**Minutes School Council Meeting – Minutes**

8th meeting Monday April 6th, 2015, 7pm

1. **Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Jeff Zabel, parent representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Jean Wood, parent representative

Irene Wu, student representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Laura Holt, parent representative

Kathy Baron, parent representative

Chris Banks, alternate parent representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Max Koslov, student representative

Bev Spencer, community representative.

Apologies were received in advance from Amy MacMahon. Rex Clarke was not in attendance.

1. **Acceptance of minutes from last meeting – March 4th, 2015**

The minutes of the last meeting were amended to reflect the attendance of parent representative Laura Holt. The motion was then proposed & seconded & the minutes were passed by unanimous vote. These minutes will be posted on the School Council website – action discharged.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No member of the public attended the meeting.

1. **Growth Mindset (GM) Events**

**(i) Book Club discussion March 24th – feedback – Jo**

Jo summarized the response to the event as very positive. Approximately 50 people attended generating an insightful discussion & participants were very grateful of the perspectives students & teachers offered. Of the feedback forms completed, all found the event to be worthwhile. Many requested that further sessions focus on concrete ways GM ideals can be incorporated into daily lives, the specific ways NPS is incorporating GM & the approaches of teachers & also the involvement of extra-curricular activities, with specific emphasis on coaches. This feedback was made available to Superintendent David Fleischman who attended & participated in the event.

1. **Resources – NNHS TV production for video resources – Irene Wu**

Irene reported she met a student from the TV production class at the Growth Mindset book event & was able to give him an overview of the gaps in the resource materials. It seemed beneficial the student was present at this event in order to gain a better grasp of the topic. Student representatives on School Council were charged with providing Irene with names of students who could possibly contribute GM stories to a possible video. School Council emphasized the need to have as wide a range of students featured in such a video in order to broaden its appeal to as many Newton North students as possible.

**(iii) Workshop at Bigelow, Wednesday April 29th 7pm– Kathy & Laura**

Kathy & Laura reported they have met with Bigelow PTO, Cabot PTO & Bigelow Principal in order to run a repeat of the GM workshop previously run at NNHS in October. This event will be organized by the Bigelow, Day & Cabot PTOs & will afford the Principals of each school an opportunity to participate in the evening workshop. Jo asked Kathy & Laura to identify any help they might from SC members for this event.

**(iv) SFA Joint event possibly in Fall – Jeff**

Jeff has an action to set up a meeting between the SC & SFA members spearheading this initiative & report back on any ideas generated for a possible joint SFA/SC GM event in the Fall 2015.

1. **Update of PTSO business to School Council – Sally & Rex**

Sally mentioned the NNHS principal search process & the involvement of the PTSO & parent volunteers. As the Superintendent has decided to appoint an interim principal, another search committee will need to be established involving the PTSO & more parent volunteers. At the time of the meeting there were no details announced on who is to be interim Principal.

There will be an opportunity for parents to meet the Superintendent & several members of the School Committee at 8am on April 10th. And freshmen parents have been invited to meet the 3 finalists for the position of Riley Housemaster to the Class of 2018, which will become vacant in September when Mr. Aronson retires. Parents will be able to meet each candidate on separate days - Thursday 9th, Friday 10th & Monday 13th of April.

The PTSO reported that workgroups for Celebration are already established & volunteers are needed. Celebration is a Post-Prom party tradition held on June 3rd run completely by volunteers. It is free to seniors whether they have attended the Prom or not.

Operation Bold Paint is to be held on April 26th & the PTSO is looking for any volunteers. This initiative, originally sponsored by City of Newton, is used as an opportunity to transfer teachers work spaces & offices in an individual manner. Jen announced that when she becomes a parent at NNHS she has volunteered to be in charge of this initiative.

1. **School Council internal business**

**(i) School Council membership**

**- Freshmen candidate decision – Jen**

Jen reported that she will co-ordinate with the freshman Housemaster to advise the students which 2 of the 4 freshman candidates have been successful. They will be invited to attend the final SC meeting in June.

* **Teacher representation – Jen**

Jen reported that Chris Alberg has resigned his position on SC & she will talk to teachers about the vacant teacher position.

**(ii) School Council By-laws**

Current by-laws do not reflect the non-voting membership of the serving PTSO Presidents on SC. A quorum of SC members were present at the meeting allowing a vote to change the current by-laws & it was unanimously agreed to update them to reflect common practice – that whomever was serving as President of the NNHS PTSO becomes a non-voting member of the NNHS SC.

Jo Doherty to update the by-laws to reflect this – action discharged.

**(iii)Newton South School Council – Jo**

Jo reported an invite was extended to the NSHS SC to meet the NNHS SC during one of our remaining meetings to exchange information on its various activities. South cordially accepted the invitation, although the dates suggested were not convenient. They are to respond to us with their suggestions for meeting.

1. **AOB & Date of Next Meeting**

Jen reported on the T2 program. It is going from strength to strength with seniors from the class of 2015 accepted at colleges such as Dartmouth, Bucknell & Ithaca. A financial aid night was held last week to enable parents to compare financial aid packages. And next week, the junior cohort of 37 students will begin work on their essays. Jen requested increased funding from her leadership team for Melissa Hanenburger to move from 0.2 to 0.5 FTE, which was approved. And finally that over spring break she will commence drafting a paper about the experience of T2 at NNHS which she hopes to submit to Education Week &/or Educational Leadership. She will provide a draft of the paper to SC members when available.

Jen outlined a plan to run a teacher exchange program starting this summer with a school in Australia - 2 or 3 NNHS teachers will go to Australia in July to co-teach while NNHS will reciprocate & host teachers here in January. This means there will be no need to provide coverage for absent teachers & Jen is asking the Newton Schools Foundation to cover the teachers airfares. It is Jen’s goal to cement the details of this program before she leaves her position as Principal of NNHS.

The PTSO was asked to instigate an election for a parent representative position becoming vacant September 2015 through June 2019, replacing Jo Doherty who will reach the end of her term in June 2015. The election will also include the position of an alternate parent representative, as Chris Banks will reach the end of his term in June 2015. Bev Spencer, the community representative on SC, announced she will serve her position through June 2016 allowing for continuity with the incoming interim Principal. Her position will then need to be filled through appointment by whom ever is serving Principal at that time.

Our next meeting is on Monday May 4th at 7pm. Because of a conflict with graduation the final meeting of the year was rescheduled to June 1st.