**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

Monday May 5th, 2014

9th meeting in room 103

**1.** **Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Melissa Hanenberger, teacher representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Laura Holt, parent representative

Chris Alberg, teacher representative

Jean Wood, parent representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Patricia Muumba, student representative

Bev Spencer, community representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Apologises were received in advance of the meeting from student representative member Max Kozlov who was unable to attend the meeting.

The School Council welcomed to the meeting the following candidates standing at the spring elections for the 2 available parent representative positions - Eric Bosco, Kathy Baron, Chris Banks, Chris Smith, Kathleen Kusiak & Jeff Zabel. On behalf of all School Council members, Jo Doherty thanked the candidates for standing & referred them to review the by laws on the School Council website. She also reminded them that the 2 successful candidates are expected to attend the final SC meeting of the year on Monday, June 2nd.

**2. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting – Monday April 7th, 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**

Other than the candidates standing for the upcoming School Council elections no members of the public attended this meeting.

**4. T2 program**

1. **Update on Senior & Junior cohort - Melissa**

Melissa gave a presentation of the T2 program which provided an overview of the history of this multi-phase School Council initiative to address the 16% of the NNHS student population who in 2012 graduated without any plans to move into further education. The program began in May 2013 with 13 students from the Class of 2014. Students were referred to T2 by either their guidance counselors, teachers, principal or housemaster. Each referred junior was matched with an adult mentor from the larger Newton North community. As of February 28th, 100% of the Class of 2014 T2 students had applied to college with an average number of 8.5 college applications per student. As of April 11th, 100% of the Class of 2014 T2 students had been accepted into at least one college. This would not have happened without the implementation of this mentoring program.

The program was recently expanded when the next cohort of 30 students from the Class of 2015 was launched. In this cohort, 83% (25 mentees) are the first generation in their family to attend college in the US**,** 55% (16 mentees) live with a single parent or guardian, 13% (4 mentees) live with someone other than either of their biological parents and63% (19 mentees) receive Free or Reduced Lunch.

Jen Price reported she thought approximately 10% of any NNHS senior class could benefit from this program remarking that such a potential large number of mentees provides funding as well as logistical challenges. Major benefits of the T2 program have been the completion of the College Planning Guide by the Counseling Department, now available to all NNHS students & their families, & a better understanding of the diversity of the NNHS community in terms of its cultural, socio-economic & ethnic mix.

One of the candidates asked whether the T2 program was able to follow students through their college experience. Jen Price acknowledged the desire & importance of being able to do this but at this stage funding for the T2 program limits what can be tackled. She made reference to Brookline’s “Steps to success” program which has funding for a full time person who tracks students as they go through their college experience helping them with a variety of aspects, including assisting them each year to complete their FAFSA forms. It was suggested an inexpensive means of providing some support to T2 alumni could be to locate NNHS alumni that have or are attending those colleges that our T2 seniors are attending & put them in contact with one another.

The meeting discussed the lessons learned from the first cohort, which have then been used to update the T2 program. The Junior cohort has & will start earlier in the school year & students wishing to participate must compete an application, established to generate a higher level of commitment from the mentees. The increasing importance of the role of financial aid has been recognized & is being introduced as a topic for discussion at a much earlier stage in the program. The college & career center has also found itself to be busier than ever – in Jan/Feb it was at its busiest ever believed to result from mentees recommending it to their peers & the availability of the College Planning Guide.

And critical to the successful outcomes of the students is the relationship they have with their mentor. Jen confirmed that she will pitch the mentoring opportunities at the senior parent night taking place later this month.

Melissa passed out to members the latest edition of the T2 newsletter produced by Kelly Murguia.

1. **Progress on sending out funding possibilities applications – Jackie & Jen**

Jen informed the meeting that the SC funding proposal to Bank of America grant was not successful & that at this stage no information is yet available about the funding proposal sent to Eastern Bank.

She did announce there is a .2 FTE for the T2 program in the NNHS budget for 2014/15. While this will help the program additional sources of funding are still needed. To facilitate any further discussions with the foundations to whom we have sent our T2 funding proposal the White paper the School Council prepared needs to be updated with information from the T2 senior cohort.

**Ongoing action** - Jen Price to confirm the status of the funding requests to be sent to the 21 foundations identified as possible local funding sources.

**Action:** Jen to update the SC funding T2 White Paper with information from the senior cohort.

**Ongoing action:** To report on the viability of these entities as a viable funding source for T2 – **Lynne** on the Jack Kent Cooke foundation & **Jackie** for TripAdvisor.

**(iii) Completion of college information sheets – Laura, Lynne, Jo, Bev, Patricia, Chris, Max, & Sonya**

Completed information sheets assigned with ranking are still outstanding from Laura, Lynne, Jo, Bev, Patricia, Chris, Max, & Sonya. These information sheets are required to be completed & sent to Jo Doherty prior to the final SC meeting of the year.

**Ongoing action -** **Completion of college information sheets with rankings – Laura, Lynne, Jo, Bev, Patricia, Chris, Max, & Sonya**

**5.   Update of PTSO business to School Council including School Council elections – Sally & Lynne**

Sally & Lynne reported the success of Operation Bold Paint which runs under the banner of Newton Serves & which again enabled a large number of classrooms to be painted. They also made reference to the ongoing SC elections for the 2 parent representative seats available this Fall. A total of 9 candidates are standing in these elections. The PTSO Presidents reported the EdEx campaign is due to start soon & this year the focus will be to raise money to provide mental health programs supporting students.

Celebration, the traditional after Prom party, needs volunteers & donations to make the event a success. There are still some 160 volunteer slots available.

And finally Lynne & Sally identified the next PTSO meeting will be held on May 16th at 7:30am.

**6.  AOB & Next meeting date - Monday June 2nd at 7pm**

Discussions at the last SC meeting concerned the elections & establishing the role of an alternate. Jo Doherty reported the proposal to amendment the SC by laws was successfully passed with an email of 12 of 14 members in favour of the motion. This yes vote satisfies by law requirement of a vote yielding 75% of attending voting members in order to change SC by laws. By laws have now been changed to reflect the vote.

Jen reported that she has just returned from a visit to a NNHS sister school. Haileybury is a private k-12 school in Melbourne, Australia with whom NNHS has a reciprocal fine arts exchange program. This is NNHS’s 6th sister school, including Beijing, Paris, Florence & Mexico & Jen is the first sitting NNHS Principal to have visited them all. Jen also reported that Newton Public Schools has recently established a staff position to oversee & manage such global NPS relationships.

Melissa reported that the working group work is continuing its progress in making the necessary updates & revisions to the College Planning Guide, which will require translating. There is a considerable amount of revision needed to reflect changes in things like standardized testing & providing more details in the chapter about Students with Special Circumstances.

The final SC meeting of the academic year will take place on Monday June 2nd at 7:30pm.