**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

5th meeting Wednesday January 7th 2014

7am joint meeting with the SFA in Cafeteria, then at 7:35am SC members, minus teachers & students, continued the meeting in room 103

1. **Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair

Jeff Zabel, parent representative

Christopher Banks, alternate parent representative

Max Koslov, student representative

Kathy Baron, parent representative

Rex Clarke, PTSO representative

Bev Spencer, community representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Jean Wood, parent representative

Amy McMahon, teacher representative

Irene Wu, student representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Apologises were received in advance of the meeting from Laura Holt. Jen Price had to leave the School Council meeting before it was concluded to attend another meeting at the Ed Center.

1. **Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting – December 1st, 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.

1. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **School Council By Laws**

School Council members present at the meeting had a preliminary discussion regarding the current School Council by-laws concerning member representatives & in particular student representatives. It was noted that present by-laws identify 4 as the maximum number of student representatives able to sit on School Council - currently there are 4 students representing the sophomore, junior & senior classes. Therefore in order to select any freshman student representatives, School Council will need to discuss amending the by-laws. Changes to School Council by-laws require a quorum (75%) of members an attendance level not met at this meeting because the meeting time conflicted with the start of the school day. Consequently the agenda for Februarys meeting will reflect a review of by laws concerning student member representatives & a decision made as to freshman members.

1. **Growth Mindset Workshop held on December 3rd**

Reference was made to Attachment 1 found at the end of these minutes, circulated to all members ahead of the meeting, which summarized operational comments from SC members about the recently held growth mindset workshop & from audience compiled feedback feeds.

In the joint meeting with the SFA there was discussion about holding another growth mindset workshop given the success of the first. Lauren Baugher, Physical Education teacher, offered her assistance with suggestions of various activities that could put attendees in situations they are uncomfortable with. Other suggestions were that a workshop could feature various different themes, which would accommodate different interests & also different levels of awareness about growth mindset. School Council members agreed to reach out to the SFA to determine possible collaboration with them on future growth mindset workshop events.

1. **Schedule of Future Growth Mindset Events**

In addition to more workshops, School Council members discussed other growth mindset events.

Newton Superintendent David Fleishman would like to facilitate the book group discussion & is unable to make the original date so it was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 24th at 7pm. The operational aspects of this event will be discussed at the next SC meeting. The PTSO will advertise this event & details will also be posted on the SC website.

Sally reported that Newton Inspires, an event on January 21st run by the Newton Schools Foundation (NSF), will not include a talk specifically about growth mindset as originally hoped. She acknowledged that speakers had been recruited well before SC approached NSF. Jeff Zabel was actioned by the meeting to follow up with NSF regarding a growth mindset speaker at next years Newton Inspires event.

The research to compile the growth mindset resources listed by School Council revealed a lack of resources particularly targeted at students. Irene Wu previously suggested that SC student representative could produce some video resources to address this gap. Sally Brickell offered to reach out to NNHS teachers in charge of TV production to see how invested they might be in addressing this with SC student representatives.

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

The PTSO reported that the recent campaign to support T2 was a great success with over 55 donors raising over $10,000 plus the $20,000 of matched funds. Jen Price asked SC parent representatives to send personalized thank you cards to all these donors. Jo Doherty offered to coordinate this effort.

Upcoming events & activities are the Just Think Expo, a grant program & the ELL Fair. SC members were asked to like the Just Think Expo on facebook to encourage other families to attend.

The grant program is available for both teachers & parents to apply for – there are approximately $7,000 in grants available to be awarded. Further information is available on the PTSO website. And finally the ELL Fair is to be held at NNHS on February 14th.

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

The next meeting is to be held on Monday February 2nd at 7pm. All School Council members are required to attend in order to attain a quorum of members to discuss changing the School Council by-laws.

**ATTACHMENT 1 COMMENTS ON GROWTH MINDSET WORKSHOP 12/3/14 & AUDIENCE FEEDBACK**

What Worked

* Strong attendance identified interest in topic & publicity worked well;
* All attendees were engaged in the marshmallow challenge & generally overall in the entire event – groups of 5-6 seemed optimal;

- Water & refreshments seemed to be appreciated;

* Time keeping good;

-     Important to use a microphone.

What could be Improved Upon

- Use the sign-in system to monitor how many people are showing & to allocate people to groups in more linear fashion then we would have known exactly how many more groups/facilitators we needed;

- Perhaps had the handout & feedback sheets to give out as each person arrived then we’d have sufficient copies;

- Make more copies than think we need of all handouts - have more than a couple of people who know how to use copier in office;

-  Make it easier to identify facilitators;

-     Do not use the small multi-colored dots to define groups – difficult to distinguish color & size was too small – also use larger signage on tables for identifying groups;

-     Have a plan for set up, including arrival time – people arrived early & we weren’t really ready;

- Better & more efficient assignment of roles.

Feedback Form

* 55 forms handed in;
* In rating their response to the workshop all scored either a 4 or 5 (54%);
* The following were identified as something they found valuable from the workshop – videos, research results of praise v effort, feedback & suggestions are very useful, handout with specific feedback suggestions, “I feel I learned how to talk to my teen & make them feel good & work harder”, “exciting to learn how many parents were more concerned with the process of learning vs the grades/end result”, the appropriate language to use.
* Responses to the question “tell us one thing you’d like to know more about” - read Dwecks book, how to gauge a kids effort in school, more events about this topic, challenging kids who may not have to work hard, how to change a kid’s negative mindset, what types of interactions will foster the “grit” of hard work & risk taking, how to incorporate growth mindset into everyday settings, will this be introduced to 7th graders, what to do about a child who doesn’t try, how to help our kids feel OK about failure, to know more about how NNHS is incorporating this into the school day.
* Responses to suggestions for improvements – more time to discuss theory & feedback to parents, request for more evidence, shorter time allowed for audience comments, sharing event with students & parents at same time, more interactive program, run program more than once for others who might have heard about it but weren’t able to attend, role playing, asking whether NNHS has ever thought about having an efforts honor roll, more time on foundation & specifics & less time ‘sharing’.