**NEWTON NORTH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES**

6th meeting Monday February 23rd, 2015

7pm room 103

1. **Attendees of School Council members**

Jen Price, NNHS Principal & Co-Chair \*

Jo Doherty, parent representative & Co-Chair \*

Jeff Zabel, parent representative \*

Kathy Baron, parent representative \*

Rex Clarke, PTSO representative \*

Bev Spencer, community representative \*

Sally Brickell, PTSO representative \*

Jean Wood, parent representative \*

Irene Wu, student representative \*

Irene Golden, student representative \*

Sonya Jampel, student representative \*

Apologises were received in advance of the meeting from Laura Holt, Christopher Banks, alternate parent representative, Irene Wu, student representative & Sonya Jampel, student representative who was able to join the meeting late. Max Koslov, student representative was absent. Amy McMahon, teacher representative \* was absent but participated in the by-law vote via phone.

1. **Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting – January 7th, 2015**

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**
2. **Discussion of SC by-laws principally concerning student member representatives**

School Council members participated in a lengthy discussion regarding the specific by-laws concerning student member representatives. Members generally were concerned about being able to support & encourage students involvement in school governance activities while maintaining SC membership to a manageable size. The existing by laws allow for a maximum of 4 student representatives, & SC currently has 4 students members – 1 sophomore, 1 junior & 2 seniors. Therefore there is no ability to bring onto SC any freshman candidates. In previous years student candidates have been identified by their housemaster from the students unsuccessful participation in their freshman class elections & then the NNHS Principal in consultation with the Housemaster has chosen a student(s) to join SC: the student has taken up their position on SC at the start of their sophomore year & continued for the remainder of their time at NNHS. This is the ideal situation but SC notes this has not happened every year often because of a lack of student interest, sometimes resulting in a class having no SC student representative.

SC members decided that it continues to make sense to have students representatives commence their service at the start of their sophomore year rather than earlier in their freshman year when many students might not be aware of the various opportunities to get involved in school activities. SC agreed that student candidates should continue to be identified by their Housemaster & then selected by the NNHS Principal. In this way the Principal is able to select the appropriate number of candidates to maintain a maximum of 4 student representatives on SC. For example, with 2 senior student representatives leaving at the end of 2014/15 that leaves 2 open positions for 2015/16 to be filled from the 4 currently identified candidates. In 2016/17 there will be only 1 student position open as our current junior student member graduates.

Therefore as a result of this discussion, the necessary quorum of SC members (\*) decided not to limit the selection of student candidates to those that only participated in their class elections as these happen quite early in freshman year. SC wanted to give students the opportunity to get involved if they became aware of such opportunities later on in their freshman year. In order to reflect this the SC agreed unanimously to change the by-laws by substituting ‘must’ to ‘may’ as follows:

“Student Representation

* The School Council has up to a maximum of 4 student representatives serving on the council for the duration of the time they are a student at NNHS. Representatives ~~must~~ **may** have participated in their year’s class officer elections & will be recommended by their respective Housemaster to the Principal. “

Jo Doherty will amend the SC by laws on the website to reflect this change. Action discharged.

1. **Decision regarding freshman candidates**

Following the discussion & resultant decision on SC by-laws, Jen Price agreed to liaise with Housemaster Mark Aronson & confer a decision to the 4 freshman candidates as to which 2 have been successful. These students will then be invited to attend SC as student member representatives in their sophomore year onwards. They will be encouraged to attend the remainder of SC meetings for this academic year but will not have a vote.

1. **Future Growth Mindset Events**
2. **Book Club – March 24th 7pm – logistics & publicity**

It was decided to send out an RSVP invitation advertising the event in the hopes we would have a better idea of attendance. The invitation is to be for parents & guardians only & will be extended to the PTO’s of NSHS & the middle schools & the objective of this event is to increase the awareness & depth of the growth mindset.

Superintendent David Fleishman will introduce the evening, then after a brief outline of the evening attendees will be divided into smaller breakout groups for discussion of Carol Dwecks book, with all participants coming together after an hour for a summary session.

The event will be held in North’s library, which can accommodate 5 breakout areas & enable a number of classrooms close by to be utilized if necessary. A sub group of Jo Doherty, Jeff Zabel, Jean Wood & Sally Brickell will discuss & propose the logistics of this event – their first meeting will be held after the SC’s next meeting which is the joint SC/SFSA meeting at 7:45am on Wednesday, March 4th.

All SC members are to be facilitators for the book group breakout discussions & it was agreed that all SC members should attend a brief 1 hour pre-event meeting to go over logistics &book group discussion questions at 7pm on Monday March 23rd.

1. **Growth Mindset Resources**

At our last SC meeting it was suggested SC contact the NNHS TV production department to see if they would be interested in developing GM videos particularly those targeted at students. Sally Brickell contacted teacher Scott Dunlop who expressed interest in this as a project a group of his students could tackle. Sally to extend an offer to Scott & any interested students to attend the book group event, & any other scheduled GM events, & to identify Irene Wu as the lead point of contact for the SC.

**iii) Future workshops**

Both Principals of Cabot & Bigelow have requested SC repeat our recently held GM workshop at their schools. It was agreed the SC could do one workshop for both schools while also extending the invitation to Day. Sally Brickell to liaise with Day, Bigelow & Cabot to suggest likely dates & a location.

1. **Other events**

Jeff Zabel to continue to liaise with Newton Schools Foundation in order to secure the ability to have a GM speaker included at the Newton Inspires event in 2016.

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

Rex & Sally reported that the recent Just Think Expo was successful.

They provided an update on the selection process for the NNHS Principal position. The PTSO advertised for parents/guardians interested in participating on the selection advisory committee & had 12-15 people nominate themselves. The PTSO have put forward 2 of those names. The PTSO also identified that an additional 4-6 parents/guardians are able to participate on the interview committee. Finally, once the 3 candidate finalists have been selected, the NNHS community will be have an opportunity to meet each finalist & ask them questions.

It was confirmed that SC parent representatives had sent out their thank you notes to all donors in the recent fundraising campaign, which raised over $30,000. Jen reported that on March 24th Mount Ida will host 38 T2 juniors for the day. This is the first time Mount Ida has done this & they have created a new program targeted at first generational & low income students based on their freshman orientation model.

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

The next meeting is a joint meeting with the SFA at 7am on Wednesday March 4th to be held in the cafeteria. It was also decided that the NNHS School Council extend an invitation to the NSHS School Council to meet & update each other on its activities. Jo Doherty to extend an invitation to NSHS School Council to attend either our May or June meeting.