

NTCI School Council Meeting Minutes

(Wednesday, October 20, 2010)

Welcome – Michele Temple, Parent council Co-Chair

Opened the meeting and welcomed all parents and special speaker Alex Russell.

Student Council Update

Martin Laws and Katherine McAuley –President and Sr. vice president of school council

-Red & Grey day today. This was a big spirit event. Students had fun and there was a lot of red and grey, decorations and activities. NT students marched to Northern Secondary School and watched the football game. The score was 49 vs 0. What a success! All students behaved politely and cheered for the game.

-Move to the new building, NT Spirit continues.

-Friday, Nov. 5, school semi-formal event at 130 Dundas West (near University Ave. & Dundas W.). The cost is \$22.

-Charity week & fashion show, 1st week of February. There are a lot of opportunities to get involved and more than 300 students and staff participated in the fashion show last year including design, model, practice, etc. \$40,000 was raised for NOT 4 SALE charity last year. Please encourage your kids to participate and get involved.

Principal Report - Joel Gorenkoff, NTCI Principal

-Red & Grey day, Spirit day, it was a success.

-New building: A lot of VIP visited the new NTCI including Premier Dalton McGuinty

- George Chuvalo will come to NT and speak to the Grade 9 students about substance abuse

- Report card will be sent home on Nov. 18. Please check with your kids.

- Nov. 25, teacher and parent interview, on-line sign up process

-T-com telephone attendance monitoring system is in place for automatic messages to parents in replace of old (Synre Voice) system

Staff Report – Lorne Smith, Physical Ed teacher, NTCI

- Transition to the new building has been smooth with full effort from school staff and students

- There will be an athletics day next year, last Saturday of September.

Financial Report - Charlotte Ryan, NT School Council Treasurer

As of Oct. 19, 2010, bank balance is \$30,476 including this year's school fee.

Requests

1. Request for buying new English books \$600. The English department has proposed to choose some contemporary Canadian literature books for use and to develop the new unit of study in the English class as well as non-fiction English classes. One book recommended is "The Cellist of Sarajevo".

2. Request for \$800 for vocal retreat to cover the guest artist's fee. All of artists will work with students at the retreat.

3. Request for \$600 for the classics club to cover transportation to the Ontario Student Classics Conference.

4. Request for \$750 from the Art department and Media classes. Add Adobe Photoshop CS4 in the MAC computers.

5. Request for \$2,200 to cover the cost for a variety of field trips, programs, and special events as well as the associated supply/occasional teachers.

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6. Request for \$1,000 from the “Graffiti”, student newspaper. The requested money is for printing and distributing. A new version is to be published with a smaller format and with glossy pages to mark the move to the new building.

For all requests, motion was tabled by Pauline Thompson and seconded by Teodora Miloradovic, all in favour.

Special Presentation – “Promoting Independence in Teenagers”

Dr. Alex Russell, Ph.D., C.Psych.

Alex Russell is a clinical psychologist who lives and works in Toronto. He provides assessments and psychotherapy to both children and adults, and consultation and supervision to schools, teachers and psychologists. He is a research affiliate with the Hincks-Dellcrest Institute, and is a father of two teenagers.

-Childhood has changed.

Parental involvement

Family isolation

Parenting expertise

Provision to children

Parental authority

We don't know what we need to do. Giving kids everything they want all the time is not good.

-Delaying independence

“Failure to launch”, a movie

Disengagement about academic studies

Adultescents/kidults

Differentiate roles at home and life out of house

Watch, observe, separate and validate kids' experience

Q: skipping classes

A: There are reasons behind. Reality gives kids bad experience. Analyse skipping one class or a lot. The school VP, teachers are better persons to deal with students.

If the kids are messed up, show sympathy and ask if they need help.

Parents are worried more about reality than their kids. Peter Pan, “I don't want to grow up.”

-Mr. Smith commented: **The roles of teachers have changed as well.**

-Back teachers/coachers: As parents, trust teachers and coaches, step back and be creative to work with kids

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next Parent council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2010.