

NCIVS School Council Minutes
Monday, September 24, 2018
Rm 128 - 7:00 p.m.

Present: Jody Charron, Ian Clarke, Susan Ferguson, Lori Hardy, Pauline Henderson-Ferguson, Birgit Lacey, Nannan Liu, Tracey Machan, Linette McNamara, Kelly-Lynn Musico, Tara Pace-Jones, Tracy Simpson, Sue Tomback, Bonnie Watson-Helps, Madison Winegard, Sarah Woods, Laurie Yuen Mark

1. Welcome, Sign-In & Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

- ✓ Susan Ferguson, Northern's principal, read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement and welcomed everyone.
- ✓ Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

2. Student Council Update – Madison Winegard and Sarah Woods

- ✓ Madison and Sarah are this year's Student Council Co-Presidents.
- ✓ Last week was Grade 9 Welcome Week. There was a barbeque for Grade 9 students and an Activity Day. Both events went very well.
- ✓ Later this week, the nomination forms for Grade 9 Student Council Representatives will be available in the main office. Any interested Grade 9 students will have to return the forms by next week. If more than 5 students put their names forward, there will be an election.
- ✓ The student representatives for Grades 10, 11 and 12 were elected in the spring at the same time the Co-Presidents were elected. There are 5 Grade Reps elected for each grade.
- ✓ Spirit Week will be the 3rd week of October. There will be a different activity every day leading up to Spirit Day on Friday, October 19th. Students typically wear Northern's school colours – red, black and white. On Spirit Day, there will be 2 pep rallies (one for junior students and another for senior students) and a football game on the back campus.
- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson and the Co-Presidents will be meeting this week to discuss Northern Spirit Wear. Information regarding the purchase of Northern Spirit Wear will hopefully be available in the next few weeks.
- ✓ On Halloween, there will be a costume contest at lunch and a homeroom pumpkin carving contest. There will also be a Halloween bake sale.
- ✓ When Student Council hosts a bake sale, some of the money is donated to charity and some of the money is put back into the Student Council. Student Council is researching the idea of purchasing a mascot costume for school events.
- ✓ Sarah and Madison have lots of ideas for the remainder of year. They are already considering special events that coincide with Christmas and Valentine's Day.

3. Election of School Council Co-Chairs

- ✓ Kelly-Lynn Musico, last year's School Council Chair, explained the position to everyone in attendance. The School Council Chair meets with Mrs. Ferguson prior to the meetings to set the agenda and then chairs each meeting. Additional responsibilities include attending the Junior and Senior Awards Assemblies in December and convocation in June. At all of these events, the Chair brings brief greetings from School Council.
- ✓ Mrs. Musico suggested that it might be helpful to have Co-Chairs as opposed to a Chair so that two people can share the responsibility.
- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson asked if anyone was interested in the position and 2 individuals expressed their interest. Thus, a vote was not needed.
- ✓ Tracey Machan and Nannan Liu will be Co-Chairs of the 2018-2019 Northern School Council.

- ✓ If anyone has an item they would like to see on the agenda, please contact the Co-Chairs or Mrs. Ferguson at:
traceymachan@gmail.com or nannanliu2001@gmail.com or susan.ferguson@lkdsb.net
- ✓ Mrs. Musico, in her role as Past Chair, has offered to help the new Co-Chairs.

4. Principal's Items

- **Summer Construction**

- ✓ It was a busy summer. The footings in the corners of the south side of the building were reinforced.
- ✓ A year ago, the PA system was replaced but at that time the speakers in the classrooms were not upgraded. This summer, the building was rewired and digital clocks and new speakers were placed in all the classrooms. For the most part, the PA system works much better and is much louder. The speakers outside are quite loud but adjustments are still being made.
- ✓ Northern now has a Student Support Hub. The Student Success room was moved and is now beside the Resource room. This is beneficial for students.
- ✓ Room 105 is being converted into a new classroom. It is going to be a collaborative space that teachers can book out.

- **Staffing**

- ✓ 7 new teachers joined the staff this year. Tiffany Cadotte is the new vice-principal – she is responsible for Grade 10 and 11 students. Mr. Stenton is the other vice-principal. Mr. Stenton deals with the Grade 9 and 12 students. Each vice-principal follows the students through their 4 years of high school.
- ✓ Teachers new to the building include Nicole Abrahamson (Math and Science), Scott Burns (Science), Erica Gagne (French), John McAllister (Tech), Linda Naylor (English), Becky Newman (English) and Gillian Scott (on maternity leave).
- ✓ In October 2015, Northern had 1006 students. Today, Northern currently has 1177 students which is slightly more than what was projected.
- ✓ Like elementary schools, high school classes do have caps. The maximum class size depends on the grade level and the type of class (ex. applied, academic, university, college, shop, etc). For example, a Grade 9 or 10 Academic class can have 25 students (+2), while a Grade 11 or 12 University class can have 30 students (+2). Teacher are also limited in the number of students they can teach in a semester – this in turn can affect class sizes.

- **Independent Study Program**

- ✓ A board program called the “Independent Study Program” is using a classroom in Northern. The board had previously been renting space from the YMCA for this program. The move to Northern is allowing the school board to save money.
- ✓ The class consists of 7 students. There is a teacher and an EA working with this class. This high school aged class is completely separate from Northern – they do not participate in any Northern activities.

- **TELP Program**

- ✓ All of the Grade 9 and 10 students in the building have an iPad (or were offered an iPad). There have been issues with breakage. The vice-principals have been very busy dealing with iPad issues.
- ✓ A parent of a Grade 9 student mentioned that her child isn't using the iPad very much. Mrs. Ferguson and the Student Council Co-Presidents all stated that it really depends on the teacher and the subject area. It is easier to incorporate the iPads into certain classes.

- ✓ At Northern, we are fortunate to have technology in addition to the iPads. Northern has laptops and computers available for classes to use.

- **Calendar Review**

- ✓ Northern's calendar can be found online on the school's website.
<https://www.lkdsb.net/school/northern/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>

- **Parent Post-Secondary Information Night**

- ✓ There is a Parent Post-Secondary Information night at Northern from 7 – 8 pm on Monday, October 1, 2018.

- **Screenagers – October 2, 2018**

- ✓ There will be a special screening of "Screenagers – Growing Up in The Digital Age" at G.L.S.S. (275 Wellington St.) on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7 pm.
- ✓ The event is free. More info on the movie can be found at www.screenagersmovie.com

- **Progress Reports & Parent-Teacher Interviews**

- ✓ Progress reports will be handed out on Tuesday, October 16th. Parent-Teacher interviews will follow on Wednesday, October 17 from 6 – 8 pm.

5. School Council Focus

- ✓ Mrs. Ferguson suggested to parents in attendance that they should consider what they want the School Council to focus on this year. Parents should think about any topics that they would like more information on. For example, last year Mr. Scott did a presentation explaining the OSR. This can be discussed more at future meetings.

6. Parent Issues

- **Twitter feed**

- ✓ A parent noticed that Northern's twitter feed has slowed down. The Student Council Twitter feed hasn't been active because this year's Co-Presidents don't have the password to the account. The Co-Presidents should have the problem solved soon and will begin posting. The school twitter account that is run by the office will also become more active soon.

- **PD Day Focus**

- ✓ The focus of the upcoming PD Day will be Numeracy, Literacy and Assessment.
- ✓ Last year during one PD Day, staff worked with their department to develop at least one literacy activity per department. This year, teachers are going to build on that and develop additional literacy activities. At the PD Day in October, staff will then report back as to how their newly developed literacy activity worked in the classroom.

- **French Immersion**

- ✓ A parent requested statistics about the success of the French immersion program. For example, how many students start high school in the French Immersion program. How many students graduate with the 10 credit French immersion certificate? How many students graduate with the 6 credit certificate in extended French studies? How do Northern's numbers compare with other schools in the board and the province? Mrs. Ferguson stated that she will gather this information for the next meeting.

- **Teacher Appreciation Breakfast**

- ✓ This year, as in past years, the School Council will provide breakfast for the teachers the day after Parent – Teacher Interviews. Parents typically bring items (ex. baked good) and drop them off in the staff room on the evening of Parent-Teacher interviews. An e-mail will be sent out closer to the date and people can volunteer to bring items.

6. Meeting Adjourned

- ✓ Next Meeting: Monday, November 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Room 128.