***NCIVS School Council Minutes***

***Tuesday, November 15, 2022***

***Library 6:30 pm.***

**Present:** Sharon Chapman, Jody Charron, Lisa Fox, Amy Gilchrist, Nathan Jeffrey, Melissa Mallette, Laurie Yuen Mark, Tara Pace-James, Sandra Ross, Stacey Severs, Sue Tomback, Colin Winklemeier, Jen Winklemeier,

**Regrets:** Jen Latta,Christine Murphy, Kateryna Pavlinska, Dawn Roberts

1. **Welcome**

* Tara Pace-James, School Council Co-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Northern’s principal and vice-principals introduced themselves to everyone.

1. **Treaty Acknowledgement**

* Nathan Jeffrey read the Traditional Territory Acknowledgement.

1. **Student Council Update – PPT from Student Council**

* Gabby Jones and Morgan Hughes, Student Council Co-Presidents, sent their regrets but prepared a PPT that was shared.
* September was busy. Student Council hosted the Grade 9 Welcome Barbeque and worked to highlight Suicide Awareness Month.
* In October, Student Council raised $455 from their bake sale for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
* Elections for the Grade 9 Student Council representatives were held. Sixteen grade 9 students ran for the four positions. Each candidate prepared a short video to promote themselves. The grade 9 homerooms watched the videos in class and voted for their grade representatives.
* Spirit Week was a big success. There were theme days and a pep rally. Before the pep rally, the expectations for student behaviour were clearly outlined during a virtual assembly. Over 500 students purchased tickets to the Senior Girls Viking Spirit Basketball game. $850 was raised from ticket sales and donated to St. Joseph’s Hospice.
* The students were well-behaved at the pep rally and the basketball game.
* It was nice that a girl’s team was highlighted for Spirit Day. Girls' teams typically haven't had the spotlight shined on them in the past unless they were playing a big game. The energy at the basketball game was terrific.
* The communication technology class and the yearbook class also assisted with the event by creating pictures of the players and videos. The quality of work was outstanding for high school students.
* A semi-formal dance is in the tentative planning stages. The dance is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 1. Students must purchase tickets in advance. Last time we had a semi-formal dance, 180 students attended. The dance will run from 6 to 8 pm or from 7 to 9 pm.
* There will be a Holiday Extravaganza on Friday, Dec. 23, in the afternoon.

1. **Student Services Update –** Melissa Mallette

* Mentor Monday – the next meeting is Dec. 5
* 300 feeder school gr. 8 students attended the Grade 8 Day recently. The students did hands-on activities and had a barbeque lunch. A parent stated that her daughter participated in the event and felt the student leaders were superb. The feedback was appreciated as Mrs. Pretty has worked to develop the leadership skills of the peer mentors.
* The Grade 7/8 Open House will be on Jan. 25, 2023.
* The deadline to apply to Ontario colleges for equal consideration is Feb. 1, 2023. After this date, colleges consider applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until programs are full. The university application deadline is Jan. 12, 2023.
* There is a fee of $110.00 to apply to colleges through ontariocolleges.ca. The application fee includes up to 5 program choices (no more than three at any one college). Lambton College will pay the college application fee for any grade 12 student at Northern as long as the student applies to one Lambton College Program.
* Representatives from Ontario colleges and universities have been doing presentations at Northern this fall. More presentations are scheduled. In September, a list of all the post-secondary presentations was shared in the grade 12 Google classroom. Students sign up for the college or university presentations that they are interested in and then are excused from class to attend.
* SHSM Health & Wellness students are doing CPR Training on Dec. 14, 2022.
* The Travel for Credit program will be running this summer. Students can take Grade 10 Careers and Civics with this program.

1. **Mid-Term Provincial Reports**

* Reports will go home the week of Nov. 27th.A synervoice message will be sent to let parents know when the reports are going home.

1. **Principal’s Update – Melissa Mallette**

* Parents’ Night
* It was a very busy evening and well attended.
* Multiple parents contacted the School Council Co-Chair to mention that some teachers had very long lines. Some parents had to choose which teachers they would visit because the lines were so long. Parents suggested having the bell ring every 5 minutes or having teachers set a 5-minute timer when a parent sits down. Melissa said that the school is open to suggestions from parents.
* A parent asked what happens when a teacher is sick and doesn’t attend Parents’ Night. Lisa explained that if teachers were away, there should have been a list on the teacher's desk. Parents can sign the list, and the teacher will phone the parent and do a phone interview.
* Several parents commented that Parent-Teacher interviews went well and were informative.
* Melissa asked for suggestions for a workshop before the next Parents' Night in the spring.
* OBA Workshops on Parents’ Night
* Six parents attended the first workshop, and the second workshop was packed. It was a great learning opportunity for parents. Some teachers attended as well.
* Anti-Oppressive Education
* Northern has just started a Lived Experiences Group, which consists of students who have experienced acts of racism. Racism is in our schools and experienced by some of our students. The school administration recently dealt with three incidents of racism at Northern in one week. Racism seems to be normalized behaviour for some students.
* The school is connecting students that have experienced racism and providing support. We are also trying to change the culture within the building. Students, parents and teachers need to be educated. Every student should walk through the doors of the school and feel safe.
* On the evening of the pep rally, there was an incident of racism by an adult directed toward a student.
* A parent mentioned that her child witnessed an incident of racism at school today. After the incident, the students just walked away. Lisa stated that the incident was reported to the office and handled by a vice principal. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of racism that they witness.
* Indigenous Youth Group
* There are 36 self-identified Indigenous students, but there has not been any support for these students. Northern has started an Indigenous Youth Group, which meets on Fridays at lunch. The students who have attended are eager to learn. It is important to recognize this group, and the administration is working on getting supports from the board. Dallas Sinopole, LKDSB Indigenous Education Lead, visited the group last week. Other guest speakers are being organized. Northern would like this group to be student-driven.
* Guest Speaker
* Chris D’Souza spoke to all students today in two assemblies. Chris D'Souza has been an equity and anti-oppression activist for over 20 years and has delivered over 5000 Equity and Inclusion lectures/workshops to agencies across Canada. He has a Master’s degree in Equity studies and has taught at York and Brock University.
* The assemblies went really well.
* All LKDSB employees are being trained this week. All teachers in the north end of the board will be at Great Lakes on Friday during the PD Day to attend a presentation by Mr. D'Souza.

* Awards Night – the date has changed
* There has been a change in the dates for the Academic Awards Ceremonies. The Senior Awards Assembly will be on Wed. Dec. 21 at 7 pm.
* The Junior Awards Assembly will be in the morning on Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022.
* Invitations for both events are being finalized and will be sent home soon.
* There will be an alternative activity for students who aren’t attending the awards ceremony.
* A parent asked why the school waits until December to present the awards from last year. Melissa explained that the graduation ceremony is held on Jun. 9 before the students write their final exams, so awards cannot be handed out at the graduation ceremony.
* The graduation ceremony must be held before the students write their exams because Northern partners with Lambton College and other high schools to split the arena's rental cost.
* There are no other suitable facilities in Sarnia that the school can use to host a graduation ceremony after exams are written. The graduating class is typically around 275 students; usually, 97% of the students attend. The Imperial Theatre and the new Great Lakes auditorium are too small. Students can invite as many guests as they want by having the ceremony at the PASA arena.
* OSSLT – Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – Lisa Fox
* All the grade 11 and 12 students that need to write will write tomorrow in the library.
* The first-time eligible students will write the test in their period A classes next week. The test will be split into two sessions over two days.
* There is a Literacy Google Classroom and drop-in sessions at lunch to help students prepare. The Literacy team created videos to explain each test section to students. The students are doing Literacy Prep in homerooms.
* Results will not be available until late January. There will be more intensive prep for the students who do not pass and need to re-write in the spring.
* The school is only given a final score when students fail. The school is no longer given a breakdown of why the student failed, which makes it more challenging to help the student prepare to rewrite the test.
* TOKTW (Take Our Kids to Work) Day – Nov. 2, 2022
* There are approximately 275 Grade 9 students. 203 permission forms were returned to indicate that students were participating.
* School Climate Survey
* The School Climate survey is costly, and the data is used extensively to plan for school improvements.
* Only 309 Northern students completed the survey last year. There are 1200 students at Northern.
* An infographic with the survey results was shared at the meeting. 44% of students said they didn’t feel like they belonged. 40% of students said they don’t have a caring adult at school. The school considered doing the survey again, but the results were similar to past surveys.
* The full results are available on the LKDSB website.
* A parent asked if the school could have students complete the survey in their homerooms. Last year, the school administration asked teachers to fit the survey into their schedules. Next time, each class will be assigned a specific time to complete the survey – it will be a more structured approach to ensure more students do the survey.
* A parent asked if Northern has a breakfast program. There is a snack program. The food (ex. cheese sticks, cereal, yogurt, granola bars, applesauce) is on a cart in the library and put out before school and during the lunch hour.

1. **Parent Questions/Feedback**

* Mail
* Information often arrives too late when the school mails items using Canada Post. One parent received several letters too late to attend the event in the letter. Melissa said they are trying to use e-mail more since letter mail is costly. She will pass this feedback on to the office manager.
* Prom
* A parent asked if there would be a school-sponsored prom. The LKDSB senior administration has stopped allowing proms because proms are a liability issue for the school. Melissa will ask at the next meeting to confirm this is still the case.
* Graduation
* Graduation will be on Friday, Jun. 9, 2023 at 7 pm. It is a PD Day. It is this day because it is a shared space with Lambton College and other high schools.
* Illness at school
* A parent inquired about the number of students ill at Northern recently. The following shows the number of students reported ill by parents/guardians.

Nov. 1 – 81 students

Nov. 3 – 107 students

Nov. 8 – 131 students

Nov. 14 – 81 students

* Heating and Cooling Issues
* A parent expressed concern about the temperature of the school. Some students are freezing in their classrooms.
* Some classrooms are hot, while others are cold. There are issues due to the age of the building and the fact that there are several systems working together. Mellissa said she would put another work order in.
* Automated Phone Calls
* A parent asked why the automated phone calls for students missing classes are coming out at 5 pm or 6 pm. Several parents mentioned the same thing.
* Parents would rather know during the day when students are absent so they can address the attendance issues with their children immediately.
* Nathan and Lisa explained that the school is trying to find a balance. Some parents don’t want multiple phone calls during the day.
* Fog Days
* A parent wanted clarification on fog dogs. Students will move to virtual learning if buses are cancelled for snow days. On snow days, the school is closed to students. On fog days, schools remain open for students. The morning buses are cancelled, but the afternoon buses run as usual.
* The parent suggested the information should be communicated more clearly.
* Other parents shared that they found the school bus app to be a good source of information.
* Melissa will send a synervoice message clarifying what students should do on fog and snow days.
* Bathrooms
* Some students try to avoid going to the washroom during the day. A parent mentioned that her child feels that the bathrooms at Northern are intimidating. Other parents said their children are calling for rides to come home at lunch to use the washroom.
* Melissa explained that the administrators are aware of the issue. The administrators are all going into the bathrooms at lunch, breaks and at random times throughout the day. Students are vaping, hanging out in groups and sitting on the bathroom stall dividers.
* There are groups of students hanging out in stalls together. Students have been suspended for hanging out in the bathroom if it is repeated behaviour.
* The bathrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floor are now closed during lunch.
* Security Cameras
* A parent asked when the security cameras will be installed.
* Although more than 100 security cameras are scheduled to be installed in the school, Melissa could not provide an exact date when the cameras will arrive.
* There will not be cameras in the washrooms, but the cameras will be outside the bathrooms.
* The parents in attendance agreed to have the School Council Co-Chairs write a letter to Director Howitt to request that the security cameras be installed as soon as possible.
* Safe Schools Report
* A parent stated that they filed a Safe Schools Report 3 weeks ago on the LKDSB website and have not received a response.
* Melissa said that she would follow up with the Safe Schools Superintendent tomorrow.

1. **Meeting Adjourned**

* Next meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 6:30 pm in Room 105.
* Future dates: Mar. 28 and May 30