

NTCI Parent School Council Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2016

Executive School Council

In Attendance:

Christina Kwong, Co-Chair
Falguni Turakhia, Co-Chair
Anne Ferguson, Treasurer
Wendy Kagan, Co-Events Coordinator
Daniela Popovik, Co-Events Coordinator
Ellie Morch, Co-Secretary
Simin Keramati, Co-Secretary
Jess Hungate, Ward Rep
Will Ollerhead, Member-at-large
Janet Victor, Member-at-large

In Absence:

Gila Rydlewicz
Noreen Tooney
Karl Reitmaier

School Staff

Ms. Kathleen Piper
Ms. Helen Elliott

1. Welcome - Ms. Christina Kwong, Ms. Falguni Turakhia - Co-Chairs

- Opened meeting and welcomed new and returning parents.

2. Parent Involvement Advisory Council - Jess Hungate

- province funded this organization to address lack of parent engagement issue
- goal is to help parents and school board work better together
- function coming up: 10th Annual parent conference at Earl Haig
- workshops through year

3. Treasurer's Report & Financial Services - Ms. Anne Ferguson

Requests for funding came from:

- PALS \$300 (asked for \$500)
- Varsity Hockey Team \$735
- Dept of Modern Languages \$700
- Phys Ed Dept - Swim Team \$1000
- Theatre Show Case Event - \$900

Total \$3635

Discussion ensued.

Q: Is there usually such a wide variance in student fees from year to year?

Anne responded that 300 students did not purchase fees this year. This is not usually the case.

Q: What is the pattern of outflow through the year?

Anne replied she has usually a carry over \$1200 to \$5200 from year to year to cover commencement event in October and Sept meetings. There is a VITO process whereby forms requesting funds are submitted to the principal, the principal can VITO requests. We are not told how many requests are given

to the principal. There are not many requests in June. Anne prefers to reward the groups that come early in the year. Some requests are repetitive and some are one offs.

All requests were motioned by Will Ollerhad and seconded by Wendy Kagan

No discussion was held.

Accepted by all.

4. Principal's Update - Ms.Kathleen Pyper for Mr. Joel Gorenkoff

- Reminders about grade 9 take your kid to work day on Nov 2nd, 2016.
- Report cards will be sent home soon on Nov 16th. with your child
- Parent teacher interviews sign up on line, first come first serve.
- Sign up active as per the time listed on the report cards.
- Email blast will come out reminding parents of this.
- Registration system is online and the report card package will have login information.
- Increased enrolment 2016-17. Two more teachers hired, moved 158 students into new classes

and another ½ teacher was added after adjustments made. Many classes at 34-6 students. This has helped reduce class size 30-31. Changes resulted to some small classes of 15-20 with other classes still above 31.

Q: Why not make class size even? This would result in too many schedule changes and teacher changes for the students. They tried to limit the teacher changes to 1 or 2 at the most per student.

Q: Where are the students coming from? Students are coming from the development in the area.

5. Staff Update - Ms. Helen Elliott

- Reiterated planning of teacher interviews.
- If not able to book appt, email to meet teacher at a separate time.

6. Q&A - see above

7. Student Services Presentation - Ms. Michelle de Braux (Curriculum Leader - Student Services)

The Path to Post-Secondary Grades 9-12

M.s de Braux reviewed the 3 Post-Secondary Destinations: University, College & Apprenticeship. Job market now is different and more challenging from when most parents were graduating from high school. The school tries to allay fears of career uncertainty. University may not be enough. Employers are less inclined to do training or apprenticeships than in past and these activities are not offered by very often by universities. She spoke of demystifying what you go to college for vs university. It is not designed to be job training ground and there are more universities that have programs offering more job training. Application for university requires 6 grade 12 University level courses with an average above 70%. Colleges offer specific training program for a specific type of work but are able to grant degrees now. Colleges are industry driven and quick to change to demands. A student can move to university from college program. Colleges cost ¼ to ½ cost of university. Applying to both college and university is a good strategy.

Apprenticeships are a great option and many courses are free in high school. Student can gain apprenticeship hours during high-school co-ops. Many lucrative careers e.g. ECE, Electricians etc. There is a deficit in skilled trades and government funds the training programs. The starting salaries are excellent.

There is a work Fair in April for those interested going straight to work from high school.

Helpful websites

eg electronicinfo.ca - resources for university, competitive, grade cut off

eg ontariocolleges.ca

eg apprenticetrades.ca

eg ontransfer.ca website.

Ms de Braux reminded parents that the NTCI Moodle - Student Services, Guidance, Login as Guest is a good resource. Additionally, community Service hours has to be work that betters the community, not just volunteer. There are a number of volunteer opportunities listed on the Guidance webpage.

Grade by Grade Suggestions for Support

See pamphlet for details (attached.)

Grade 9

Keep your support up. Its a big transition year. Contact Guidance if concerned.

Contact teacher first if subject difficulty.

Welcome friends into home.

Encourage extracurricular/volunteer. Keep careful file to track this.

Give child opportunities to work natural consequences in order to foster resilience.

Grade 10

Career Studies course very helpful.

Open a dialogue about taking 5th year. There is no consequence to program applications. Allows students to do activities and keep up with academics. Be open to students ideas and goals.

Grade 11

Jackson Vocational Interest Survey. Designed for adults. Small fee for this. Make an appointment w Guidance.

Ensure 40 hrs of community service hours are done. Hand in hours only once all 40 hrs completed.

Suggestion from parent to keep photo of volunteer forms.

SAT - good time to write it, no need to wait until grade 12.

Grade 12

University Applications. Most admission offers come in April and May.

Workshops available - many and well publicized.

March break - good time to visit universities and colleges.

Gap year - 2 ways to approach 1. Use year to do a couple course and apply to programs 2. Application in grade 12 and ask for a deferral for a year.

The next meeting will be on Monday November 28th, 2016 at 7:30 pm in Room 215.

Speaker TBD.

Destinations

University

- 4-year degree programmes
- Theoretical
- Specific course and grade requirements (6 Grade 12 U or M courses, min. average of %70+)
- Unless a professional degree, does not lead to work placement and usually requires on-the-job training or college diploma after completion

College

- 2- to 3- year diploma & 4-year applied degree programmes
- Industry-driven job-specific training usually leading to work placement after completion
- Many reciprocal agreements with universities; can complete diploma & transfer with advanced standing to degree programme

Apprenticeship

- Can begin in high school (OYAP)
- College or Union instruction + on-the-job training



Log in to the NT Moodle (or visit Guidance page as a Guest) to keep informed of volunteer, employment, enrichment opportunities and more!
<http://ntci.on.ca/moodle/moodle/course/view.php?id=140>

General Tips

Your children need you to be interested and involved in their academic progress but they must take responsibility for their own grades, attendance and behaviour.

- Be interested.
- Discuss classes and set goals. At the beginning of the year and after each report card, sit with your son/daughter and help them to set realistic academic goals for the term.
- Foster resilience.
- Offer to help with homework.
- Encourage involvement in extra-curricular activities.
- Monitor activities and jobs and encourage volunteer involvement.
- Avoid:

- nagging about grades,
- letting student miss school unless really ill,
- criticizing a teacher in front of student,
- making your child's successes or failures your own.

- Work with the school.

If your child is not doing well, look at:

- Attendance
- Appropriateness of courses
- Accountability
- Alcohol/drug use
- Personal/Family Issues
- Unhappy at School



Listen to what they say about school and talk about what's happening at school.

NT Guidance Presents...



The Path to Post-Secondary: Grades 9-12

- ▶ This information is meant to be of assistance in helping you to help your children plan and follow a path to post-secondary education. This brochure provides general tips for parents as well as specific suggestions grade by grade.

October 2016

