

# NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

(Wednesday, January 20, 2010)

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## Executive School Council

Jane Lewis, Co-Chair  
Michele Temple, Co-Chair  
Charlotte Ryan, Treasurer  
Helen Shi and Teodora Miloradovic, Co-Secretaries  
Svea Einola, Event Co-ordinator  
Lapfong Wong, Ward Rep  
Jane Mooy, New School Liaison  
Pauline Thompson, Speaker Coordinator  
Elaine Lurie, Music Parent Council Liaison  
Lucia Dell' Agnese, Member at Large  
Phyllis Cincinatus, Member at Large

## School staff

Joel Gorenkoff, NTCI Principal  
Helen Elliott (Modern languages) - Teacher Representative

### **1. Welcome - Parent Council co-Chair Jane Lewis**

- opened the meeting and welcomed all present

### **2. What is Happening at NT - Student Council Report (James and Yasmin) and teacher Helen Elliott**

- Wasteless Wednesdays - All students should bring litter-free lunches every Wednesday (and everyday if possible) for a chance to win a prize from the Eco-Store
- Walk, Bike or Board to school day - April 22 - any student who uses a completely renewable method of transportation that day (not driving or the TTC) will have a chance to win a prize
- Vocal Retreat - it was held after the holiday break for 3 days, choir and other music students participated, it was a great bonding experience and unique learning opportunity
- Charity week in full swing (Jan. 18 - 22) - raised \$6500 so far for a chosen charity ("Not for Sale" aimed at abolishing child slavery). The charity's president, David Batstone came and talked to the students about current activities - 56 projects world-wide, hundreds of children saved and living a group home the charity operates. He was amazed at the effort and success of the fundraising by the NTCI students (food sales all week, a charity hockey game, extreme challenge games, obstacle courses, washroom survivor, scavenger hunt, teacher auctions, NT idol event on March 6, etc.)
- Fashion Show - March 5 & 6, 2010, tickets go on sale February 6 (there will be a web site published with all info)
- Silent auction will be held for parents during Fashion Show evenings, looking for prize donations - contact e-mail:
  - o [ntcharityweek@gmail.com](mailto:ntcharityweek@gmail.com)
  - o [yasminhariri@hotmail.com](mailto:yasminhariri@hotmail.com)
- NT clothing went on sale (sweats, shirts), orders were collected
- NEAT update - NT Environmental Action Team - students Emily Dyer, Allie Haines, Heather Hu, Amy Lee, Jenny Zhao, Jenny Wang; Teacher advisor - Helen Elliott.

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### Activities completed or planned:

- green Red & Gray day – generate less waste when decorating home form classrooms, students were given a small bag in which all their waste had to fit
- eco essay challenge – students writing stories on what they are doing or would like to do to be more “green”
- green mural in the school – big tree mural with messages and pledges posted on what students promise to do to be more “green”
- made a lot of money during charity week via green events
- placing recycling and composting bins in front of each home form classroom to get students used to recycling properly
- new scrap bins are added to each classroom
- started wasteless Wednesdays where students bring wasteless lunch and can purchase raffle tickets for an Eco store prize draw for the most eco-friendly student that eats wasteless lunch at school
- Eglinton park cleanup is planned in the spring
- Get a green activist to speak to the students during Earth Day assembly (April 22)
- NTCI is the first school in TDSB with an Eco store and an eco minister position on the student council
- Communication with green reps from each home form class, with other NEAT committees, with other TDSB schools
- NTCI is currently certified as a silver LEED eco school
- Eco store had a grand opening last week and was visited by the school trustee, Josh Mattlow. It has a recycling depot for batteries, print cartridges, cell phones, and eye glasses. Also collecting binders, poster boards and selling organic shampoo, toothpaste, body lotion, lip balm, stainless steel bottles, compostable plates and cutlery, sandwich wraps. Any proceeds go to NEAT activities and operation of the Eco store. The store is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch. Any donations, e-mail Emily dyer at [emgd7@hotmail.com](mailto:emgd7@hotmail.com).

### **3. Principal's Report** - Principal Joel Gorenkoff – Grade 8 visit; course selection and staffing; new school update, etc.

- Grade 8 visit – lots of children want to come to NTCI next year because of the new school, optional attendance process this year will be challenging and political. There's huge interest from the feeder schools (Hodgson, Glenview, Deer Park). Main student body will come from the in district children, feeder schools and siblings, other optional attendance will be determined through lottery.
- Course selection process started, talk to the students about choices. There will be an option information session for parents Feb 3, 6:30 pm, guidance councillors will be meeting with each grade group of parents to explain courses, codes, paths, prerequisites
- Charity week is expected to raise \$35,000 - \$38,000 for “Not for Sale” charity selected by the NT students this year
- School staff are educating students about the Haiti disaster, collecting donations for Canadian Red Cross and Free the Children organizations

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- New school update – huge work has started for teachers and administration staff in planning the move and designing new classrooms, etc. Teachers are meeting with designers, there's a large budget for new furniture and equipment, some existing furniture will need to be reused.
- Construction is on schedule, planned to be finished in June 2010, 97% of concrete work is done, hydro is in, gym almost complete, paint samples are being tested, courtyard is done, there will be no pool (swim team will practice elsewhere), there will be an open concept cafeteria, together with commons area, lots of seating, smaller kitchen serving hot/cold food with healthy choices
- Move is scheduled for June/July, demolition begins in July to make room for the new field. Pleading for patience from parents and students in September as school start might be a little rough until everything is unpacked and settled.
- Report cards are going home on Feb. 10, still time to work on marks
- Feb 12 is PD day, no school

#### **4. Teacher representative report - Helen Elliott.**

- Environmental activities – focusing on separating the waste into separate bins; clean air challenge - integrating the measuring of the school's carbon footprint into the science curriculum, taking it into the new school to compare
- France/Spain trip February 5 – 16
- Montreal trip February 22
- PhysEd ski trip Feb 11

#### **5. Treasurer's Report and financial requests– Charlotte Ryan**

- Balance on Dec 31, 2009 was \$17,523.<sup>71</sup>
- The parent council received a thank you note from the Classics club for the funding received for the conference (\$600)
- three financial requests were tabled, reviewed, motioned by Lucia Dell'Agnesse, seconded by Lap Fong Wong and accepted:
  - 1) Music program - \$800 for the strings department to pay honorarium for professionals to come and teach
  - 2) Helen Elliott - \$629 for the button maker and supplies, to be used and reused by different school groups as signage for advertising school programs and activities
  - 3) Athletics department - \$1000 to help replace old and rusty free weights (to help with \$3500 total cost)

#### **6. Music Council Update – Elaine Lurie, Music Parent Council Liaison**

- Spending \$10,000 raised during Bowlathon to buy instruments and bring specialists to teach
- Strings orchestra will be joining the big multi-school jazz ensemble on Jan. 28 at the RCM

#### **7. Q & A**

- Topics of interest for the next meeting guest speaker Beverley Cathcart-Ross, Parenting 'Guru'

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- Media
- Gaming
- Internet addiction
- Cell phone usage
- Avoiding conflict
- Talking to your teen

**Next meeting – Wednesday, February 24, 2009 with guest speaker Beverley Cathcart-Ross, Parenting 'Guru', topic - Helping You & Your Teen Successfully Navigate These Years**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.