

**MINUTES**  
**NORTHLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**LIBRARY – NORTHLEA SCHOOL – 6:45 PM**  
Thursday, May 15, 2014

**PRESENT:** David Ehrlich (Principal), Sophia Danish (Vice-Principal), Jane Wadden (Vice-Principal), Sarah Dawson, Mlle. Larocque (Teacher Rep), Shelly Lowe, Julie Brown, Lynda Debono, Ann Roussos, Michelle Chue, Jeannie Sit, Sue Gray, Gina Fortsas, Jennifer Drynan, Sharon Krieger, Wilmar Kortleever, Doug McCormick, Kelly Nicol, Amy Carter, Ali Hanlon, Stephen Peirce, Sandra Whittaker, Susan Brookes, Monika Scholte, Peter Baugh, Claudine Lukawesky, Rachel Chernos Lin, Diane Clute, Valerie Dubail, Maria Jalloh, Jennifer Manavi, Brenda Burton, Sylvia Franklin, Frank Chang, Alexis De Castro

**REGRETS:** M. Lariviere (Teacher rep), Mr. Harris (Teacher Rep)

**The meeting was called to order at 6:57pm.**

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION: SARAH DAWSON**

Thank you for coming to our meeting this evening. Please sign in on our attendance sheet. As an FYI, there were no changes to the school model that was submitted after our last meeting – it is now approved.

**2. MOTION**

Kelly Nicol, Susan Brookes  
Approval of School Council Agenda

**CARRIED**

**3. MOTION**

Claudine Lukawesky , Stephen Peirce  
Approval of School Council Minutes, April 3, 2014

**CARRIED**

**4. CHAIR'S REPORT: SARAH DAWSON**

- We've spent a lot of time on the school model and fundraising activities. We've contributed as much as we can for this year – it is now up to administration and teachers, to utilize our feedback for appropriate class structures for next year. Please let Sarah know if there are additional items you would like to see covered by School Council before the end of the year.

**5. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE : DAVID EHRLICH**

- Northlea has been a very busy place. The Open House and Spring Concert was great this year. A lot of preparation was done by both students and staff.
- There are a lot of ongoing team and club activities. The Massey Hall performance by the Junior Choir was definitely a highlight.
- EQAO is coming up in a couple of weeks, for both grades 3 and 6. Communications have gone out and we are ensuring children will be prepared for the EQAO.
- Stephen Dow (instructional leader) was in for a PD session with teachers on May 23<sup>rd</sup> – the focus was on linking task to assessment.
- We met with Sarah Frost (Principal at Bessborough), Mike Kennedy (Principal at Rolph Road) and Ann Johnston (Principal at Bennington) regarding best practices in FDK. Some staff visited Maurice Cody to see how they are doing it. An information evening is

planned for parents on June 9. Some key areas that were highlighted: Ensuring things function well at lunch time, entry and dismissal, transitions, etc.

- On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, an Early Years Consultant is coming to spend ½ day with JK and SK teachers, to plan for next year.
- There is no PA day in June, where we typically do planning. Many schools are trying to figure out how to plan for next year. We will have an extra staff meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>, to prepare.
- On May 28, there will be a parent information session on “Anxiety”. Mental health has been a big focus of the board. We have started a Girls grade 7/8 group at Northlea, creating a safe space for them to talk about things they are experiencing.
- Staffing processes continue at the school
- Jane Wadden mentioned that the TDSB has initiated the “Student Climate Survey” for grade 4, 5 and 6. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the kids will fill out an online survey. The Ministry of Education has also put one out for parents of Grade 4, 5 and 6 – information is available on our website.
- We’re getting ready for FDK, working on room 221 – walls have been painted and we will be installing a bathroom. The plan is to finish by end of year, so they can then go into room 224. Everything will be ready for beginning of year. We’re working through space issues.
- NCCC will be the care provider for FDK.
- Wireless installation is happening now in the school, but will take some time. Question regarding why the urgency – all schools are moving towards wireless access for students. Question re whether it gets shut down over the summer to save costs - we will find out. The TDSB wifi landline will be p/w protected. Cost for installation is \$11K. We know it will prompt a discussion in the fall regarding personal devices coming to school – we’ll work through it.

## 6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

### **Safe and Caring Schools – Claudine Lukawesky**

- LRT construction – we’ve been proactive in keeping students safe. Councillor Parker sent a note to Toronto Police Services, that he supports the need for another crossing guard during construction. Please read the school website – there is a lot of pertinent information. Please take the time to educate your neighbours and children. We’ve asked for signs to be made at the West and East ends of the LRT construction. We’re looking for suggestions on the type of signs, so please send your recommendations in. All of our information is online, so please check there.
- As parents, please try not to drive your children to school and if you need to, please use the kiss and ride program. Please be respectful of other people’s property. Reminder that you cannot bring dogs to school.
- As of September 2014, there will be no more school birthday treats brought to school – exception is for Kindergarten. This information will also be available in the September packages.
- Trustee Gershon is having a meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup> – any parent/caregiver from the ward is welcome to join at Leaside High School on Tuesday evening (7:15-9pm) – regarding concerns around LRT construction.

- We could also put more information on our website, or disseminate through class parents, on traffic safety.
- Question: When is the Sunnybrook office opening? June
- Question: Signage was reviewed last year and the city was to make the changes – what has happened with that? We need to follow up on it.
- Question: Child care parking lot – lines were to be repainted and space made for a handicapped parking spot, but don't think it was ever done. We will need to follow up.

**MOTION** Lynda Debono, Sandra Whittaker  
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING

**CARRIED**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.**

**MINUTES  
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.**

Welcome to Mr. Benedict and Ms. Robbins, who are in attendance. The Correspondence file will come out shortly.

1. **MOTION** Sue Gray, Kelly Nicol  
Approval of the H&S Association Agenda CARRIED
  
2. **MOTION** Susan Brookes, Sharon Krieger  
Approval of H&S Association Minutes, April 3, 2014 CARRIED

In the correspondence file is a signed petition and an accompanying original email. We will pass it around for you to read. Sarah Dawson has prepared a response which she will read out loud and will include, with the minutes for this meeting. The petition relates to activities taking place this evening. Mr. Ehrlich has no concerns with our process and he will also be preparing a response to the petition.

**3. FINANCIALS UPDATE: SHARON KRIEGER**

- Date Knight – there was \$10-11K raised. The Amsterdam Brewery and Grill Time stepped up to help us out at the last minute. If we get our deposit back from the original venue, we will potentially raise more money.
- We expect to distribute approximately \$60K this evening.
- Question: How does this compare to other years? It used to be approximately \$20K, and was dispensed by the Home and School Association Executive, but when the amount grew substantially, we started this process of voting.

**MOTION** Wilmar Kortleever, Sandra Whittaker  
To accept the latest statements of revenue and expenses CARRIED

**3. FUNDING PROPOSAL REVIEW AND VOTING: SARAH DAWSON**

- We will go through the proposals, one by one now. Hopefully everyone has had a chance to review the proposals. You will have a chance to ask questions. Once we are done, we will ask the administration team and teachers to leave the room. In the first round of voting, we will rank the proposals in order of highest to lowest “in favour” votes. If any proposal gets a majority “not in favour”, then it will not proceed. In the second round, we will start with the most popular proposals and work our way down until we run out of money. We will also take proposals from the floor, for full or partial funding. \$95,083.12 is the new total amount of proposals. As we’ve already allocated \$20K to the kindergarten playground in previous years, and agreed to finish it this year, we will be putting \$11K out of the \$60K towards it, so we can move forward with installation this year. Therefore, \$48,800.91 is the new amount for allocation.
- IXL memberships – proposal is for 1 + 3 classes. The Home & School Executive asked them to go back to find out how much a school-wide membership would be – it

would be more expensive than this proposal. Mlle. Larocque did a 30-day trial in March - teachers receive reports everyday and the kids really enjoyed it. A personal membership is \$99 per year, so it is much cheaper for the class. Question regarding how much it was used - twice per week, as part of the curriculum. Kids just have to type in their names and their codes. Kids participated 100% every school day. How does it compare with Prodigy? Cannot comment, as not familiar with that product. IXL relates to the curriculum. It is not bilingual, but great reinforcement for Grade 6, as terms are in English. Are these licenses linked to the teachers or the classes? They will be going to the Grade 6 classes.

- Volleyball equipment – Ms. Robbins – for multi-sport equipment net and pole systems. Equipment is very outdated and sports associations state that you must have pads on your poles or you have to alter your program. The new nets are safer and easier to adjust. The proposal is for two, but we really only need one for the north gym. There is a 10 year warranty. It comes with a net, poles, pads and antennas. Why is the TDSB not giving money? Schools are given budgets, but the phys ed budget is not big enough to purchase this. There is a sports group that comes in to use the facilities, and they have been asked to consider buying the second set. Question: Can we limit the teams coming in from using the equipment? They get a permit for a gym, which includes whatever equipment is in that particular gym. Question: Is volleyball an essential module for gym? Yes, there are guidelines for each sport and volleyball is part of that, as are badminton and tennis, which these nets would also be good for. They could also be used for house league next year. It was expressed in the meeting, that if the sports group does not fund the second net, that they not be allowed to use the new equipment.
- Music department – piano accompanist, essential to support choir performances and Kiwanis. Specific Orff instruments are also another proposal. Question: What was the cost for the church rental for the Holiday Concert and what do we do with the money raised at that event? Cannot comment right now. Do we have financials from the music department? No, but we can get that. With Mr Bondy retiring, how will the shape of the music program change? There is strong support in the school and that will not change. Going into next year, there will be some changes to curriculum and what the model looks like. There have been preliminary discussions, looking at what we offer, benefits to the children, time out of school, etc. – we are looking at music (Kiwanis as an example) and other extra-curricular activities. We are also looking at the costs of some of the things we do. The point was made, that if the money is not used for an accompanist, as an example, it would be returned to the Home & School Association.
- Kilometre Club – Every child has the opportunity to have a bracelet and the charms. It is meant to be non-competitive, but promoting an active lifestyle. It helps with the children, socially. Two classes will get the pizza lunch. The proposal funding is returned each year, if we don't need it all. Question: Could kids donate charms back, to be recycled? We don't do that from a sanitary perspective.
- Lunch room table – 3 tables have been replaced over the last 3 years. This proposal is to continue the replacement of these. Question: Are the new caretakers passionate about this proposal? They are all new, so this proposal has been put in on their behalf.
- Lice squad proposal – 3 school-wide lice checks after holiday breaks. Question: Have we asked parents to fund anything? Very few people submit the two dollars and then the difference has to come from the school budget. If we approve this amount, we will shop around to see if there is a cheaper solution. Is there an optimal

- time to do it? Yes, we did it too soon after March break this year, and we will adjust for next year.
- Tech proposal – there is a tech committee in place. It is a very cohesive parent group. Proposal has dropped to \$32K, based on a scaled down version of the plan. It was a 3 year plan targeting different grade levels. The plan TDSB put in place was not enough, so we knew we had to do something. This year, we have an awesome group, focused on what we need to do. We have asked for 32 chrome books that would outfit a cart for the grade 6's (shared between 6 classes). We are also asking for Ipad minis as a tool to teach technology, and for technology to drive curriculum. The board has control over the image. We would like to get 5 for grade 3's. In Year 2, we would go into Grades 4 and 2's, and in year 3, would go into Grade 1 and 5's. We are trying to get these kids prepared for the world that exists. The available technology would get shifted to existing Grade 7/8's (laptops, net books and macs – 40 machines). Kids will also get more hands-on time with the equipment. Does this include training of the teachers? We have specialists in the school and we will do in-house PD with the specialists from within the school. Training would be available to anyone interested during lunch time or in the evenings. We had 12 representatives from Northlea go to a Google camp last week, as an example. The idea is to outfit 1 out of every 4 kids with technology. The plan is really focused on Grades 6 and 3, and will likely be a 4-5 year plan now. There is discussion about what will happen with the lab – nothing has been decided. If we have to use that space as a class, then those computers would likely get set up in Grade 4 and 5 classrooms. Expectations will be very clear, that the teachers need to utilize those computers significantly within their curriculum. It will take time and we may need to start focusing on a few apps. We recognize we need more teachers to support students with assisted-technology, and we have been paying from our school budget to do that. There has been very clear communication that we are moving forward with a collaborative approach, and it is their objective to be fluent with what they are delivering tech-wise. Support will be provided in-house or by bringing someone in, as we are significantly behind other schools. There will also be a program in place next year to train the kids on the assistive technology. Question: When will the teachers be trained on assistive technology? That will happen throughout the year. Question: ipads are more expensive....any thought of just getting computers? Grade 3's need ipads, as they can't type yet. Grades 4 and up will be using chrome books. When we go to schools with best practices, they use ipads with the early grades. Question: Will they be connected to printers? No, not at this point, but you can set up dropboxes. The original 5 ipads are for the teachers – in future, we will look to outfit the kids. Question: Any more purchasing of smartboards? No. Will Grades 7/8 get access? Yes, they will get more than in the past, as the existing technology will move up to them. There will be bumps in the plans...technology will be shared, and there will be things we need to address. Kudos to the team on the technology plan. Question: What has changed in the proposal, that dropped the \$ amount requested? Knowing that money was limited, we re-proposed based on the minimum required, to make the new plan work - 40 ipads, 40 cases and 32 chrome books. \$32,176.80 is the new proposed number. Question: Where are the maintenance cost for the ipads? The board covers the cost if it is board-approved and imaged. If we need the \$200 maintenance coverage, who would pay for it? It is not in the proposal.
  - At this time, there was a motion from the floor (Susan Brookes), to remove the lunch room table proposal, half of the volleyball proposal (as per the discussion) and home theatre proposal, and allow all other proposals to be voted "in favour".

