**AGENDA FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES**

2nd meeting Monday October 7th, 2013

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

Jackie Gelb, parent representative

Irene Golden, student representative

Sonya Jampel, student representative

Max Kozlov, student representative

Patricia Muumba, student representative

Lynne LeBlanc, PTSO representative

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative

Margaret Albright, parent representative

Apologises in advance of the meeting were received from Melissa Hanenberger & Bev Spencer.

School Council members welcomed new student representative, sophomore Max Kozlov who will participate on the Council until his graduation in June 2016. He has been added to the members on the School Council website.

1. **Acceptance of minutes from last meeting – September 9thh, 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. School Council Business for 2013/14 school year**

Members of the School Council participated in a brainstorming session generating ideas that might provide the support & attention that Jen Price termed as ‘tending’ to faculty & staff at NNHS. Jen raised a number of ideas & current activities that she felt would be & are very much appreciated by those at NNHS.

She mentioned ‘Operation Bold Paint’ run by Ellen Gibson under the auspices of Newton Serves, which is typically run each April. This initiative has been much appreciated by staff & teachers alike & it targeted a number of classrooms & working spaces to be have an accent wall painted in bright bold colors.

Jen also mentioned how useful a staff directory would be. There are some 365 personnel now at NNHS & many do not know each other. A directory of every department with its members identified by photograph would be very helpful in combating this. Each member of staff now has a photograph ID taken by NPS. It was suggested a ‘pdf’ could be produced using these photos sent to each member of staff & each department could be provided with a several hard copies.

**Action**: Jo Doherty & the student representatives offered to follow up on this idea with Jen Price.

The student representatives suggested the idea of a T-shirt competition. Each department would collaboratively generate a T-shirt design & slogan representing their own area of expertise or responsibility. Then on a designated day all staff would wear their department t-shirt & students would vote on their favorite.

**5. Update on T2 program**

At senior parent night recently the T2 mentors met ahead of time with their mentees & families so as to prepare them for the event & alleviate them feeling overwhelmed. Attendance of the mentees was impressive with nearly 100% present. Of the established 14 mentee-mentor pairs in the program it was reported that 11 are working well together & that 3 pairs are struggling for a variety of reasons. Melissa & Radna are working closely with these pairs to help them address & resolve any relevant problems. The mentees are currently working on their college essay & are being encouraged to attend the NNHS college fair held on October 8th & 9th, as well as the financial aid seminar on November 14th.

Jackie reported that a survey was given to the mentees & their families to determine which colleges they would most be interested in visiting. As a result approximately 11 students & their families toured Northeastern on September 28th. Feedback indicated that students found this a worthwhile & interesting experience & they learnt about the TORCH program. T2 meet in college fair at 6:30pm to go to fair. 6:50pm meet to talk to reps.

Visits to UMass Boston, UMASS Lowell & Mass Bay Community College are now being planned.

The School Council discussed that it would be beneficial for the College counselors to know what other Universities & Colleges have similar programs to TORCH, providing support to 1st generation, low income or minority students. Sonya suggested that a good place to start might be to ask those colleges attending the NNHS college fair later this week.

**Action:** Jackie Gleb & Jo Doherty offered to investigate programs that colleges might have in place to offer students.

Jen asked School Council to assist her in seeking funding for the T2 program. It is becoming increasing obvious that in requesting mentees & their families to attend evening meetings that dinner should be provided. In addition the program really should be run by specifically funded staff rather than rely on the goodwill of those who currently do so. When asked Jen identified a minimum budget need of $20,000 pa to a maximum of $40,000 pa. This would allow the T2 program to have either a .5FTE staff or it could follow the model run by Brookline Public Schools (connected with low income housing) who run a similar program with 1 FTE equivalent that follows the mentees into college.

**Action:** Margaret offered to generate a list of foundations that might be suitable sources of grant funding for the T2 program & to ascertain how Codman Academy is funded.

Jen confirmed that the proceeds for this years Northside dining adventure are to go towards the T2 & the Dover Legacy programs & expects to generate approximately $3,000 - $4,000 for each program.

She also outlined the intention to roll out in January a cohort of the T2 program for 25 juniors. Some discussion was had on how to access the 25 mentors needed for this co-hort & Jen requested the School Councils help on identifying potential candidates. It was suggested this should be addressed at each of the host houses for Northside dining. Also publicizing the T2 program was mentioned with perhaps an article in the Newtonite that the Tab could pick up.

**Action:** Max to work with Jen on developing an article for the Newtonite.

**6. Update on the Newton North High School College Planning Guide**

It was confirmed that every family of a junior & senior attending Back to School night received in homeroom a copy of the NNHS College Planning Guide & that sophomore parents were advised they would receive theirs at Sophomore parent night in January. In addition, copies were made available for purchase at Back to School night thanks to the School Council student members who manned the table. Some 20 copies were sold leaving a sufficient number of the guide to be distributed to the sophomore parents in January. Feedback from the guide has been very positive.

Jen reported the cost of printing the guide was approximately $1,500 & as a result of the last School Council meeting $1,500 were received in donations from those present at the meeting specifically to go towards this project. In addition, Jen has made arrangements for the guide to be translated into

Korean, Mandarin & Spanish will has required a small stipend. These translations will then be posted on the NNHS website.

Next year only the sophomore class will require a copy of the College Planning Guide, which it is estimated will cost approximately $750. It was agreed that advertising could cover this cost & the opportunity to advertise should only be extended to MEFA, the College Board & ACT.

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

**7. Update of PTSO business to School Council - Sally & Lynne**

Sally & Lynne provided an outline of upcoming PTSO events & it was confirmed that this should continue to be an item on the School Council agenda for future meetings.

**8. AOB & Next meeting**

The communications survey communiqué & the questions facility set up 2 years ago on the NNHS website homepage were agreed to be dealt with at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the NNHS School Council is on Monday, November 4th at 7pm.