**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL - MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 1, 2018, 6:30-8:00, Rm 103**

1. **Meeting Attendees**

Henry Turner, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Karen Cutone, Parent Representative & Co-Chair

Sally Brickell, PTSO Representative

Jeanne White, Community Representative

Dani Johnson, Faculty Represetative

Boden Pollack, Student Representative

Zoe Kronberg, Student Representative

Derek Krantz, Student Representative

Debbie Dashoff, Parent Representative

Jessica Gilmartin, Parent Representative

Rachel McCarthy, Parent Representative

**Not in Attendance**

Valerie Pontiff, Nancy Decoteau, Star Lew, Kathryn Teissier Du Cros, Alicia Matos, Marcia Tabenken, Nathan Persampieri, Ally Appel, Cristian Gaines

**2. Acceptance of Minutes**

**3. PTSO Update**

Sally provided an update on the PTSO initiatives since the start of the school year including a database update, dues collection, the scheduled College Nights and College Guide sales.

The Ed Ex Campaign for this year will fund Bio Tech Equipment and a Guidance waiting area spruce up. They have a Parents Coffee planned and may add events around Prevention Topics.

The PTSO has added several board positions this year and is busy filling those slots.

**4. Traffic Update**

Sally provided and update. In response to the letter sent by the NNSC in May 2018 as subset of our group met with City Councilors at the end of last school year to review our concerns. We may request a follow up meeting with the City for a status update. Some of the students on the SC noted that parking concerns exist among the student population.

**5. Principals Update**

**A. New School Schedule Update** - Principal Turner provided an update on the proposed new school schedule evaluation process. It’s possible that Newton North and South will not implement any approved schedule changes until 2020 so this may impact the timing of the scheduled School Committee vote in December. A survey will be sent to parents in the fall and student focus groups will also be held in the fall to get feedback on the proposals. The attendees then discussed:

Flex block (during the day) vs. x block after school

How Social and Emotional learning impacting schedule

The need to study of passing time and length of blocks

**B. Summer FOIA Requests -** Principal Turner updated the group on the issues related to recent publicity surrounding how Newton teaches its history curriculum and the American for Peace and Tolerance freedom of information act requests. He spoke to the issues related to their summer targeting of 2 teachers. SC Students noted that they have had positive experiences with teachers in this dept. SC members asked how Newton will be proactive on this front rather than reactive to this group? Who is protecting the school system? Has the School Committee engaged legal council to protect the school system. Principal expects this to be an ongoing issue for the school.

**C. Role of School Council and Discussion Topics for the Year** – Principal Turner presented a diagram noting the 3 major structural issues facing the school this year (1 to 1, digital MCAS, New HS Schedule) and the soft topics that the school would like to address this year in its School Improvement Plan. These topics are in support of the new visual depiction of school mission statement to placed outside the international café. This work will focus on building skills vs. content driven goals. We would like the School Council work this year to be in support of these goals. We presented a rough outline of discussion topics for the 7 remaining meetings this year that primarily address the structural topics noted above and asked the SC members to propose additional topics that they would like to work on as a group that are in support of these goals. Please reach out to Principal Turner or Karen with proposed agenda topics or bring them to the next meeting

**6. 1:1 Chromebook Discussion**

Principal Turner presented the results of the 1:1 pilot program from last school year and some of the supporting data for a 1:1 role out throughout the school. Given the positive feedback from the pilot NN will be providing chromebooks to all sophomores in February. If this expanded pilot goes as well as the previous test, NN will provide chromebooks to the entire student body within 3 to 4 years. The group discussed the pros, cons and issues as well as the potential for School Council to help provide community feedback of the initiative.