

# NTCI Parent School Council Meeting Minutes

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27 February 2017

## **Executive School Council**

Christina Kwong and Falguni Turakhia, Co-Chairs

Anne Ferguson, Treasurer

Ellie Morch and Simin Keramati, Co-Secretaries

Wendy Kagan, Event Coordinators

Christina Kwong, Ward Reps

Will Ollerhead and Janet Victor, Member at Large

## **School Staff**

Jennifer Kurtz, Vice-Principal (A-L)

Kathleen Pyper, Vice-Principal (M-Z)

Helen Elliott, Staff Representative

### **1. Welcome - School Council Co-Chair – Christina Kwong and Falguni Turakhia**

- Opened the meeting and welcomed all parents and speakers.

### **2. Student Council Report – President - Minjae Kim**

- Charity Week April 3-7 for the Maddie Project - special events e.g. magic shows, games. They are canvassing local business for donations.

### **3. Principal's Report – VP Kathleen Pyper, VP Jennifer Kurtz**

- NTCI Drama Night and Sears Drama Festival - great success with positive review by adjudicator. March 9th results of adjudication expected.
- Exchange to Copenhagen coming up. This program has partnerships over the world.
- Exchange to Sioux Lookout April 5th and the students will board at a Residential School. YMCA initiative that is funded Federal Gov't e.g. flights paid for. In Toronto students from Syria will have events with NTCI and indigenous students from Sioux Lookout.
- Thurs March 2nd OSLT early closure
- Exercise for Success - new program run by the social worker for the school. Students come at lunch to exercise, with a target to help with anxiety.
- Superintendent visit went well.
- Sign up for email blasts on website
- Jennifer Kurtz, new VP - from Humberside Collegiate, over 17 years of teaching over 6 different schools.

### **4. Staff Update - Ms Helen Elliott**

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- Upcoming field trips, ski trips and its a busy time. Advises students its a good time to catch up on school work during March Break. After the break things pick up.

### 5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Requests – Anne Ferguson

- There are 6 requests for funding:
  1. Grade 9 CPR Course -300 students \$1500
  2. Youth Exchange to Sioux Lookout - \$2000
  3. Phys Ed - \$840 - OFSA
  4. Archery \$700
  5. Girls Field Hockey \$1000
  6. \$6400 total

All requests were motioned by Will Ollerhead, seconded by Ellie Morch, and accepted by all.

### 5. Special Topic

- Substance Use and Abuse...What a Parent Should Know - Mr.David Kaufman - from Jewish Addiction Community Services who provides many support groups related to Addiction.

Mr. Kaufmann spoke eloquently about the challenge of raising a child, not intuitive, loving is often enabling those with addictions. Parents who learn how to talk to their teens about drugs will reduce the risk of addiction in their children. The characteristics of addiction: obsession of the mind and body, need for more, withdrawal, negative consequences. There are 3 stages to overcome addiction: 1. Denial 2. Education 3. Plan of action. Recovery has more to do with addicts have stagnated emotionally from the addiction and less to do with coming off the drugs. Recovery is learning how to live life on life's terms.

He advises that you don't need to panic if you find your kids are doing drugs. Most experiment and most don't become addicted. He cautions that drugs today are not what they were 20 years ago, e.g. THC content today is 22-23% and it used to be 8%. This causes high risk of psychiatric illness e.g. psychosis, depression. The Health Canada drug information sheet for marijuana

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advises not to be used before age 25. JACS offers a number of courses and he walked the attendees positive motivation strategies in communicating with your teens.

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th April, time and location TBD. There will be a screening of the movie Screenagers.**