

# North Toronto Collegiate Institute School Council Meeting: April 17th, 2007

## Welcome (Toby Rosner: Co-Chair)

**Staff Appreciation Lunch:** A Staff Appreciation Lunch took place on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Karen Kingsmill, Event Co-ordinator, was the key organizer with many volunteers helping. Many thanks to Karen and everyone involved!

## **Student Council Report:** (Chloe Castonguay):

- **AWARE:** 'Act Wisely and Responsibly Every time' campaign is now on. This campaign is happening as an outcome of the unfortunate events at the last semi-formal. A pledge system has been set up and every time a student goes to lunch, they can sign a pledge and receive an A.W.A.R.E. bracelet. A visit from CAMH for Grade 10's took place on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **April 20<sup>th</sup> Semi-Formal:** A smaller semi-formal is taking place. A contract system is in place for behaviour at the semi. In order to buy a ticket, a student and their parents must sign a contract.
- **The Prom:** Coming up very soon! Tickets go on sale on May 1<sup>st</sup> (tickets are \$115). It will take place at Palais Royale for grade 12 grads.
- **Student Council:** Elections will happen soon for next year's council. If students are interested in running, there is a system set up that requires an interested candidate to obtain two signatures from every grade.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** GAA will be running a Habitat for Humanity event.

## **Principal's Report (Joel Gorenkoff):**

- **AWARE Campaign:** The school took the approach that the response to the events at the Semi-Formal should be a significant and sustained campaign with results that are visible and educational. There are many initiatives including training, posters and a bracelet campaign.
- **Charity Week:** Charlotte Miglin turned over \$25,000 raised in Charity Week, to Sleeping Children Around the World to purchase bed kits. This amount will purchase approximately 800 bed kits for village children in Uganda.
- **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** Thank you to Karen Kingsmill and the committee for the lunch.
- **Music:** 110 kids went to Massey Hall recently. Stage Band concert and Soda Pop Shop was held recently. May Time Melodies will take place on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Deep Art:** Grade 12 Art class is presenting their art-work at the Todmodorn Mills gallery until April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **30 Hour Famine:** 100 kids fasted and 60 kids slept over at the school (and 8 staff members), in order to raise \$2000 for this project.
- **Athletics:** Many sports are underway right now including rugby, co-ed volleyball, track, ultimate Frisbee, synchro swimming and softball.
- **Staff:** Barb Joly, our Head of Guidance, is retiring this year. Barb will be deeply missed. There are many individuals applying for the position – both internal and external candidates. We are receiving an additional .5 secretary for next year. Teacher wise, we are losing 1.5 teachers (this means classes will be a little bigger and we will be challenged to keep full library etc. services).
- **Equity Committee:** Committee is addressing a number of equity issues, in particular homophobia, gender differences in achievement, and heritage. Homophobia is present at all schools including N.T.C.I. A Gay-Straight Alliance has been set-up to help in this area. Another aspect of the Equity Committee is to ensure that no child excluded because of funding. The Committee discovered that boys do not do as well as the girls in many areas, particularly English but also in Math and Science; the committee is working on measures to improve boys' performance in these areas. A final aspect being looked at is Heritage, to better recognize the many and varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds at NTCL.

## **New Business:**

- Ski Trip: A concern was raised by a parent regarding the limit of 150 students and a request was made to increase the number for next year.
- Group Projects: A concern was raised by a parent regarding group projects and plagiarism. Where does the accountability lie if one group member commits plagiarism?
- Exams: A question was raised by a parent regarding whether special preparation will be done for the June exams. For example, if the exam will be multiple choice, will the students have a chance to practice in advance? The answer is yes, that is a core expectation of teachers. Each teacher works with a Curriculum Leader to ensure the appropriate presentation.
- Summatives: A question was asked regarding whether summative projects are mostly group or individual projects. The answer is mostly individual. If group, there is a process that helps ensure that all students are participating in the project or are marked appropriately.
- Uniforms: A parent raised a concern regarding the fact that some teams are provided funding for uniforms and other teams do not receive the funding. There is a process for teams to request funds and all teams are able to request the money. A suggestion was made to cover the process for funding for teams at a Council meeting early in the school year so that the funding system is understood.
- Cost of Materials and Time for Projects: A request was made by a parent that teachers provide an expectation regarding the amount of time a project will take and how much money should be spent for materials. Joel Gorenkoff also indicated that equity dictates that no student should be penalized for spending less on materials than another student (eg. If a student buys a \$3 scrap-book versus a \$40 scrap-book). If there is ever a specific concern in this area, the best approach is for the student or the parent to talk with the teacher.
- Will there be recommendations from the Equity Committee: The committee will be looking for initiatives that can be used to address issues of inequity on an ongoing basis.

## Treasurer's Report (Simon Berkowitz)

### **North Toronto Collegiate Parent Council Funds: 2006-2007**

		2005-2006 comparison
Balance fwd August 31, 2006	\$8,533.53	\$10,013.13
plus:		
parent fees	\$19,025.00	\$18,285.00
receipt: synervoice grant	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
net interest income	<u>\$214.51</u>	
	<u>\$214.51</u>	<u>\$255.07</u>
total cash available	\$29,773.04	\$28,553.20
less cash spent:		
commencement	\$2,129.72	\$1,971.67
Teacher appreciation	\$174.18	\$0.00
Parent council ad	\$250.00	\$200.00
School Council Awards (grade 9)		\$1,000.00
math dep't (graphing calculators)	\$2,051.77	\$1,000.00
web site		\$220.00
robotics club	\$500.00	\$500.00
classics club	\$600.00	\$600.00
music dep't (new instruments)		\$1,500.00
music dep't (vocal retreat)	\$395.00	\$0.00
girls hockey team		\$200.00
girls athletics		\$1,000.00
IT assistance (\$1755+\$2137)	\$3,892.00	\$3,892.00
school field trips (\$1900+\$1900)	\$4,000.00	\$3,800.00
Drama department	\$350.00	\$0.00
NTCI uniforms		\$1,500.00

Synervice maintenance	\$0.00	\$736.00
School paper, Graffiti (computer)	\$693.00	\$0.00
School paper, Graffiti (operating)	\$600.00	\$500.00
English dep't (mentoring)	\$400.00	\$0.00
English dep't	\$600.00	\$0.00
media course - computer	\$1,914.00	\$0.00
ski club	\$550.00	\$550.00
field hockey	\$800.00	\$850.00

TOTAL SPENT TO DATE	\$19,899.67	\$20,019.67
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<b>Cash available April 1, 2007</b>	<b>\$9,873.37</b>	<b>\$8,533.53</b>
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Cash TD account	\$2,290.21	\$1,704.88
Accounts receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cash investment account at ING	\$7,583.16	\$6,828.65
	<u>\$9,873.37</u>	<u>\$8,533.53</u>

We discussed and agreed to fund the financial requests as follows:

Item	Amount	Approvers
Boys Athletic Association Banners	\$750	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz , seconded by Pat Boeckner
Visual Arts Department Senior Art Exhibit Catalogues	\$200	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Mary-Jane Martin
Women's Phys Ed – Sports Teams Uniforms	\$1500	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Brenda Holtz
30 Hour Famine Event (for food, movies and caretaking after the event)	\$550	Motion to move by Simon Berkowitz, seconded by Irwin Kleinman

### **Minutes of February 20th, 2007 Council**

- A motion to move to approve the Minutes of the February 20th, 2007 meeting was made by Toby Rosner and seconded by Brenda Holtz. Motion carried.

### **Possible Topics for Future Meetings:**

- Emergency Procedures in the School: what would happen in the event of an emergency, where would students go?
- Ivars Taurins as a speaker
- School Group Project: How does the process and marking work?
- Gender Data

### **Schedule for Remaining 06/07 School Year Meetings**

- May 29, 2007

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Toby Rosner and seconded by Simon Berkowitz. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.