

Minutes
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday January 25, 2012, 6:45 pm, Library

PRESENT – Erica Lewis, Erica Robertson, Kara Pearson-Kane, Julie Brown, Gina Fortsas, Frank Chang, Lynda Debono, Sarah Dawson, Wilmar Kortleeve, Jacqueline Frazer, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Dan Murphy, Melyssa Hollister, Lisa Howarth, Karen James, Christine Spangler Cerutti, Olivier Leung, Chu Hong, Barbara Robson, Jennifer Capes, Kathy Ribeiro, Jeff Little, Becky Jenkins, Harshini Fazl, Lindsay Borden, Taggett Cornish

REGRETS – Sue Thurow, Sue Brookes, Sarah Stevens, Claude Lukawesky

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

1. WELCOME /INTRODUCTION – WILMAR KORTLEEVE

- Wilmar opened the meeting by offering best wishes for the New Year.
- Wilmar acknowledged the passing of Ayesha Sattar in late December. Ayesha was 8 years old and a Grade 3 student in the DD program at Northlea.
- He reported that both the Administration and the H&S Council Executive are working on ideas to memorialize Ayesha. Various ideas are being suggested. If anyone has any input, please let Kathy Ribeiro or Wilmar know.
- Wilmar passed the Correspondence File around.

2. MOTION Gina Fortsas, Julie Brown
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA, JAN. 25, 2012 CARRIED

3. MOTION Rachel Chernos Lin, Lynda DeBono
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES, NOV. 24, 2011 CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVE

- Wilmar noted that he and Sarah Dawson have been very busy on a number of items over the last two months, including advocating for parents and listening to concerns voiced to them about various items around the school.
- He reminded the group that should you have a specific concern, the best procedure is to go to the teacher or the administration first.

5. CRITICAL PATHWAYS, EQAO, IEP SUPPORTS & SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – ADMINISTRATION TEAM

- Kathy introduced the other members of the Leadership Team Jeff Little and Becky Jenkins.
- In addition, there are four Chairs at Northlea: Jennifer Capes (Intermediate Chair), Harshini Fazl (Junior Chair), Taggett Cornish (Primary Chair) and Lindsay Borden (Technology Chair).
- Barbara Robson is the Literacy/Numeracy Team Lead.
- Kathy will report on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) at the end of the staff presentations.

Jeff Little – Primary and Junior Assessment – Grade 3 & Grade 6

- Jeff reminded the group that the EQAO test is just one test or a snapshot of what's happening. What's happening at the school on a daily basis is much more important.
- Grade 3 EQAO results were promising this year and showed an increased over last year.
- He noted that there are two methods to calculate our results: Method 1 includes the results for all kids, even those who don't write the test (counts as a zero). These are the results that are typically reported.
- Method 2 removes results of those who didn't write the test - numbers improve when this is done.
- Grade 6 EQAO results were also better when the results of those who don't write are removed.
- In addition, they unpack the data and look at ways to improve on the results. In general, doing this shows that our kids are normal kids. The areas that they are struggling in are the same areas that all kids struggle with.

- Students in French Immersion write the Math portion of EQAO only in Grade 3. They write the whole test in Grade 6.
 - Kathy reported that Northlea's goal is to encourage all kids to write the test.
 - Our School Improvement Plan targets a 3-5% increase for EQAO results.
- > Lisa Howarth asked if last year's cohort was a deviation from this year's cohort? Could we expect the same results in Grade 6 when this same group writes that year? Jeff replied that we may find this to be the case.

Becky Jenkins – How We Support Our Students – All Students and Those with Special Needs

- Becky passed around a sheet outlining the accommodations that are used to support students during the writing of EQAO.
 - She noted that various accommodations to support students are allowed including changes in the way the assessment is administered or the way the components are administered (e.g. reading the question out loud to the student).
 - There are also tip sheets available to all students.
 - Those students who can't write the EQAO with general or special accommodations would be exempt.
 - The TDSB is committed to lowering the number of exemptions at the school and across the system.
- > Lisa Howarth asked if it's possible to do some special work with those students who are just at the high Level 2 to push them into the Level 3 area. Ms. Robson replied that their goal is to work with kids so that the EQAO questions are not a surprise. This work includes practice on the types of questions found in the EQAO.

- Ms. Cornish told the group that answering these types of questions should become familiar to students – starting in Grade 1.

> Julie Brown noted that those who are able to use assistive technology must be on an IEP and also need to be familiar with keyboarding. This is harder for the younger grades.

> Sarah Dawson asked if students who exhibit the behaviour of needing an IEP but don't have one would be able to access these special provisions. Becky said that those students in general need the IEP, but can be accommodated in certain cases (like transfers, or recent IEP designations).

Ms. Fazl – Junior Literacy Pathway

- Her presentation was designed to show parents how the team works to help students in the Junior Division with things that they are having trouble with.
- For Grade 6s, they found that "inferring and getting the main idea" were two areas in which students were struggling (This finding was based on their Grade 5 CASI results).

Jennifer Capes – Intermediate Pathway

- For the intermediate group, they looked at the data and saw that these kids had a lot of difficulty with "summary". The team worked together to come up with several tools.
- Students were required to do summaries in every class – she noted that it took them a while to figure this out!

Taggett Cornish – Primary Pathway - Kindergarten to Grade 3

- Ms. Cornish told the group that for the Primary Division "writing" was an area of need. In particular, they decided to focus on "descriptive writing".
- The team provided kids with a checklist of items to include in their writing, modified by grade. They found that this was an easy way for kids to measure their success.

Barbara Robson – Family Math Night – March 29th, 7:00 pm – 8:15 pm

- This event will consist of a variety of Math Games set up in stations around the Library and Gym, staffed by teachers and grade 8 students.
- Ms. Robson handed out information flyers to those present and asked them to register. She reported that they've just started to advertise the night.

Kathy Ribeiro - School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- There are 4 areas of focus: Literacy, Numeracy, Community Culture & Caring Schools and Pathways
- Kathy put up a slide showing 7 correlates of effective schools (based on a book): safe and orderly environment; climate of high expectations for success; opportunity to learn and student time on task; home-school relations; instructional leadership; clear and focused mission; and frequent monitoring of student progress.
- Information from a School Self Assessment Tool also goes into the SIP.
- Kathy passed around Sue Thurow's one sheet – a condensed version of Northlea's current SIP.

Numeracy – Math manipulatives are an important part of numeracy.

Pathways – This area focuses on preparing students for high school; Supporting students to achieve success when they go through this transition.

Community Culture & Caring

- The Safe & Caring Schools Committee falls under this area. This committee is made up of staff & parents. They meet 6 times per year with a goal of putting different initiatives and strategies in place to address specific areas of parental concern.
- Also included in this area: PSP, Eco Schools, Eat Smart and our Athletics programs.

6. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – KATHY RIBEIRO

- Kathy showed the group a poster that she received at a meeting with Chris Spence. It was for the TDSB's Award of Excellence which can be given to individuals or groups.
- The TDSB Survey will be coming home soon. This survey is for parents of children in JK to Grade 6. It's two pages long and will be coded for each child. The surveys need to be completed and returned to the school by the end of February. The school does not see them.
- Ayesha Sattar – we are looking at a number of suggestions to memorialize her.
- Childcare during H&S Meetings - Kathy reported that parents will be required to note who is dropping the children off and who is picking them up. This is Childcare Law.
- Safe & Caring Schools Committee will be meeting tomorrow. Kathy noted that a large percentage of Northlea staff is CPR and AED certified.
- We will be getting a gate at the front of the school to prevent kids from going onto Rumsey Rd.

7. CORRESPONDENCE FILE – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

- Wilmar noted that this file includes a letter about a TDSB pilot project to get parents involved in the selection of teachers interested in becoming VPs.
- It also contained a number of other important letters including one about Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, Feb 12–18.
- Wilmar also pointed out that the file contained a letter from Gerri Gershon which included a comment re: overcrowding at local schools to accommodate full-day kindergarten. This issue will be an ongoing conversation over the next year.

8. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

> Sarah asked if our EQAO results still showed gender differences in terms of the results. Jeff said that there were differences in gender, especially in the area of literacy where boys are struggling more. These findings are typical across the Board and they are working on strategies to address this. Their goal is to engage boys at an early age.

Kathy added that the new math manipulatives and the increased technology in the school are also great ways to engage boys early.

MOTION: Rachel Chernos Lin, Gina Fortsas
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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Meeting was called to order at 9:00 pm.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION – WILMAR KORTLEEVER

2. **MOTION** Lynda DeBono, Julie Brown
APPROVAL OF H&S ASSOCIATION AGENDA, JAN. 25, 2012 CARRIED

3. **MOTION** Rachel Chernos Lin, Gina Fortsas
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4. TREASURER’S REPORT – WILMAR K. ON BEHALF OF SUE BROOKES

- Sue Brookes was not able to make the meeting.
- Wilmar told the group that the current report was just a snapshot of where we are today
- The Welcome Back BBQ brought in more funds than expected
- Our reserves will go down to around \$10-\$15K once all funding allocations are made

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fundraising – Lynda DeBono

- **Fundscrip** – This gift card program which includes over 100 retailers is open to all parents, teachers & staff. The program is being run by Kennis Kim and Sharon Kreiger. Reports from those familiar with this program says that it tends to start off a bit slow. So far, Fundscrip has brought in just under \$1000 to the school. Lynda noted that anyone can use the cards as prepaid cards for gas, groceries, etc. The next order date is February 13th.
- **Family Fun Night – March 1** – Gina Fortsas and Erica Robertson have officially launched this year’s FFN. They will be trying to repeat some of the activities/areas from last year and also offer a few new things. Tombolas won’t be offered this year.
- **Art Show** – Lynda thanked Kathy and her team for allowing the teachers to work with their classes on the art for FFN.

6. NEW BUSINESS – WILMAR K.

None to report.

7. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – WILMAR K.

No questions were asked.

8. NEXT MEETING – WILMAR K.

- The next meetings are as follows: Funding Proposals Meeting – the week after March Break; School Model Meeting - Early April; AGM – Early June
- Official dates will be announced soon.

MOTION: Lynda DeBono, Rachel Chernos Lin,
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING CARRIED

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.