

NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

(Tuesday, September 21, 2010)

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
Mary Laszlo, Vice-Principal (A-L)
Kathleen Pyper, Vice-Principal (M-Z)
Lorne Smith, Teacher representative

1. Welcome - Parent Council co-Chair Jane Lewis

- opened the meeting, welcomed all present, asked parents to introduce themselves to the ones sitting around them

2. Student Council Report – Martin, President, Katherine, VP

- Welcome assembly and lawn party held
- Students love the new school, thanked all the staff and the Principal for their effort
- Advice to parents to encourage students to get involved, especially Gr. 9's, to find out about dif. sports, clubs, come out to the Club Fair next Tue., Sep. 28 during lunch to find out more and sign up; moving the spirit from the old school
- Next week is Gr. 9 Welcome Day – pals organizing an afternoon in Eglinton Park
- Red & Grey day coming up in October, spirit day at NTCI, all classes will be decorated, everyone will be wearing red and grey. The day will align with the football game, so everyone can go and watch.
- Charity Week – big fundraising event in Jan/Feb.- students collect a list of charities and vote to select one for which they raise money each year. Ideas can be e-mailed to Katherine.mcauley@hotmail.com. Home forms come up with events/games to raise money. Other events like Fashion Week are also organized. Last year \$40,000 was raised.
- School newspaper always looks for contributors
- “Hot Air” announcements are posted on the Announcements board daily for club and sports announcements
- For Student Council, each class elects 2 representatives and 1 “green rep” for the environmental issues, meeting on last Wednesday of every month

3. Principal's Report - Principal Joel Gorenkoff

- School move went well, still a few things to wrap up. Jane Lewis, Co-Chair of the School Council thanked the school administration and teachers for all their hard work around the move
- 700 optional attendance students had to be turned away because of space limitations
- Communication is essential between parents and school administration / staff. Ensure to sign up for the Parent email blasts (on the school's web site). School does send some paper communication, ask kids for it, also make copy of the school calendar from their agendas.
- New school was a very long project, team effort with staff who know their areas/needs best; packing and unpacking was done in June and August
- It was fun on the first day, kids loved the big gym, library, etc.
- Still in construction mode, old school to come down (demolition has started), new artificial field to be put in in late spring, also outdoor artwork, pathways, signs, fixing deficiencies, still need to put up all the NTCI things on the walls, heritage display cases, etc.

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- Most sophisticated high school in Ontario, including many hidden environmental systems
- Alumni requested that some of the old school spirit is preserved, parts of the original façade are now in the new school's courtyard, it was an expensive undertaking.
- School now has huge triple gym, big library, theatre is also set up for movie screenings, classrooms are simple, everything works
- Grand opening ceremony will be held for the public, the Board, builders, architect and the media on Sep. 29, kids are invited during lunch. It will all be recorded and included as a web cast on the school's web site. There are also time-lapsed photos of the construction put in a 45 sec. video

4. Vice-Principals' Report - Mary Laszlo, (A-L), Kathleen Pyper, (M-Z)

- School monitors students' attendance, 9:00 am start, please call school if your child will be absent – give child's name, home form and reason, student to bring a note from the parents to the main office confirming. If student needs to leave mid-day, they have to bring a note from parents to the main office at the start of the day
- Lockers are quite small, ask children to bring min they need
- Cell phones have to be fully turned off during the day, cannot be used within the school, only outside before and after, or during lunch.
- Mini night is on Thursday, Sep. 23, 6 pm – 9 pm, parents get their child's timetable and map where to meet their teachers, who will be talking about curriculum and their expectations. Kids are welcome to come, too.
- Calendars were handed out, some important dates are:
 - o Oct 20 – next School Council meeting and guest speaker
 - o Nov. 16 - School Council meeting – guidance presentation for post secondary selection
 - o Nov. 29 – report cards go home
 - o Dec. 9- 17 – exams
 - o Jan 3 – back to school after winter break
 - o Jan 11 – school closed for Gr. 8 visit
 - o Jan 19 - School Council meeting, open Q & A
 - o Jan 26 - report cards go home
 - o Feb 9 – start course selections
 - o Feb 15 - School Council meeting and guest speaker
 - o Feb 18 – PA day
 - o Feb 25 – marking course selections
 - o March 13-18 – March break
 - o April 12 - report cards go home
 - o April 13 - School Council meeting
 - o May 17 - School Council meeting
 - o June 16-24 – exams
 - o June 27 – exam review
 - o June 28 – results day (verbal)
 - o June 30 – report cards mailed
- Kathleen Pyper thanked staff and the principal for a lot of hours put for the move
- Lorne Smith, Phys-Ed teacher, teacher representative on School Council – has been at NTCI for 32 years, it was a very different September than any other, school is still very busy, slow start to the year, first day in the new gym will be Sep. 21, all gym staff are now located on the gym level, security is better for fitness room, change rooms with showers and lockers; staff were involved in the facilities planning, builder and architects were open to suggestions
- New outdoor field will be used for field hockey, soccer and football
- City-wide University fair for Gr. 11 and 12 will be held downtown Fri. Sep 23 and Sat. Sep 24
- Parent questions:
 - Q: Can parents review exams?
 - A: Parents can view them anytime in the school office

 - Q: Can students use the passage from Roehampton near the condo building?
 - A: Yes

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Q: What is the current number of students?

A: 1200, school was built for 1206 capacity

Q: For students that have a spare in their timetable, where can they stay?

A: library, commons area, courtyard

Q: Will there be any re-adjustment of classes?

A: Hopefully not this year, enough teachers for the current number of students

Q: Is a microwave oven available to the students?

A: Not at this time

Comment / request - separate forms for field trips so that the page with the information does not need to be handed in (parents would like to keep).

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

- Balance on September 20, 2010 was \$11,052, still to receive this year's school fees, expected around \$21,000
- To access the money any staff/school member can submit a proposal for funds, which is then first reviewed by the Principal, then discussed by the Executive Council and if approved, is brought to the School Council to vote
- Last year the Council decided to keep left over balance of \$11,000 for any new things that the school might determine the need for after the move and settling in, have not decided yet.
- 4 financial requests were submitted for approval this month (all were accepted):
 - 1) \$600 for the Girls Athletic Association (& other school groups) leadership event – motioned by Jo-Ann Archibald, seconded by Natalie Nicholas, accepted by all
 - 2) \$600 for the Girls Field Hockey team (90 girls participate in 2 teams) for tournaments and goalie equipment - motioned by Ann Ferguson, seconded by Natalie Nicholas, accepted by all
 - 3) \$800 for the Music Department Strings Retreat (first weekend in Oct.) for guest stars to mentor (total cost is \$17,000) - motioned by Jo-Ann Archibald, seconded by Natalie Nicholas, accepted by all
 - 4) \$3000 for convocation on Oct. 8 – food and drinks for the grad event - motioned by Jo-Ann Archibald, seconded by Natalie Nicholas, accepted by all

6. Commencement dinner - Svea Einola, Event Co-ordinator

- dinner is organized annually for last year's grads (no parents) who get back together with their former classmates
- this year it will be a cocktail party, hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served, students from younger grades will help, there will be a ceremony before it with parents and staff

7. Executive Council election

- New position this year –volunteer coordinator – candidate Elaine Lurie
- For other positions – same candidates were elected
 - Co-Chairs - Jane Lewis and Michele Temple
 - Treasurer - Charlotte Ryan,
 - Co-Secretaries - Helen Shi and Teodora Miloradovic
 - Event Co-ordinator - Svea Einola
 - Ward Rep - Lapfong Wong
 - New School Liaison - Jane Mooy
 - Speaker Coordinator - Pauline Thompson
 - Member at Large - Lucia Dell'Agnese
 - Member at Large - Phyllis Cincinatus

Next meeting – Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.