

NTCI Parent Council Meeting Minutes

(Wednesday, April 14, 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

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. Principal's Report - Principal Joel Gorenkoff

- Very busy time of year at the school, interim report cards went home to show students their progress, but these are not official report cards
- New school planning is well under way, packing will start before school year-end, move is planned for the summer
- Spring sports are starting, teams are getting ready
- Maytime Melodies is on May 13 and May 14, great showcase of the students' musical talents

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

- Balance on April 14, 2009 was \$15,112.68
- The parent council received a thank you note from the Music Department for help funding the vocal retreat.
- two financial requests were submitted for approval this month (both were accepted):
 - 1) Reach To The Top team reached the regional competition and needs funding help for bus, accommodation - \$490 – motioned by Phyllis Cincinatus, seconded by Lucia Dell'Agnese, accepted by all
 - 2) Model UN – students participating in a simulated parliamentary conference in Ottawa, asking for help funding bus, accommodation - \$700 - motioned by Phyllis Cincinatus, seconded by Iping Wong, accepted by all
- Some of the money left in the account from this year's budget will be saved for different needs in the new school, once the move is completed and the needs are determined

4. Speaker introduction - Pauline Thompson, Speaker Coordinator introduced the speaker

- Jennifer Kolari, social worker and family therapist specializing in working with teens and their families – “Connected Parenting” - <http://connectedparenting.com/>

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- Understating teen brain – instinctive part is more prevalent than the rational part, underdeveloped until their 20's
- Three crucial strategies:
 - 1) tolerate negativity
 - 2) show ruthless compassion, deep empathy
 - 3) be non-defensive, “mirror back”, accept what they are saying
- Mirroring technique – use it to de-escalate the conflict, put yourself in their shoes, show how much you understand
 - C – connect, stop what you are doing, show you are fully focused, listening
 - A – affect matching, show how interested you are
 - L – lack of language, use few words, show you'll work with them/for them
 - M – mirror back

Next meeting – Tuesday, May 18, 2010

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.