

NTCI School Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Jane Lewis and Michele Temple, co-chairs, welcomed the group. The focus on the first meeting of the year is to get to know more about NT.

Bjorn Nordin, President, and Angelica Siegel, Senior Vice-President, of the Student Council, welcomed parents. They reported that the early registration in August worked well. The second student council assembly was that day and the video played was well received. Their advice was to get your child more involved – there are so many opportunities – be a student rep, sign up for the student leadership weekend coming up. They encouraged everyone to support promotional items like the sale of the NT stainless steel water bottle.

Parents commented that they would like to see more info about events and clubs on the website.

Carole Whelan, Teacher Representative, reported that Leadership Weekend is where a group of students go up north to a camp for the weekend. Applications went out last week, only 40 kids are selected; grade 9s are encouraged to apply – great way to meet new kids

No minutes or treasurer's report available from May meeting. Jane Lewis presented the single financial request: LEAD Weekend – the leadership and peer support weekend – the students who attend will work with at risk students and become their mentors. \$500 requested. Motion passed.

Joel Gorenkoff, School Principal, reported that staff and kids love to be in this school; time goes so fast; kids cheered at assembly today – they're happy to be here. This is a tight knit community – everybody is involved; parents need to be involved in kids' success. At NT, we work hard and play hard; kids need to get involved – ask for assistance if your kids don't know what to do; communicate with VPs or teachers, or guidance counsellors, use email or call – communication is so important. Early registration – it was essentially a timetable pickup and payment of various fees. By end of first week of school, all the money is in the bank and everything is running smoothly. Money serves a number of options – the yearbook; planner, activities, clubs run by student council; (approx 40), and school events, teams supported by parent council.

70% of students showed up for early registration. Glitches have been worked out to make it smoother for next year. School is bursting at the seams – 60-70 students over projections – perhaps school might get 2-3 extra teachers. Math and French classes hard hit – particularly grade 10 math – they are bursting at seams; extremely large grade 9 class; over 500 applications for optional acceptance – 280 grade eights coming in. New staff: Kathleen Pyper replacing Ken Do who was transferred to Northern. There is a new Youth Counsellor – Fowzia Mahamed who has replaced Angelo Sartor.

Joel McNaughton is the new Strings teacher. Laura Ovington is a new French teacher. Mr. Chumak is the new coop teacher who also teaches Careers.

Construction update: last year was the digging year. 100-150 truckloads of dirt per day were removed; now they are laying the foundation; anticipate construction will be completed by April 2010; move in date - June 2010; school starts in the new building Sept. 2010; construction updates will be posted on the web.

Next meeting is scheduled for Election Day. A new date will be selected.

Football team – no senior boys football team is offered this year because there is no teacher supervisor (4 teachers were surplus to the school's needs and transferred at the end of last year because of low projections); only junior football offered this year.

School is a balancing act. If a student attends every day and does homework, they will do well and will be able to partake in extra-curricular activities. If a student is not attending, he will struggle. They must get involved – they shouldn't be afraid to miss classes in order to participate on a team....as long as the student stays on track with their school work.

Pool – Money has been made available to re-open pools but the NT pool remains closed until it can be staffed with an aquatics instructor/lifeguard.

Kathleen Pyper – new VP – taught phys ed and dance at North Albion; she has a passion for equity, antiviolenace, and student success. She is in charge of photo day for school and TTC on Sep. 19. Grade 9 take your child to work day is on Nov. 5. The first report card is sent home on Nov. 12 along with December exam schedule. Parent interviews are on November 20. Exam week is December 15-20. She recommended that parents photocopy the calendars in their children's agenda.

Mary Laszlo – VP, reported that registrations were ongoing this week, next week – lots of people moving into the neighbourhood. Mini Night is scheduled for September 18. She advised the parents to come to the school around 6 and pick up their child's timetable, listen to a presentation in the auditorium, and then follow an abbreviated version of their child's timetable. Grade 10 Literacy test will take place on April 9, 2009; test is one and a half hours long. There is a staff meeting that afternoon. Grades 9, 11, 12 have the day off. She encouraged parents who have not done so to join the NT mailing list because Mr. Gorenkoff sends out regular notices about upcoming events.

Carole Whelan –Teacher Representative, informed the parents about the 100th reunion of the school. Alumni are planning a celebration. If anyone is interested in helping out, let her know.

College fair is scheduled for Oct. 27. **University fair** weekend is scheduled September 26-28. It was recommended that students in grade 11 attend along with the seniors.

Open Questions and Answer/New Business:

June EQAO math test results are not back yet.

Student teachers will be placed throughout the school. Usually 25-30 student teachers are used per year;

Community hours are self-directed. The advice is to earn more than 40 hours – it looks better on a resume; guidance staff will help and advise students but they do not send them anywhere because of liability reasons; opportunities are announced i.e. events, grade 8 visit day, mini-night; students should pick up their passport at the guidance office.

Toronto's Student Success Program –students who are academically at risk are identified and staff, supports and mentors are assigned to them; usually about 45 students are identified.

School's website: www.ntci.on.ca

Student Commencement Dinner is scheduled for Friday, October 10 at 5:30pm. Volunteers are needed for set up.

Elections will be held at the next meeting. All positions are open. Co chairs, Treasurer, Co-secretary, Event Coordinator, Members at Large. There are a few executive members interested in returning, however, anybody with an interest in any position should speak up.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.