**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES**

7TH Meeting Wednesday March 5th, 2014

7am –7:45am School Council met with the SFA – no minutes taken.

7:45am to 8:30am School Council to continue meeting in room 103

Minutes below are for the second session only.

**1. Attendees of School Council members**

Laura Holt, parent representative

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Jo Doherty, parent representative & co-chair

Apologises from Bev Spencer, Jean Wood & Chris Alberg who were unable to attend & from student representatives who were able to attend the first part of the meeting only.

**2. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting - Monday February 3rd, 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**

There were no members of the public present at this meeting.

**4. T2 program**

**Update on Junior cohort – Melissa**

This cohort is now established at 30 students & 28 mentors – 2 mentors are each working with siblings. A new T2 requirement for this cohort was to require students to complete an application demonstrating their interest in the program. And, despite initial concerns of finding sufficient mentors, a number of promotional outlets (as the article in The Tab, word of mouth, existing mentors & Tiger News) seem to have encouraged sufficient numbers of mentors to volunteer.

The first T2 meeting of this cohort was held immediately before junior parent night. Attendance was good especially considering the original date had been bumped due to a snow day. Only 6 students weren’t able to come, however all 6 identified this ahead of time & all mentors attended. By now all mentors & students have met each other. Mentors are encouraging the mentees to make appointments with the college counselors so that they have additional support in their college searches.

A visit to Northeastern is being planned for about 20 of the students, their families & mentors. In addition, on March 27th speaker Todd Weaver will lead a presentation on financial aid to the cohort.

Laura confirmed that, as requested, she has put together a packet of information relating to the screening & training of mentors, including a timeline of events, which she has given to Kelly Murguia, Principal intern.

**Discussion of Foundation funding possibilities**

Melissa reported the mentors of Juniors have been given the concept paper to read & informed of the need for funding for T2 in case they know of any opportunities. A meeting is being set up with someone introduced by a current mentor who is possibly interested in providing some type of support for NNHS T2 students who go to college.

At the last meeting a working group reviewed the provided list of Newton based foundations & selected 6 that were thought to be suitable to approach for funding. Jackie agreed to make contact with these organizations & submit the concept funding paper & introductory letter also finalized at the last meeting.

It was felt that another T2 Newsletter should be produced to include the following:

* An update on the Junior & Senior cohort program;
* Information on the number of college applications, offers & acceptances received by the senior mentee group as a whole;
* Student testimonials from 6 students describing what an impact T2 has had on them. Might also be powerful to include mentor testimonials also.

This update newsletter could then be sent out as a follow up to the foundations we have sent funding applications to.

**Action:** Jackie to submit an application for T2 funding to the following foundations …… *(Jackie to provide the names of the 6 foundations)*.

**Action**: Ascertain from Elaine Sterzin when School Council is likely to hear about our funding proposal submission to Eastern Bank & Bank of America – **Laura**.

**Action:** **Jackie** to investigate TripAdvisor, a local company based in Newton, as viable funding source.

**Action:** **Jo** to ask **Kelly Murguia**, Principal intern to produce another T2 Newsletter that would be available before spring break in April.

**Actions outstanding**: **Jean** (Barr Foundation), **Sally** (Nellie May Foundation) &

**Lynne** (Jack Kent Cooke Foundation) to decide whether the School Council should submit a funding application to these foundations. If yes, for them to identify what needs to be submitted beyond the concept paper & the covering letter & to whom . **Please report back at the next SC meeting in April.**

**Action: Laura** to verify with Elaine Sterzin whether funding applications to foundations should all go through her & update School Council members of the outcome. If yes then Laura to advise Elaine we want to submit a funding application to The Boston Foundation & to provide the necessary information in the correct format required. If not, then Laura to submit the application.

**Completion of college information sheets**

To date only Jean has completed, verified & submitted the information sheets for her assigned colleges. While other SC members have collated information pertaining to their assigned colleges, this information to be confirmed with direct contact to each admissions office to (1) verify the information you have gleaned from their website & (2) whether the school offers any other programs suitable for these students.

Don’t forget that Naviance lists the admission officer for each college that handles this area. FYI Three strikes & you’re done - if you’ve tried 3 times to contact this person/admissions office & had no luck then please state that on your form & send it to me. Then please rank the college based on the information you have collected as a Tier 1 (has solid programs suitable for our T2 students), Tier 2 (has some suitable programs) or Tier 3 (few or no real programs).

These sheets need to be completed by the next meeting so that we can pass this information onto the T2 mentors & college counseling department.

**Action:** To finalise these information sheets on college offerings for T2 students by contacting admissions office directly.

**5. Update on Staff tending ideas**

Jo provided an update on the progress of the staff photo directory. After going through the staff & faculty listing & matching names with the available photographs there are still some 60 staff photographs that we need.

**Action:** **Jo** to connect with Lisa Mazzola to figure out whom she needs to approach in NPS to get these photographs.

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

Sally provided an update on recent & upcoming PTSO events. Cabot ice cream provided ice cream for teachers on February 27th. & the PTSO recently hosted a coffee with David Fleischman, Newton Superintendent of Schools for interested parents/guardians. Feedback indicated the recent PTSO workshop on how to help your child get the most out of their high school years was well received. Tomorrow evening is the annual open house for current Newton 8th graders & their parents for an informational tour of NNHS. And next Wednesday March 12th from 8:30am – 9am they will host a session called ‘Spotlight on the English department’.

**7.  AOB & Next meeting date**

Jo reminded the PTSO that School Council elections will need to be held this spring to advertise & fill the 2 vacant seats starting September 2014. These vacated seats will exist because of Margaret Albright’s resignation due to being elected to the Newton School Committee & Jackie Gelb whose term is up on July 2014.

The next meeting of the NNHS School Council is on Monday April 7th at 7pm.