**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL - MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7:00-7:45, International Café**

Attendance:

School Council members present were Karen Cutone, Marcia Tabenkian, Sally Brickell, Valerie Pontiff, Jessie Gilmartin, Dani Johnson, Nancy Decoteau, Derek Krantz, Nathan Persampieri, Alex Katz. There were many members of SFA present but I do not have a complete list.

The meeting focused on the two groups sharing information on their initiatives for the 2018/19 School Year and discussed possible overlaps and ways to support each other.

The SFA co-presidents discussed their two main initiatives for the year that they have established subcommittees to manage. The topics are Recycling and Outreach.

Regarding Recycling, they are mostly focusing on education of students and teachers at this point, learning the process and rules for recycling, researching best practices at other schools and having discussions with the custodial staff about improving recycling. Areas where School Council can assist are:

Jessie Gilmartin mentioned that a similar initiative is underway at Bigelow Middle School. She will be in contact with SFA to provide information on the Bigelow program and connect them with the representative in charge there. I will connect Jessie directly with Alicia Carrillo to coordinate.

School Council recommended that SFA review the waste management contracts the NPS has in place now to determine the obligations on the part of our service providers. Also, there may be a way to involve them in stepping up the recycling and improve education and signage at the school. There may also be provisions in the contracts to offload costs to our providers. School Council can help review the contracts if SFA wants the support.

Regarding Outreach, SFA is trying to raise awareness and interest by the student population in SFA to boost student involvement. They reviewed the various ways they are going about this.

Since SFA meets weekly, before school, we thought that some of the School Council Student representatives could attend the SFA meetings once a month (or so) to share information, help boost awareness and coordinate complementary activities. I will send a list of the student representatives to Derek Krantz to coordinate with the SC student representatives.

A couple of other topics, such as student mental health support and accessibility for people with disabilities was brought up and can be discussed when the students from the two groups meet.