**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES**

Monday June 2nd, 2014

10th meeting in room 103

**1. Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Laura Holt, parent representative

Chris Alberg, teacher representative

Jean Wood, parent representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Patricia Muumba, student representative

Bev Spencer, community representative

Irene Golden, student representative

**2.** **Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting – Monday May 5th, 2014**

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**

Other than the 2 successful candidates & the alternate, no additional members of the public attended the meeting.

**4. T2 program**

1. **Update on Senior & Junior cohort – Melissa**

Melissa reported that each T2 cohort had meetings to close out the school year. The senior cohort meeting comprised 2 speakers & a recognition ceremony. Maureen Resnick brought in one of her students, a first generation student from Haiti, who was able to give the T2 mentees her college perspective. And Nancy Brandice, an academic advisor at Middlesex Community College, gave the T2 seniors her insights as to what they might expect in their first year at college. And the last meeting for the T2 junior cohort will address Naviance, what students can do to prepare themselves over the summer & tips for writing their college essays.

Feedback was presented from the initial & final surveys given to the T2 senior mentors – a summary of which was distributed to SC members at the meeting (Attachment 1). Their insights & suggestions have been incorporated into the T2 program.

A measure of the success of the T2 program can be seen in how much progress the whole graduating class is making. For the class of 2012, 86% reported plans to go to a 2 or 4 year college. Without all the responses in from this year’s seniors, it appears that 87% are planning on going to college next year. It is anticipated that this will rise to 88% once all responses are received. And when including those planning a gap year it rises to 90%. The plans of those seniors not attending include joining the military, attending trade school, continuing a post-graduate year or joining the workforce.

Jen indicated that an updated summary of these statistics would be provided at the SC opening meeting in September.

Jeff Zabel raised the idea of presenting T2 information online to help promote the program & enabling those interested in getting involved to gain some insight. For instance, posting the description of the role of a mentor would be very beneficial to those considering volunteering.

1. **Progress on funding**

Jen reported the status of current funding applications: Eastern bank rejected with no reason given & as yet no response has been received to the letters sent out to the local family foundations. She indicated there is an allocation of 0.2 FTE in the budget to hire someone to run the T2 program – hiring will take place over the summer. She also said she is pursuing other potential external options for funding which are in the early stages.

SC members were asked to spend time over the summer brainstorming other possible avenues for funding that could be explored & to present any ideas at the opening meeting in September.

1. **Update & distribution of T2 White Paper**

Once updated & final numbers from the senior cohort are available the T2 white paper will need to be update.

1. **Completion of college information sheets**

Those who had not yet completed or sent their college information sheets were asked to send them to Jo so that she could prepare them into a pdf document & send to Melissa for use in the college & careers center.

1. **Distribution plan for College Planning Guide for Fall 2014 - All SC members**

Melissa reported that for the coming school year the Counseling Department have decided to distribute the guide to sophomores at sophomore seminars held in February. Printed copies of the guide will also be available for a donation at Back to School Night in October. The PTSO will let SC know how it can help with the distribution for both events.

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

The PTSO Presidents reported that Celebration, the after Prom party held at Newton North, was a success, as was the Retirement tea to honor staff & retiring teachers. The

EdEx campaign has begun with the goal to raise $20,000 to establish a multi-year fund that will support social-emotional health and cultural awareness programs for the next four to five years.

The one school one book selection sponsored by the Special Education Department is “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” by Jonathan Safran Foer. The book will be sold to graduating 8th graders & at NNHS before the end of the summer term.

**6.  AOB & Business for 2014/15**

The calendar of School Council meetings for 2014/15 was outlined.

Typically School Council spends much of the opening meeting of the school year discussing ideas from which it chooses the project to work on. Members were asked to spend time over the summer considering suitable ideas. Jen Price indicated she might email to members a wish list of topics for consideration but stressed that topics should be something the school doesn’t have the resources to address & are related to the School Improvement Plan. The current SIP is identified on the School Council website under ‘Deliverables’.

And finally, the School Council expressed its thanks for their service to members Jackie Gelb & Patricia Muumba who have completed their terms. Thanks were also expressed to Lynne LeBlanc, retiring PTSO President, who would therefore no longer serve on the School Council.