

NSS Parent Council Minutes

May 23, 2023 - 7:30pm

Attendance: Shawna Yeske, Jodi Willcocks, Tova Leveille, Jen Giles, Rob Jewan, Leanne Topp

Absent: Cara Bonney, Chair

1. Call the Meeting to order at 7:40pm

2. Minutes of April 20, 2023 Approved

3. Agenda Approved

4. Chair update:

- Cara, Shawna and Rob met with representatives of Winsport to discuss the issue of students not being able to sit at the tables directly outside the Garden Café. Winsport's position is that they were surprised that this was looked at unfavourably as they say their intent was to move the long tables around the corner to create a lunch space just for the students. They admit they did not properly communicate this prior to just removing students mid-school-year. Parent council still believes that the students should be able to use the tables outside the Garden Café as they are well behaved, paying customers and only utilize the space for a maximum of 25 minutes during the lunch break. There is no issue with students sitting there before or after school. Winsport is preparing a further email communicating their position and ideas on the 'student space' around the corner and parent council will respond once that is received.
- An email will be sent to parents asking for contributions towards teacher gifts

5. Rob Jewan update

- Enrolment for next year is higher than expected at approximately 400 students. This was due to having to create spots for the high number of new students joining the CIHA hockey program while students who did not retain a spot on the team still wish to remain at NSS. Class sizes will remain between 20 to 25 students per class with the odd class possibly being larger in high school grades based on courses chosen by each student. With athlete schedules causing absences, in-class numbers should still remain within that range. There will be 22 teachers on staff next school year (currently 17.5). There are currently 44 names on the waitlist to attend next year and 77 on the communication list.
- The school calendar has been approved for next year with the most notable change being there is no full week break in February for high school students. Further non-instructional days will be added throughout the year around long weekends
- NSS alumni, Ally Loutitt, gave a presentation to the students; there was also a social media presentation for students and MADD had representatives speak to students in grade 9 and 12
- The Vertical Growing System has been installed and is in use
- Graduation date is June 28th and preparations are ongoing
- The first Bike-A-Thon was a success with \$7500 raised for KidSport; donations were great and the grade 8s are to be commended for their overall great contribution and leadership shown
- Staff wellness has posed a challenge, especially for the grade 9 classes; this is not usual
- If any parents have concerns or comments, they can be sent to Rob Jewan

6. Perri Ford, Mental Performance Consultant, gave a presentation by Zoom to parents and the parent council prior to this evening's meeting

7. No parent council meeting in June

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm