

K-12 Northern Lakes School Council Minutes

Date: Monday January 15, 2024

Attendance: Carly Skrenski, Brooke Caul, Julie Slack, Erica Lantin, Erin Williams, Sylvie Cyr, Stacey Wood

Regrets: Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg, Leah Pheifer, Tammy Faykes

1. Call to Order –5:01pm
2. Approval of Agenda – 1st Erin, 2nd Stacey
3. Confirmation of Minutes from September 21 Meeting – 1st Stacy, 2nd Erin
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – *none at this time*
5. Unfinished Business:
 - Recruiting more parents for school council – Brooke will make poster and share with committee.
 - Treat baskets - Early February we will complete this and have baskets purchased at Lone Pine Market. **Action: Brooke will lead and call on others if/when required.**
 - We are VERY short staff – group decided to send letter to MOE to advocate for more staff -point to highlight in letter include:
 - Reconsider contract with retired teachers (increase from allotted 50 days)
 - unqualified OT are paid more at catholic school/board
 - no other school in community to share with as we are in a remote area
 - since teacher college changed from 1 year to 2 year the number of graduates has decreased
 - Shortages/absenteeism (55 staff – there are about 80 absence/10 days), rural community increase – all appointments are out of town – teachers limited time off/personal days for appointments

Action: Julie will post these ideas to a google file for us to work on MOE letter as a group.
6. New Business
 - Student achievement plan and priority areas– Carly presented the power point (link below). Very low scores for grade 6th math – consistent with trend for last ~10 years. Scores improve in grade 9. <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1i9oOAQ4iGDcsWFY4BTUCet66JptlaTIXIbOhyNk0NxQ/e/dit#slide=id.p>

Action: Brooke will send out the discussion questions again for us to respond to.

 - Bullying prevention and intervention plan – available on RRDSB
 - Dress Code – discussed the need for the code to be acknowledged and parents need to take some accountability. **Action: Carly will send home dress code requirements with kids and encourage parents to take some responsibility for what their kids are wearing to school.**
 - Christmas concert – discussed one of the student performances at the concert and shared concerns – was sexual in nature and inappropriate for a school function. Carly explained that the performances were to have been watched and approved by staff prior to concert however, this step was not followed. She will ensure this will not happen again.
 - Group decided that in April we will host a true school open house using our PIC grant – we will open school to community partners and invite them to have booth and be involved. We will plan and pick date at our next meeting.

7. Principal report – Carly:

- NWHU partnerships – NOW Program, Dental Screening, Vaccine Clinics
- Atikokan Fire Rescue fire safety training
- K-12 Bus Safety training
- KRR counselling 4 half-days per week
- FHT counselling 3-4 half-days per week
- Ontario College Fair; Ontario University Fair
- Fall court sports season wrapped up; winter court sports ongoing
- 4-12 X-Country Running wrapped up; assembly to finish season
- Curling, Nordic Skiing
- Gord Savoy 7 & 8 Volleyball tournament Nov 5
- Fall Outers season wrapped up; winter Outers season beginning this Friday
- Open House end of September; secondary parent/teacher interviews October, elementary parent/teacher interviews November
- Halloween festivities
- Remembrance Day assembly
- Academic and Outers assembly in November (2022-23 school year)
- OSSLT for re-writers, November
- Midterms; final exams approaching next week
- Holiday events – Christmas Concert (K-6); Christmas Assembly (7-12); Primary and Junior Choirs performed at RTA function and Aspen Court; Santa visit; candy cane candygrams; Winter Semi-Formal; Christmas Brunch; hot chocolate by Mental Health Champions
- Science North visits – K-8
- Mental Health Champions – elementary and secondary
- Rainbow Connection starting up this winter
- Student Support Foundation – stay tuned
- Staffing – Kristy Cameron retired after 30 years in education; staff on extended leaves; casual staffing crisis
- Student council clothing sales are happening now until January 28. Please see social media sites for details

8. Teacher updates: Erica – just finished choir, archery teaching starting, Makerspace Club, foods class will be going to Thunder Bay college, Dog sledding in Thunder Bay, basketball starting, French club up and running

9. Student update: Leah Pfeifer – away on sports

10. Next meeting will be March 4, 5-6 pm.

11. Adjourn 6:32pm