**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

5th meeting Monday January 6th , 2014

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

Bev Spencer, community representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher representative

Patricia Muumba, student representative

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Max Kozlov, student representative

**2. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting - Monday December 2nd, 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**

**Draft concept funding paper**

The School Council spent a good portion of the meeting discussing the draft concept paper prepared by Jackie Gelf, which is to be used as the basis upon which to seek funding for the **T2** program. It was unanimously decided not to release the concept paper until it has been finalized & agreed by the School Council.

**Action:** Jen Price to make final edits on the draft concept paper & to release it to School Council members.

**Review of contacts with Foundations**

Barr Foundation – Jean reported the contact was away on vacation & she will reconnect.

The Boston Foundation - Laura reported a meeting is scheduled with the Education specialist.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation - Lynne reported this action is ongoing.

Nellie May Foundation - Sally reported this action is ongoing.

**Action:** These actions are ongoing & individuals will report back to SC with any relevant information. The concept paper once finalized can be used to get feedback from foundations & also as means to support our funding requests.

**Funding Sources of Scholarships offered by local colleges**

Irene reported she found 2 possibilities:

(i) The Urban Massachusetts Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (UMLSAMP) grant program - offered by UMASS Lowell & UMASS Boston. It is funded by the National Science Foundation, raising the possibility that perhaps there are national or local education funds we could turn to.

(ii) FUEL - Families United in Educational Leadership <http://fueleducation.org/>

This is an organization that is devoted to helping low income & first generation students go to college. It offers workshops on the college process & partners with universities such as UMass Lowell & UMass Boston to create scholarships for FUEL students. Funding source is unknown at this point & perhaps worthy of further investigation.

**Update of meeting with Elaine Sterzin, Newton Public Schools**

**Action:** Jen reported that she & Melissa have yet to meet but will arrange to do so. In addition, they will ask her to comment upon the concept funding paper.

**Other funding sources**

Laura mentioned the Schott Foundation & Lumina Foundation for Education.

**Action:** Jo to follow up with Margaret to obtain list of individual Newton benefactors.

**Review of visit to Brookline’s “Steps to Success” program**

Melissa reported that she, Jen, Vice Principal Midge Connolly, Principal intern Kelly Murguia, Radka Grein & Sarah Hoffman visited this program & met with its Executive Director & 2 program advisors. “Steps to Success” has been operating for 13 yrs, is established in its own space in a previously used administration building on the campus of the Brookline High School.

The Program has one advisor per grade & works with eligible students through the college application process during school time. It does not involve any type of mentorship. There is a full time person who maintains contact with all graduates while they are at college to ensure they graduate. This person visits students & helps them with any issues such as reminds/helps them complete the application for financial aid (FAFSA)which it is necessary to complete each year.

Eligible students are those who live in one of Brookline’s 4 housing developments, which qualify them as low-income. Unlike Newton, where the equivalent section 8 housing is dispersed throughout the city, Brookline students are concentrated in these housing developments & so students are more easily identifiable. Indeed programs at the elementary & middle school level are actually run within these developments.

The program was established from an originally grant written by a math teacher that is now at NNHS & is funded by multiple donors, both individuals & foundations. Funding for these staff operates outside of the school system & they are paid at the rate of school aides & not teachers.

**Mentoring recruitment**

Sally & Lynne reported that 28 people have now been screened. Training will begin later this week & it’s anticipated that mentors will be matched the following week. To date 7 students have submitted their applications from the 43 students who have been identified as eligible. Staff is working with the remaining students to turn in their applications on time.

It is anticipated that junior parent night on January 22nd will be the kick off session for this cohort when mentors & mentees meet.

**College information sheets**

Based on a recommendation from Laura, Melissa obtained a book titled “2014 ‘I’m First’ guide to College”. Melissa indicated it would be a good resource for both mentors & mentees in the **T2** program but it doesn’t mitigate the need for the College Information sheets, as the book does not refer to any schools in Massachusetts. Laura also mentioned a resource called ‘College Greenlight’ which lists public colleges with expertise in handling 1st generational students.

**Action:** School Council members were requested to complete the assessments of the colleges assigned to them with regard to programs relevant to 1st generational & low-income students. It was reiterated that contact in some form (email or phone) should be made with the college admissions office to ensure the information collected is complete. Contact details for admissions officers can be found on Naviance , which SC members can assess as a guest. Please contact Jo Doherty if you have any problem doing this. And then to rank assigned colleges in following manner: Tier 1 – has solid programs suitable for our **T2** students; Tier 2 – has some programs suitable for our **T2** students; Tier 3 – currently has few or no real programs available.

**5. Update - College Planning Guide**

**Progress of translation**

Jen reported that the guide has now been translated into Chinese – Catonese & Mandarin - & will be put on the NNHS website by sophomore parent night on January 16th. The guide is currently being edited in Spanish by the NNHS World Language department. And the Korean edition is in it’s final stages & may also be up on the website by January 16th.

Jen indicated she would like to say thank you to all those that worked on the guide – writers & translators – by hosting a breakfast at Tiger loft on Tuesday January 28th at 8am. All School Council members are invited.

**Advertising in 2014/15 edition**

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

**6. Update on Staff tending ideas**

Jo reported a directory of all NNHS faculty & staff has been compiled. She also now has a disc of most faculty photographs which now need to be identified & imported into the pdf to then assess which staff photos are missing.

**Action:** Jo to identify staff photographs to names, import into the pdf & identify which staff photos are missing.

**7.   Update of PTSO business to School Council**

PTSO Presidents Sally & Lynne reported the Chrome book challenge, now over, raised $14,000. Upcoming event of specific note is the 4th Just think: Teens Making Smart Choices Expo on January 22nd from 5pm to 7:30pm. This is specifically held on the same evening, just a little earlier, as the Junior Parents Night to encourage more attendance. Sally & Lynne requested support from SC members to spread the word about this event.

In addition, on February 6th there is a Superintendent coffee held from 8am to 9am in the International Café at NNHS.

**8.  AOB & Next meeting date**

**Communications survey communiqué.**

**Action:** To produce a communiqué identifying the outcomes of the communication survey conducted during school year 2011/12, & the communication changes made as a result. This action is ongoing – Jen Price.

**Admitster**

Jen reported that NNHS has been working with Newton resident Ronald Reubin (sp. ?) who has developed a program called Admitster which aims to give a student their realistic & accurate probability of getting into a specific college or university. The assessment is based on an extensive profile of both academic & non-academic qualifications & interests entered by the student & regression analysis of actual admissions data from colleges & over 5000 actual student applications. NNHS is the only school in the country to be working with the developer & this tool will be introduced at junior parents night on January 22nd. As part of its working relationship with the developer juniors will be able to use this tool free of charge.

The next meeting of the NNHS School Council is on Monday Febuary 3rd at 7pm.