**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

4th meeting Monday December 2nd 2013

7pm Room 103

**1. Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Jean Wood, parent representative

Laura Holt, parent representative

Chris Alberg, teacher representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher representative

Margaret Albright, parent representative

Patricia Muumba, student representative

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Max Kozlov, student representative

Bev Spencer, community representative, gave her apologies in advance for not being able to attend the meeting.

**2. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting - Monday November 4th, 2013**

The motion was proposed & seconded & the minutes were passed by unanimous vote. These minutes will be posted on the School Council website – action discharged.

**3. Opportunity for public comment**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**4. T2 program**

**4.1 Progress on funding & best practices**

After some initial suggestions from Margaret & extensive discussions, the School Council decided the following foundations seemed best suited to our funding proposal & worthy of further investigation:

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation They fund programs around college programs & the arts & need to be sufficiently interested in you as a prospect in order to ask you to submit a proposal;

Nellie May Foundation Locally based in Quincy they funds programs targeted at k-12 & are big on college readiness;

Barr Foundation An organization that has traditionally focused on educational environmental aspects but a recent change in CEO has them re-assessing their priorities & direction;

The Boston Foundation Primarily focused on charter schools;

Cheryl Forte A Newton resident who is a primary trustee of 2 of her family foundations.

**Actions:** To investigate these organizations & send the findings to Jo for collation & dissemination so that School Council can consider the research at least a week before the next meeting -Jack Kent Cooke Foundation – Lynne; Nellie May Foundation – Sally; Barr Foundation – Jean; The Boston Foundation – Laura.

**Actions:**

Margaret to send the finalized concept paper, when ready, to Cheryl Forte for her consideration & feedback;

Margaret to draw up a list of other individuals who live in Newton who are the executors of a family foundation;

Melissa & Jen to meet with Elaine Sterzin who oversees grants for Newton to see if she has any advice, suggestions or relevant information;

Irene to investigate the funding sources of relevant scholarships offered by local colleges to see if any are suitable for us to pursue.

In brainstorming the proposal School Council identified & discussed additional benefits that have emerged from running the T2 program. For example, a lot of networking is occurring within the various sub-communities represented in the programs population – they are promoting & sharing information they have gleaned from T2 to others in their communities not involved in the program. Those running the program have also witnessed a climate change within the mentees peer group – mentees are seen getting help & advocating for themselves by going to the college & careers center & there is a spill over effect of that kind of behavior seen in their friends not involved in the program. Mentee students & their family are reporting they feel better supported & more connected to the school community. It has also had a positive influence on many mentors who have said T2 has enabled them to see the diversity & breath of the Newton community in a fuller way.

Margaret shared a paper released in June citing the 13 economic facts about social mobility & education that has relevance to this project – the paper can be found as an attachment to these minutes circulated to School Council members only.

**Outstanding action** : Principal intern Kelly Murguia, to arrange a visit to see Brookline’s ‘Steps to Success’ . A program similar to T2 it is specifically for students in public housing & is funded by the Brookline Housing Authority.

**Action:** Jackie to draw up a concept paper based on the meetings discussions to use as a basis for a proposal to seek funding. The concept paper to be distributed to School Council members at least a week before the next meeting.

**4.2 Publicity**

The School Councilextends its thanks to Marsha Kessler, one of our T2 mentors, for sending a letter to the Tab which was recently published highlighting how rewarding she has found being a mentor & urging others to step forward.

Max indicated that whilst it is the policy of the Newtonite not to publish letters they are in the process of writing an article which will feature excerpts from the letter. He anticipates it will appear sometime next week on their website.

**Action:** Max to let School Council know when the article appears on the Newtonite website.

**4.3** **Mentoring recruitment**

Sally & Lynne provided an update on the Nov 19th meeting held to recruit prospective mentors for the T2 program. They reported that the 20 people who showed up to learn more about being a mentor heard from Jen, 2 current mentors & 3 mentee students who all talked about their experiences with the program. Almost all of them were interested in pursuing the opportunity & currently a total of 30 potential mentors have now been identified. Screening calls & interviews will now be taking place to confirm each person’s suitability to being a mentor. Sally & Lynne confirmed mentor training is scheduled to begin in late December/early Jan & Laura is working with Sally & Lynne on this to ensure sustainability for future cohorts.

**4.4 College information sheets**

The collected information sheets were passed around School Council members to view progress to date. It was noted that some form of ranking would be appropriate before passing this information onto the T2 program & NNHS Counseling department.

**Action:** School Council members to complete the investigations of their assigned colleges by contacting admissions officers to determine their offerings of programs to support T2 mentees. Then based upon this information to rank their college as either Tier 1 - having solid programs suitable for our T2 students, Tier 2 - having some programs suitable for our T2 students & Tier 3 – few or no real programs currently available.

**5. Update on the College Process Guide**

**5.1 Translations of the Guide**

Jen reported that the Spanish translation of the guide is now complete & requires editing before it gets posted on the NNHS website. The Korean & Chinese versions are still in the process of being translated & will also require editors when completed.

**Action:** Chris to edit the Spanish translation of the guide.

**5.2 Advertising in 2014/15 edition**

 Jo reported she had spoken to MEFA’s Director of Advertising to discuss the possibility of their placing an advert in the 2014/15 edition of the guide. A letter detailing the opportunity & a copy of the guide has been mailed to MEFA.

**Action:** Jo to follow up with MEFA.

**6. Update on Staff tending idea**

Jo identified that a complete listing of all NNHS staff & faculty has now been compiled by department & that a disc with photos of those personnel has been provided. Now these need to be matched.

**Action:** Jo to continue working on producing the staff photo directory

**7.   Update of PTSO business to School Council – Sally & Lynne**

 Sally & Lynne reported that on Wednesday 4th the PTSO will be hosting a fundraiser event from 6:30-7pm in the cafeteria illustrating the capabilities of Google Chrome books. Thanks to a very generous NNHS family, every dollar contributed to this fundraising initiative will be matched to a total of $20,000 with all funds being used to purchase Chromebooks. Then from 7:30pm there will be an information session for parents & students about how to develop an internship.

**8.  AOB & Next meeting date**

Jen reported that the questions facility established two years ago on the NNHS website is now the responsibility of the SFA. Lynne offered to send Jen information on how to access these questions.

It was agreed to push the action of the communications survey communique to the next meeting.

Margaret Albright officially tendered her resignation with immediate effective as School Council member following her election as the Ward 2 representative for the Newton School Committee. The remaining School Council members took the opportunity to thank Margaret for her service.

The next meeting of the NNHS School Council was changed from Wednesday January 8th to Monday January 6th at 7pm.