

## Northern Lakes School Council Minutes NSCS and NL K-12

**Date:** Wednesday May 10, 2023

**Members:** Carly Skrenski, Brad Gascoigne, Brooke Caul, Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg, Julie Slack, Erica Lantin, Leah Pheifer, Alyssa Chambers, Erin Williams, Sylvie Cyr, Krista Bonham, Layce Andrews, Sarah Campbell, Victoria Katsal and Tammy Faykes

**Regrets:** Brad Gascoigne, Sylvie Cyr, Krista Bonham, Layce Andrews, Sarah Campbell, Victoria Katsal

1. Call to Order –5:02pm
2. Approval of Agenda – 1<sup>st</sup> Lorraine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tammy
3. Confirmation of Minutes from March 2 Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Lorraine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Erin
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – *none at this time*
5. Unfinished Business:
  - Logo for new K-12 school – in motion now and being developed - there will be 2 logos –1 represents school and the other represents the sport teams (Northern Lakes, Home of the Lightning!)
  - Kindergarten registration – well attended – 15 students registered that night.
  - Nut-free policy review for K-12 school – suggested allergy aware school rather than a nut free school – council discussed concerns of little ones – consensus with parent Council was to no longer have a nut free school but instead an allergy aware and have classroom specific allergy rooms based on grade.
  - Parents Reaching Out Grant (open house BBQ at NL school) – not able to provide tours or be in the new school so Council questioning why offer BBQ if school is still in construction zone. Suggested doing snacks for parent/school tours instead and decided this is the best option.  
**Actions: Brooke** will order food for the tours June 23, 26,27, 28. **Carly** will change the NS calendar and remove the date of BBQ. **Please reach out to Brooke and/or Carly if you are available to assist with the snacks on June 23/26/27/28 from 12-3.**
6. New Business – change in school admin for 2023-2024 school year: Principal – Carly Skrenski, VP – Dawn Masson. Brad will a VP at FFHS. Good Luck Brad!
7. Principals Reports:

**Brad – NL 7-12** – Brad was not able to make the meeting but provided a report: **NLS Principals Report:** The school year has been moving forward at a busy and fast pace. The Northern Lakes school, team name, is now officially the “**Lightning**”. The process consisted of staff meeting discussion, teacher input, as well as student input. I have a company out of Fort Frances designing a logo for the school, this process will hopefully be done at the start of June, to facilitate purchasing of Northern Lakes Lightning SWAG for next school year.

## **Construction**

As you can see today, the interior is coming along nicely, with the opening of the tech hallway to outside, this has brought a lot of natural light into the school. Major focus now looks like the grounds outside of the school, with the preparation of a bus lane as well as landscaping for the many truckloads of sod that we have coming. Brick work outside is also a priority, but I'm confident the school will be looking great and ready for September, when we will tackle the deficiency list.

## **Report card Data - Med-term report cards**

Grade 9- 5 students who have credits at-risk. Grade 10- 5 students who have credits at-risk. Grade 11 - 4 students who have credits at-risk. Grade 12 - 5 students who have credits at-risk.

## **Staffing**

With my departure this summer to Fort Frances High School, there was an appointment of an Acting VP to work with Carly, Dawn Masson. NLS secondary will be staffed at 12 teachers next school year, down from 12.5. This staffing change won't impact programming, as the grade 9 cohort size is small, and we will be down 7 sections because of this. Course option sheets are done, and timetabling is just underway now for next school year. NLS has one retiring teacher this year and will be in a position to hire a 1.0 teacher to start in the Fall.

## **Extra-curriculars**

NLS just completed the badminton season, and we have two girls traveling to OFSAA this week to compete in provincials.

## **Outers**

Community service day with the MNR at French lake was a success. Planning and preparation for the Spring trip has begun, with a traditional style trip of two separate staff, and two separate trips running for 12 days in Quetico park.

## **Carly – NSCS -Principal's Notes:**

- Staffing – unfortunately I'm unable to share currently. Important to note that it will continue to be difficult to find and retain qualified teaching staff, as well as all other support staff. Board is very aware of that fact and doing everything possible to retain.
- Reading Challenge – Students read 8768 books in 7 days, which is completely phenomenal! I was wrapped up like a mummy, and we also had a pizza and dance party to celebrate.
- Mental Health Week took place the same week and we started the week with a wellness and affirmation activity led by our Staff Mental Health Champion and Student Mental Health Champions.
- Grade 1 swimming was able to take place this year – 6 sessions.
- EQAO is approaching for grades 3 and 6. Letters will be going home for students soon. Grade 6 will write from May 29-June 2 and Grade 3 will write from June 5-9.
- North Star Farewell and Family Fun Day will take place June 2 at 12:00. Special activities this year include a school wide aerial photo, a big, class-made banner, a photo booth, and the opening of the time capsule that was created at North Star's opening in 1999. It was scheduled to be opened next year (2024).
- We have many field trips approaching and letters and permission slips will be going home soon. These include trips to Old Fort William, Gammondale Farm, Dawson Trail, and the pool.

- We will also be hosting parent and class tours of Northern Lakes during exam week. Letters will be going home to share that information as well.
- Kindergarten graduation is to take place June 16 at 12:00 p.m.
- Play Day for our new Kindergarten students will be on June 21 at 12:30 p.m. Students will be able to take a bus ride and come play at North Star.
- Tutoring is beginning next week to carry through the end of the school year, with identified students in grades 1-3 after school for literacy, and students in all grades during school hours for math.
- Kindergarten Readiness Program will be open from July 10-August 18. Half days, twice a week. Open to students entering Kindergarten in the fall, as well as current JK and SK students. This program is staffed and ready to go!
- Through partnership with NWHU, Lions, and Next Generation Coalition, North Star is participating in a Clean Up Day May 19. NWHU representatives are doing needle safety presentations in all classes tomorrow in preparation. We are also able to host a bike rodeo this year on May 29.

#### 8. Teacher Report

Erica – Things are winding up for NS right now! Many activities planned from now until the end of the year (TBay trips, . Reading challenge was amazing and the kids had a blast. The goal was 6000 books and they reached close to 9000 books read! Spring into summer dance scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvie – n/a

9. Student report from Leah – They had a few activities planned and they went well – pink day, ice skating/snack event. Nothing planned for end of year.

10. Community update from Lorraine – AFHT is amalgamating with the hospital and they are committed to mental health for kids.

- Student support foundation – thought exchange circulating right now to identify needs of students in our communities - feminine hygiene, lice treatment, running shoes, clothing, college/university application cost – please share your thoughts in the exchange.

11. Next meeting: start of next school year, in September 2023 at Northern Lakes School

12. Adjournment -6:04pm