

October 2020 Northdale School Council Meeting Minutes

The second meeting of the Northdale School Council for the 2020–2021 year was held on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. via Teams.

Attendees: Sean Noon, Ariel Noon, Tricia Friesen, Darla Manship, Christine Kramer, Julie Pulley, Andrea Waters, Penny Nowak, Jose Cabral, Sarah Brunger, Donna

Principal's Report:

1. Welcome back to everyone and welcome to new members. Students and staff are learning routines and schedules.
2. The first month was used to review expectations and the new protocols required, as stated by the Southwest Public Health Unit, with the students.
3. School organization and staffing: Holly Hicks (returning from mat. leave), Gr.1/kindergarten; Jessica Liesemer, Grade 4; Elizabeth Bruce (OT) for interim Grade 4/5; Mike Gyssels, Grade 7/8
4. Facility meeting: Discussed the needs on the playground, including more painted playground games; increase the tarmac area; replace flagpole; additional basketball court; kiss and drop area; additional parking at the front of the school
5. Tech Committee: Discussed current inventory and app needs; needing to increase the number of Chromebooks in the junior and intermediate classrooms; increase the number of iPads for an iPad cart (currently only have 6 iPads which is insufficient for classroom use, increase this by 4 more and replace charging cables); also, new classroom needs 5 Chromebooks; need to replace old ones on the cart as well; many of our devices are out in the community for our Remote Learners
6. School Improvement: Language and math continue to be a focus through our inquiry learning goals. Our school goal for math last year was “Show flexible understanding of numbers through the use of concrete, representational, and abstract models.” Staff will be completing diagnostics on all students so we can measure their growth and the impact of teaching methods. Our School Improvement team is meeting on Thursday to discuss our school goals.
7. Safe Schools Committee: Focus is on being intentional and responsive to student and school community needs. As a staff we are focusing on 1) Safety (emotional and physical). We are leaning into safety from meanness; clear, fair feedback that is shared with kindness and care. Also safety to trust, take risks, and accepting and listening to the ideas of others. 2) Belonging. We are working to continue building a sense of belonging within our school community. It is those connecting experiences and small actions that

communicate that students matter. 3) Positivity. We are looking for the good/strengths/possibilities in our students. Capitalizing on the tiny moments that elicit feelings of love, interest, pride, hope, joy, awe, serenity, amusement, forgiveness, and interest. 4) Identity. We are continuing to build an inclusive and equitable school culture. We will continue the work of building empathy and understanding the impact of our words and actions.

8. Monthly recognition awards. Each classroom will have 2 students selected to receive an award recognizing their STAR qualities. STAR stands for Success Through Academics, taking Responsibility, and Social awareness.

September awards are Being Respectful of Others / Putting Forth a Good Effort

October awards are Showing Good Manners / Being Organized

November awards are Being Positive / Being Prepared

December awards are Being a Good Listener / Being On Time

January awards are Making Good Choices / Being Enthusiastic

February awards are Being Cooperative with Others / Being Persistent

March awards are Showing Neatness / Being Responsible

April awards are Showing Improvement / Being Considerate

May awards are Working Hard / Accepting Others

June awards are Showing Consistency / Being a Good Role Model

9. Virtual Meet the Teacher /Celebration of Learning night will be Thursday, November 5, 2020, from 4:30–6:00pm. Virtual classrooms will be open for exploring. More details to come.

10. Health and Safety: First of three fire drills will be next week. Our severe weather drill and our Code drill will occur in October. Parents are informed through our weekly newsletter.

For safety, exterior doors are locked when students come indoors at the end of each nutrition break except for the ones closest to the portables. Also, we continue to encourage parents to drop off their student(s) outside of the fenced area for student safety. Supervision is provided on the yard from 8:45–9:00am. As well, parents are asked to pick up their student at the designated gate. Supervisors are in safety vests. Parent cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Teacher's Report:

Everyone is getting back in the groove of things and getting into a routine, and they're all happy to be there. The Terry Fox Run will happen Friday, October 9, 2020, by division instead of the whole school. All donations are online this year. Student participation only.

Treasurer's Report:

- Ariel will touch base with Ms. Kramer this week about the treasurer's reports from last year.
- Ms. Kramer notes we fundraised last year for jerseys and music shirts, but then COVID-19 happened. We still have that money in the account.

New Business:

- Ms. Kramer is putting together school council binders for each member containing bylaws, space for agendas/minutes, and other items relevant to school council business. Keep it as long as you're a member of council and then it will be passed on to the next person.
- Update on the nutrition program: Currently filling a basket with snack items once a week; that will continue for the next month. We have applied for a new program where they will supply us with the food for the 4 days/week for each child in exchange for our regular funding during a 2-month trial. If we like it, we can continue to apply.
- Previous School Council activities included staff appreciation lunch, Fall Fest, Woodstock Santa Claus Parade, pizza party (winning class), student nutrition program, Festive Feast, Math night, Family Literacy Night (February) but we can't do any of those things this year.
- Goals for 2020/21 School Council:
 - Ms. Kramer suggests a digital sign for the front of the school – would identify the school, would allow us to communicate with parents/the community. She will look into getting 3 quotes on pricing.
 - How School Council can support math and literacy in the school, especially literacy in the primary students. If we can improve literacy scores in grades 1 and 2 would also help improve math scores.
 - Sean: every 5 books get a handprint to put on the wall; when he was younger the school had a book club (bookmark, certificate, etc.); maybe getting a book for the students (there are still books left from last year's literacy even in the gym storage area).
 - Ms. Kramer: guest readers who would be willing to read a book on video for students; math night with the One-Eyed Jack people (waiting to hear back).

- Sean: masks with the Northdale logo, one for each student (safety/unity). Ms. Kramer can check on pricing for what that would be.
- Tricia: Dallas had an idea, instead of math night we could have parents send in fun math questions and we could make up a booklet to send home to families. Penny: could have a contest (make sure the levels are all over the place); everyone who returns it gets put into a draw, or everyone who suggests a question gets put into a draw.
- Any other suggestions for how to improve parent involvement with the limitations this year?
- Setting this year's meeting schedule. Our bylaws have a minimum of 6. We set the dates for 7 meetings: November 2, December 7, February 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, all at 6:30 p.m., virtually (probably Teams).
- For outdoor gym classes, Ms. Magoffin researched lacrosse sets, 3 sets, around \$360, with taxes and shipping should be under \$500. Motion to spend \$500 for lacrosse: Tricia. Second: Sean. Motion passed.
- Suggestion for class set of snowshoes. Look around for donations?

Meeting adjourned 7:15 p.m.