**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

4th meeting 7am Wednesday, January 9th 2013

Cafeteria then Room 103

This is the first joint meeting of the year between the SC & the SFA – Student, Faculty & Administration Board – that took place from 7am to 7:30am. Afterwards the SC resumed its meeting agenda in room 103.

**1. Attendance of School Council Members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher representative

Chris Alberg, teacher representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Margaret Albright, parent representative

Ellen Gibson, parent representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Apologises were received in advance from Bev Spencer & Andrea Steenstrup.

Jackie Gelb was not present at the meeting.

Jen Price introduced Melissa Hanenberger, a new teacher representative to the School Council. Melissa works part time in Newton North’s College and Counseling center.

Members of SFA & SC introduced themselves to each other.

**2. Acceptance of minutes from last meeting – December 3rd, 2012**

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

**3. Opportunity for public comment**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**4. Joint Discussion between School Council & the SFA Board**

Jen Price introduced the draft of Newton North’s School Improvement Plan, which identifies the goal of the current SC project, background information, selected improvements strategies and deliverable outcomes anticipated for 2012/13 & 2013/14. Members of the SC task groups provided a brief overview & update on the various improvement strategies currently being addressed. A more complete update is provided under section 5 of these minutes.

It was suggested that the words describing the goal of the SIP be changed to “ensure equal access for all students and families to the *post-secondary planning process*”.

The motion to pass the SIP with this text correction was proposed and seconded by unanimous vote. The SIP will be posted on the School Council website - discharged.

Mark Wadness, SFA member, identified that Newton Community Education is considering offering a course identifying the college application process. It was agreed this would be another excellent outreach opportunity to reach families in need of assistance in planning for the college process and should be considered by the SC.

**5. Progress report on outstanding/ongoing SC actions**

**5.1 Documentation group - Sonya, Irene & Chris**

The group provided an update of the first meeting. The notes of the meeting, previously provided to members of the SC, provide an assessment of currently available resources and materials, updates & additional resources to consider. Jo Doherty is to join this group. Jo Doherty to send Claudia Wu the summary of resources considered so far by the SC - discharged. The next documentation meeting is to take place 01/31/13 at 12:30pm – Jo Doherty to attend.

**5.2 Data**

**5.2.1. Student Tracker software program – Anthony Oliver & Bev Spencer**

The data has now been received from the National Clearing House & will be distributed to SC members once it has been checked by Anthony Oliver. Jo Doherty to send Anthony a copy of the results & questions of 2012 senior survey in order to compare results with the tracker results in order to ascertain whether NNHS’s senior survey requires any refinement or augmentation - discharged.

Andrea Steenstrup had indicated prior to the meeting she wished to join this group.

**5.2.2. Senior student survey – Ellen Gibson, Jo Doherty, Jackie Gelb & Sonya Jampel**

The group reported a meeting had taken place between Jo Doherty & college advisor Brad MacGowan who has responsibility for the survey. The meeting, notes of which will be provided to SC members, confirmed any amendments or additional questions need to be identified to Brad by the end of March to be reflected in the senior survey given to the Class seniors of 2013.

**5.3 Pilot Program – Sally Brickell, Lynne LeBlanc, Ellen Gibson & Jackie Gelb**

This group provided an update on their initial meeting progress, notes of which were previously given to all SC members. The group identified it will continue to work with Sarah Hoffman, one of NNHS’s college advisors. SC members were asked to read these notes & identify any ways in which other task groups can interface & offer information to this initiative. An action was given to this group to contact Newton Community Education regarding their interest in offering a course in college process.

It was also mentioned that we should have the means to collect names of those parents who have institutional knowledge of the college applications process & who are interested in future mentoring.

**5.4 Resources – Margaret Albright, Lynne LeBlanc & Jo Doherty**

Margaret Albright & Jo Doherty agreed to review the summary of resources so far identified by the SC to see if any should be further investigated as a resource for future use by NNHS.

**6. AOB and Date of Next Meeting**

Jen Price reported that Matt Malone the new Massachusetts Secretary of State for Education & NNHS alumni is to spend the day of his inauguration, January 14th, at NNHS. He is very interested in the work Jen Price & NNHS has been doing on the narrowing of achievement gap. Mr. Malone will be given a series of presentations on these efforts and those of the SC followed by a tour of the high school.

The next meeting is Monday February 4th, 2013 at 7pm in room 103.