

NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

(Wednesday, April 13, 2011)

Executive School Council

Jane Lewis, Co-Chair
Michele Temple, Co-Chair
Charlotte Ryan, Treasurer
Helen Shi and Teodora Miloradovic, Co-Secretaries
Svea Einola, Event Coordinator
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 and welcomed all present parents.

2. Student Council Report - Katherine M, VP

- A total of 45,200 dollars were raised through the Charity Week and Fashion Show this year. A lot of students helped to organize and make the charity events successful.
- Maytime Melodies will be on Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th in the new NT auditorium. May 5th will be featured with band and choir while May 6th will be performed by strings and choir.
- Student council election will kick off tomorrow at lunch. The session will give the election information, positions/roles, responsibilities and procedures, etc. It is a great opportunity to get involved, to learn and to run. Even your kids may want to run; participation is another great way to learn and gain experience.
- Earth day, April 21st, NT classes start late from 9:30 am. This would allow students to come to school using more environmental friendly ways, such as TTC, walk, bicycle etc. There will be an assembly and presentation to celebrate Earth Day and raise awareness on protecting the environment.
- Principal Joel Gorenkoff praised the students for their efforts, achievements and leadership skills in the Charity Week fundraising events this year.

3. Principal's report - Principal Joel Gorenkoff

- YMCA Youth exchange program. It was a success. Leadership class from NT is being offered a chance to participate in a YMCA Youth exchange program by "twinning" with a group of students from Iqaluit, Nunavut.
- Visual Arts department at NT has organized "Core - NTCI grade 12 graduating art exhibition" to showcase NT talents at the Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Art Centre on Wednesday April 20, 2011 to May 2, 2011 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Museum is located at 67 Pottery Road, Toronto.

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- Earth Day events on April 21st. NT is a Gold LEED school last year and it is the time to promote awareness of environment at our school.
- Report cards will be distributed to home today and please check with kids.
- The school calendar is finalized with a late start of Christmas holiday season from December 26th to January 9th.
- Maytime Melodies on May 5th and 6th at the new NT auditorium with a new format: band and choir for first day and strings and choir for the second day.
- Grade 10 literacy test was held on March 31. The results will be available at the end of school year.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Requests - Treasurer, Charlotte Ryan

- The following financial requests were submitted for approval this month:
 - 1) \$2400 for Media Department to help cover the cost of 8 Samsung SMX-F50 camcorders and 5 Velbon tripods.
These cameras are to be used by the 4 sections of the Media course as well as an Audio Visual club. The cameras will also be used by the other school departments for recording documentaries, events such as Fashion Show and Maytime Melodies; sports events; special guest speakers and alumni events.
 - 2) \$250 for Parent Council Advertisement in Maytime Melodies program.
 - 3) \$1500 to help the publishing the Graffiti, a student run magazine. This magazine with the new format is now printed with quality glossy paper. Costs for publishing Graffiti have overrun this year because of the high cost of producing a glossy commemorative issue.
 - 4) \$313 for investigating and upgrading web server for parent, student and alumni email blast system.
 - 5) \$340 to help cover the cost of speakers and refreshments for the seminar "Building Resiliency in Youth" organized by NT guidance counsellor's advisory committee in partnership with the Anne Johnston Health Station.
 - 6) \$2200 to offset costs associated with Field Trips
Part of the cost of Field trips is back filling the teachers who are attending the events. At North Toronto we have many activities that take place outside the school which require teacher supervision. Some examples are: vocal retreat; biodiversity exhibits; DECA competition; NT Ski Day; Workshop with Exchange Students from Inuksuk.
 - 7) \$2400 to help cover the cost of the "Stress Busters programming" requested by Guidance.
It is a yearlong initiative partnered with the Youth Wellness Network. The purpose is to mitigate stressful challenges that North Toronto students face. Develop ambassadors within the student body who will mentor other students on how to lower stress, cope with relationships and handle conflict.

All requests were motioned by Heather Johnston and seconded by Svea Einola, accepted by all.

5. Special Presentation – Stand Tall – YMCA Youth Nunavut Exchange program – VP K. Pyper, Guidance Counsellor Ms. Hayden and Student Representatives.

There are two parts of the program: Iqaluit to Toronto in March and Toronto to Iqaluit in May.

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- Welcome 25 high school students from Iqaluit, Nunavut
- Well prepared before their arrival
- Visited the Kensington Market, the CN Tower, the Eaton Center, TTC, etc.
- “Stand Tall” Assembly for entertainment, games and information
- Exchange/share of experience in different schools and cultural backgrounds
- Values shared: think before act; accepting responsibilities for problems; make choices based on values; be proactive, etc.

6. Q & A and Comments

Q: What is the school policy for using the cell phone after school?

A: Cell phone is banned in school by the board. TDSB tries to establish their schools to be a non-disruptive environment.

Q: Can the school release who will be teaching which course in which grade (next year)?

A: No. Timetabling is a very complicated, time consuming and dynamic process. Releasing information early is not proper as the timetable is not finalized.

Comment: Arrange an open panel or forum on cyber use for parents or students. Some resources: police officer, crime stopper.

Comment: Students are texting, Facebook, Twitter, etc. and their verbal communication skills may be at risk.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next parent council meeting – Tuesday, May 17, 2011.