

**MINUTES**  
**NORTHLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**LIBRARY – NORTHLEA SCHOOL – 6:30 PM**  
Thursday October 15, 2015

**PRESENT:** David Ehrlich (Principal), Jane Wadden (Vice-Principal), Sophia Danish (Vice-Principle) Alexis DeCastro, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Kara Pearson, Wilmar Kortleever, Nicole Cooper, Angie Novachis, Susan Gray, Janice Clugston, Doug McCormick, Steven Peirce, Heidi Bajcar, Demetri Sophianolpoulos, Frank Chang, Jenn Adziovsky, Kristen Ballard, Jennifer Ego, Roger Guttormson, Jennifer Meyerhoffer, Ed Rich, Tommy Hoffner.

**Guest:** Armi De Francia

**The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.**

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Alexis Decastro, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Kara Pearson**

Welcome to the first Home and School meeting of the year. Please pick up a copy of the agenda, minutes and financials at the back of the room and sign in. please.

**2. MOTION** Susan Gray, seconded by Angie Novachis  
Approval of School Council Agenda CARRIED

**3. MOTION** Doug McCormick, seconded by Susan Gray  
Approval of School Council AGM Minutes, June 15, 2015 CARRIED

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT – Alexis DeCastro, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Kara Pearson**

The Chairs introduced themselves. Explanation on why there are two meetings – Home and School Council and Home and School Association. Board mandates that every school have a Parent Council – dealing with school related issues. The Association then deals with fundraising and allows us to designation where our fund raising dollars are allocated. The groups are intertwined but distinct. The executive oversees both the Council and the Association.

**5. Guest Speaker – Armi De Francia Save Travel Planning Greening Communities**

Armi talked about School travel planning at Northlea. Green Communities Canada – group of associations that work together to create safe travel plans for schools. Since January they have been working with Northlea, Northlea Child Care Centre, Northlea's Home and School Council, Toronto Police, City Counsellor John Burnside, Trustee Gerry Gershon. Reported on the Physical Activity numbers, number of kids walking at Northlea, parent survey which examined the areas of concerns and reasons for driving. Walk about looked at various areas of concern with the community. Progress to date – Northlea youth cycling program, closure of the day care parking lot during peak times, International Walk to school day in October.

Questions: What is a walking group? – What do the volunteers do? Parent volunteer would meet with a bunch of kids and supervisor their walk to school. Organized and pre-planned so that your child meets the group at the corner to walks to school with parent supervision also called a walking school bus. May trial this in the spring, but at this time we need a Parent Champion.

Discussion with respect to reviving the “Golden Shoe” award for class with the most walking students.

Armi’s Presentation:

## **6. ADIMINSTOR’S UPDATE - DAVID EHRLICH**

Biggest thing in the last couple of weeks, Blue Jays.

Labour issue continues, the administration has no further information. Reports cards – do not know anything further with respect to what will be happening with them.

Question: If it were to resolve soon would you revive curriculum night? At this time all curriculum information will come as soon as the labour issue is resolved.

Fundraising – if working on it for Feb/March, is that ok? Initially told to put all fund raising on hold given the administration should not be fundraising. David acknowledged that this school the parents do, the majority of the work, so planning for events after the labour issue is resolved could continue.

Question about what to do if you have any concerns about your child/ren? The direction that the staff have received is that they will be in contact with the parents if the teacher has concerns about the child’s progress, if the child is below standard or struggling. Parents can still reach out if they have any questions/concerns about their child’s progress. You may not get marks but you do have a right to determine how your child is doing.

Community has been very understanding about the labour issue as we have moved along.

CUPE – Still cleaning things, very little concern but some areas with high traffic are becoming more noticeably dirty. No push back from the office staff or caretakers. Is there anything that we as parents can do? Speak to Gerry Gershon. If it does become an issue with respect to safety what happens? Process by public health and then the TDSB would look at the situation regarding school closure.

Any concern if the Day Care’s regulatory body would deem the school not appropriate for the Day Care? Discussed the back up plan to have the day care move to Northlea United Church if the school closed.

Child Care gate – closed in morning and after school – very little concern. Biggest issue is families still stop on the west side of Rumsey. Would like to see the no parking turned into no stopping area.

Yonge Eglinton Program Area Review Team (PART) – on the TDSB web site  
Certain schools are experiencing space crunch issues – capacity over 100%. Some schools are below 100% so what changes can help alleviate the space issues. Change boundaries or possibly move certain grades out of the crowded schools. David has been involved in the possible solutions given we share a boundary with Eglinton School that is experiencing the space issues. Public meeting on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the

PART. Both meetings will be identical. Population is growing between Bathurst and Leslie down the middle to the core. It may end up hitting Northlea eventually. Eglinton and Northlea share a boundary – starting next year, instead of the choice all new students will be going to Northlea, this represents 8 students. Also discussion about broadening the area between Broadway and Eglinton west of Bayview, this would add another 7 JK students that would end up at Northlea. Not a significant issue for this school given these students already have the choice to come to Northlea. Discussion will also come up that we have 3 specialty rooms and thus we have capacity according to the TDSB. Discussion about high schools also ensued. This group should lobby to discuss boundaries and high school options.

Gerry Gerson has coffee mornings coming up.

Break down of the money spent. IXL, lice check

## 7. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

**New people to executive** – Roger Guttormson and Betheney Mahieu, policy advisors related to different regulations. Monika Scholte, extra curricular chair. Angie Novachis, school events.

### **Extra Curricular**

Going well.

FFN –

Potential dates, looking to continue, please contact Sue if you would like to participate. Tossing around ideas. Date will be confirmed once the Administration has determined the date.

### **Communications**

Frank – web builder. More emails these days, with continuous attempts to streamline the process. All information to the communication group before Friday morning so that it can be distributed. Databases were not ready when we started this, now the TDSB can send out this information. The school will receive the home and school email list so that the school can send out information directly.

## 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been set for Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:30pm. Excited to have guest speaker Krista Wylie from the organization Fix Our Schools to present. Lobbying at the municipal, federal and provincial level to secure money to fix schools in our area.

9. **MOTION** Angie Novachis, seconded by Jenn Adziovsky  
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

**MINUTES  
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**The meeting was called to order at 8:02 pm.**

- 1. MOTION** Roger Guttormson, seconded by Sandra Whittaker  
Approval of the H&S Association Agenda CARRIED
  
- 2. MOTION** Sue Gray, seconded by Sandra Whittaker  
Approval of H&S Association AGM Minutes, June 15, 2015 CARRIED

**3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rachel Chernos-Lin**

Jennifer Kolari – talked last year at Leaside High. Will be coming to Northlea on November 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm thanks Parenting Reaching Out Grant.

Buddy Bench – parents have approached the executive about creating a buddy bench – the child would sit on the bench and that would be a signal to other children that they want to play.

Concern about the bench as a hang out place. Due to the darkness on the field there are concerns related to number of older children hanging out at Northlea during evenings and weekends.

Hesitation related to those self-identifying themselves as needing a friend or someone to play with. Discussed the empathy related to buddy bench and the potential to have the bench in the kindergarten space. The Buddy Bench doesn't need to be a new bench but could identify an existing bench.

Admin feels very strongly that if there are kids struggling, that this may isolate them more and nervous about the practicality of it.

Discussed additional lighting to the field. David will bring it forward when discussing logistics related to parking as well.

QSP – fundraiser the magazine fundraiser. In previous years, we would send the books home and have the cheques back to office. This year due to work to rule, we will have only an online version. Questions about online subscriptions.

Burnside Traffic Committee – Kara and Wilmar sit on the committee, there is a survey that is coming out for North Leaside. Looking at possible options. Please fill out the surveys.

Admin team has a Coffee morning on November 4<sup>th</sup> – time to sit and chat with the parents. Town hall type meeting, but specific issues can be discussed. Starting at 9am.

Regulation 20 – Meeting with Kathleen Wynne to discuss Regulation 20. Levee put on developers when new buildings go up. Money would go to board of education to deal

with influx of new students. TDSB cannot collect these funds, as the TDSB is not at full capacity (Board needs to be at capacity for 5 years). Toronto Catholic board is at capacity so they can collect Regulation 20 money, and have used purchase new land for building of a school. Met with Kathleen Wynne, about the possibilities of looking at the Board could be some how be identified as an exception. Capital investment – ties to Fix our Schools. This will be a long process but the conversation has been started. Congratulations to the Executive for starting the conversation.

**4. HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION BUDGET – Angie Novachis**

Very good 2014-2015 year. There was a surplus that has been added to the kindergarten playground. There was \$57,000 allocated to funding proposals and \$4000 to Community disbursements.

**MOTION** Doug McCormick, seconded by Wilmar Kortlever  
To approve September statements

CARRIED

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

New teacher in French stream – numbers warranted it, but the numbers in English are the same why did not for English? The Executive will be writing a letter to the Superintendent to voice concerns and determine why the additional teacher was only added for the French stream. The Admin team asked but were told it was a different divisor and the English stream did not meet the threshold for a new teacher.

Discussion related to grad.

Wilmar has been approached by a parent interested in starting a clothing drive for those in Thorncliffe and will connect them with the Admin team to move forward.

**6. MOTION** Angie Novachis, seconded by Heidi Bajcar  
To adjourn the meeting

CARRIED

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.**