School Cash Online**
  - ✓ Approximately 58% of Northern students are participating in School Cash Online.
  - ✓ The program is very expensive but convenient for parents. The program doesn't currently accept credit cards.
  - ✓ One parent stated that she is much more aware of how much money she is spending on her kids for extra things at school since it is so visible on the program. She also shared that at Cathcart School the number of students participating in hot lunches has dropped since they started using School Cash Online.
  - ✓ There are several disadvantages of School Cash Online. First, although parents can pay online they still have to return the signed paper permission forms. Also, the program can be frustrating for

parent volunteers who run fundraisers or hot lunches because they don't have access to the program. Changes must be made by the school staff.

- ✓ Anyone who wants to share feedback about the program is encouraged to e-mail Tracey Machan at [traceymachan@gmail.com](mailto:traceymachan@gmail.com)

## **8. Parent Items**

- **Grade 10 Literacy Test**

- ✓ The Grade 10 Literacy test will be written in March. The Literacy team is working to prepare students. Students have already completed the moderated marking assignment and have been given feedback.
- ✓ As the test draws closer, the Literacy team will be holding sessions to prepare students.
- ✓ There will also be supports for students in Grade 11 who didn't write the Literacy Test last year or who were unsuccessful.

- **Grade 8 Night**

- ✓ There will be a committee that works on this. The committee will be examining ways to change the format of the evening this year. The evening will be held in January 17, 2019.

## **9. Meeting Adjourned**

- ✓ Next Meeting: Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Room 128.