

NCIVS School Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Room 105 - 6:30 pm.

Present: Martina Carr, Sharon Chapman, Jody Charron, Lisa Fox, Amy Gilchrist, Nathan Jeffrey, Jen Latta, Melissa Mallette, Christine Murphy, Adeleye Ogunlade, Tara Pace-James, Kateryna Pavlinska, Sandra Ross, Stacey Severs, Sue Tomback,

Regrets: Dawn Roberts, Jen Winklmeier

1. Welcome

- ✓ Christine Murphy, School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Treaty Acknowledgement

- ✓ Gabby Jones read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

3. Student Council Update – Gabby Jones and Morgan Hughes

- ✓ In early March, Northern hosted the OFSSA Boys Basketball Championship. Student Council had a poster party in the library to make posters to support the senior boys' basketball team. There was also a Spirit Day the week of the tournament.
- ✓ On March 8, International Women's Day was acknowledged on Student Council's Instagram page and the morning announcements.
- ✓ A parent commented that she found the Student Council's Instagram page to be very helpful in keeping up with the happenings around the school.
- ✓ April will be a busy month. Student Council plans to acknowledge World Autism Awareness Day (April 2) and Earth Day.
- ✓ On April 20, Student Council will host a Spring Fling dance. It will be similar to the Christmas semi-formal. The Spring Fling will run from 6 – 8 pm. The Foods classes will make spring desserts for Student Council to sell.
- ✓ In May, Student Council will highlight several events, such as Canadian Mental Health Week and Asian Heritage month.
- ✓ The therapy dogs will be back in May at lunch in the library.
- ✓ In June, Student Council will acknowledge Pride Month during the morning announcements. The Equity committee will also prepare resources for teachers to share in their classrooms.
- ✓ In mid-June, Student Council hopes to have a barbeque for the graduating students.

4. Student Services Update

- Course Selections
 - ✓ Student Services has completed the course selection process for the 2023-24 school year.
 - ✓ We have a large grade 8 cohort of 290 students and approximately 50 returning students, which puts next year's student population at around 1250.
- Graduating Students
 - ✓ Lambton College hosted a financial aid presentation for grade 11 and 12 students last week.
 - ✓ Student Services will provide another financial aid presentation in mid-April. There are many scholarship opportunities for students. Graduating students should see Student Services for more information.
 - ✓ Grade 12 students must look at the Grade 12 Google Classroom regularly, as that is where much of the information is shared with students.

- Summer School
 - ✓ So far, 70 grade 9 students, 30 grade 10, and 40 grade 11 students have registered for summer school.
 - ✓ Most students registered for summer school are looking to open space in their schedule to explore electives.
 - ✓ Parents should note that students who change their minds may have difficulty getting into different classes.

- SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major)
 - ✓ Northern has submitted a new sector application for Justice, Community Safety and Emergency Services. We expect to hear in June if the new sector is approved.
 - ✓ Currently, Northern offers the following SHSM sectors: Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Energy, and Information & Communication Technology.
 - ✓ The following opportunities (listed by sector) are open to students in the SHSM program.
 - ICT/Arts – Photography session hosted by Richard Beland at Lambton College Film Making Workshop with Brent Orr in Forest (April)
 - Health & Wellness – Western Discovery Day (May), Mental Health Awareness Workshop
 - Energy – GPS Training at St. Clair Conservation Area, Elevated Work platforms
 - All sectors: Coding Workshop with Ink Smith

5. Principal's Update – Melissa Mallette

- Graduation
 - ✓ Graduation will be on Friday, June 9, 2023, at 7 pm at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena. It is a PD Day.
 - ✓ The office manager will send out more information next week. There will be a formal e-mail invitation to parents and information about how to pay.
 - ✓ There will be a graduation fee of \$60 which covers the cost of the cap and gown, the reception, and the facility rental. Students get to keep the cap, gown, stole and tassel.
 - ✓ The fee will be paid through School Cash Online. Students will also need to select their gown size.
 - ✓ If students cannot afford the fee, assistance will be provided.
 - ✓ Everyone is welcome to bring as many guests as they wish.

- Valedictorian
 - ✓ The valedictorian process will start in April. The administration hopes to have the valedictorian selected by mid-May.

- DeGroots Fundraiser for the courtyard
 - ✓ John DeGroot came and looked at the courtyard and met with the Key Club to determine what is needed to beautify the courtyard and make it usable for students.
 - ✓ A lot of work has already been completed. For example, the construction class laid cement last fall.
 - ✓ An e-mail from Northern was sent to parents today detailing the fundraising campaign.

- Cameras
 - ✓ The cameras in the building are operational. The cameras are a tool that administrators can use when they are investigating situations in the school. The administration gave a demonstration of the cameras. The video footage will be stored for 30 days.
 - ✓ The cameras are in the hallways and public areas.

- ✓ The school will receive signs shortly to tell students and visitors that cameras are in use to monitor the building.
- OFSSA
 - ✓ The OFSSA Boys Basketball Tournament in Sarnia was terrific. The community support for the tournament was outstanding. Many of the teachers volunteered to assist with the tournament. The students behaved very well and were helpful to visitors.
 - ✓ Chris Jones organized the tournament and did a fantastic job. The feedback from the community, parents, participating teams, and coaches was great.
 - ✓ The girls' curling team travelled to North Bay and attended OFSSA curling last week. The curling program has doubled in size this year.
 - ✓ During the basketball and curling tournaments, classes could watch a live stream of the games in classrooms to cheer their classmates on.
 - ✓ Several wrestlers went to OFSSA wrestling in Ottawa. Other student-athletes participated in OFSSA swimming.
- PAC money - \$500
 - ✓ Last year, the \$500 went toward school magnets. The school magnets cost \$1700. Selecting the dates so far in advance is challenging, so sometimes the magnet isn't always accurate.
 - ✓ Melissa suggested creating a Google calendar with all the dates for parents.
 - ✓ Instead of putting the money towards the magnets, some parents suggested purchasing item(s) to go in the courtyard.
 - ✓ The parents asked Melissa to speak with Natalia Ferrar, the staff advisor for Key Club, to see what is needed for the courtyard project. Melissa will bring some ideas back to the next meeting.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews
 - ✓ Several parents said they didn't realize Parent-Teacher Interviews were on Thursday. Many parents just found out today when Progress Reports went home or when they drove by the Northern sign. In the future, the parents would like more notice of these events so that they can plan accordingly.
 - ✓ The administrators said they would look at methods to better communicate these crucial dates with parents in advance.
 - ✓ Parent-Teacher interviews will be run in the same format as in the fall. All teachers have been instructed to limit each interview to two minutes. If parents feel they need more time with a teacher, the teacher will follow up with a phone call.
 - ✓ A parent expressed concern that an LTO was teaching a Grade 12 course. Melissa explained that when a staff member goes on leave unexpectedly, the school does their best to find a qualified teacher.
 - ✓ It is challenging to find supply teachers and LTOs this year. Two LTOs in the building graduated from Teacher's College, became eligible to work and were hired as LTOs within days because they were qualified in the subject areas we needed.
 - ✓ Northern is taking student teachers because student teachers can supply teach in a pinch.
- Eco Car Challenge
 - ✓ Northern's Eco Car Team will take their ultra-energy-efficient single-person gasoline-powered vehicle to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where the team will compete this April in the Shell Eco-marathon.
 - ✓ Northern's Eco Car Team is Canada's only high school team at the competition.

- ✓ The team of 10 students will compete against teams from high schools, colleges and universities across Northern America.
 - ✓ We wish them very well.
- Equity
 - ✓ As a school, we are trying to acknowledge the holidays of different cultures and religions.
 - ✓ We are trying to get the ALLP students out and about within the school. Some ALLP students are taking turns helping with the morning announcements.
 - ✓ An elder, Cedric Isaac, has been coming and assisting at the school. He works with a group of indigenous students at lunch. He is also coming to share his knowledge in a variety of classes.
 - ✓ Later this spring, an indigenous dance group is coming in for all students and teachers.
 - Student Council Elections – Nathan Jeffrey
 - ✓ The students who run for Student Council are very involved in various activities. Nathan and the Student Council staff advisors have looked at the spring calendar of events and have tried to plan the elections at a time that the students will be able to balance their other activities and events.
 - ✓ The Co-president elections will be held before the Victoria Day holiday weekend. The grade representative elections will be the following week.
 - Muskoka Woods – Nathan Jeffrey
 - ✓ More schools in the south of the board do Muskoka Woods. Northern will send 28 student leaders and 2 teachers to Muskoka Woods for the first time. The Northern students will be doing activities with the Grade 8 students from the feeder schools from April 24 – 26.
 - ✓ The leaders will be Grades 10 and 11 students. Northern wants to focus on developing student leaders that will still be at the school next year.
 - ✓ There will be 16 male and 12 female leaders going based on the Grade 8 students attending who must be supervised in cabins.
 - OSSLT (Ontario School Literacy Test) – Lisa Fox
 - ✓ The OSSLT spring session is open. The first group of students at Northern will write on Thursday. Other students will write next week. Approximately 70 students need to write the test this month. Some students did not pass the test on their first attempt, while others were away in the fall and did not write it. A mark of 70 is required to pass the test.
 - ✓ The last day that students can write is April 26, 2023.
 - ✓ If a student fails the test twice, the student is then eligible to take the Literacy Course. The student can write the test as many times as they want, but they must either pass it or take the course to graduate.
 - ✓ The Literacy committee met and created new materials for students to practice. The Literacy team then called the students out of class and worked with them on a few key things to help them succeed.
 - ✓ The school receives no feedback on why individual students fail, so it is hard to tailor the support to help them.
 - Online Learning
 - ✓ LKDSB will proceed with the online, asynchronous school next year. The online school will run out of LKCS.

- Online Learning Requirement
 - ✓ There is an online learning requirement for students to graduate. However, parents can opt out of the online learning requirement.

6. Parent Questions/Feedback

- Track at GLSS
 - ✓ A parent asked why the beautiful and expensive new Great Lakes Secondary School track is not hosting any events this year. Parents were expecting the track to be ready based on information the community received last year.
<https://blackburnnews.com/sarnia/sarnia-news/2022/07/22/great-lakes-track-nearing-finish-line/>
 - ✓ Parents expressed frustration that the track has not yet been finished to the point of hosting events. A parent pointed out that it has been almost a decade since a track meet was held in Sarnia.
 - ✓ Athletes, coaches, and parents from Sarnia must travel to Chatham, Windsor and elsewhere for meets. The constant travelling results in increased bussing costs, extra travel time for everyone and extra-long days for coaches and student-athletes.
 - ✓ Melissa explained that the track construction is not complete. There is still more work to be done. For example, there is no access to the track – gates still need to be installed. In addition, there is no seating for spectators at the track.
 - ✓ Parents did express their appreciation for the fantastic group of teachers who coach track and field. Over 120 students participate in the track and field program at Northern.

7. Meeting Adjourned

- Next meeting: Tuesday, May 30, 2023