

**NPSS School Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Sept 16, 2021**

**Opening:**

Meeting was held virtually via Zoom, Kelly Lalonde, Principal chaired the meeting, Briar Manning took Minutes.

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The meeting began at 6:05pm by Kelly Lalonde.

Welcome and introduction of staff advisor and Student Senate Representative from SCDSB as well as a school student at NPSS.

**Present:**

Kelly Lalonde, Principal

Amber Hoffman (staff)

Briar Manning (staff)

Andrea Dragicevic

Brandy Rafeek

Tania Cornish

Alana Artuso

Heather Speers

Oreofe Oluwatayo (student/Student Senate Representative for SCDSB)

**Absent:**

n/a, first meeting - some late attendees accepted into the meeting, and provided an opportunity at the end to review topics of discussion

**New Business:**

The main focus of the meeting was on Re Engagement of students. Kelly Lalonde spoke of a number of current successes - including spaced locker assignments for students, co-curricular sports, the current number of registered grade 9 students (182) and total school registration (729), and how any small group activity attendance is being tracked as per COVID protocols.

**Literacy Test** - K.Lalonde, Principal spoke of the success of the literacy test last year - 79.4%, the Literacy test is planned for Grade 10 students in the Fall.

- Re: Graduating Grade 12's:
  - The Ministry of Education has waived the need to pass the Literacy Test to graduate.
  - Also graduating students will only need 20 hours of community service. 10 of which can come from paid work, 10 from helping at home or all 20 from volunteer opportunities.

**Items for Discussion from Committee Members:**

- A. Dragicevic - asked if the Parent Portal was updated regarding results from last year's Literacy Test.

- Kelly Lalonde advised that the Parent Portal may not yet be updated. Teachers are contacting those students who were unsuccessful and their parents beginning next week.

**Progress Reports** - The school will go back to Midterm (Nov 22) and End of Semester (Feb 14) reports. There will be a progress report send out for October 8th 2021 with Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews scheduled for Oct 14, 2021 , more information to follow

**COVID Protocols and Updates** - Kelly Lalonde discussed current protocols, including mask mandates and hand hygiene. She stated that no visitors are allowed inside the building, there are no guest speakers allowed, no large group gatherings, and any post-secondary visits will be organized virtually this year. She discussed the Terry Fox Run which is being completed differently this year, with individual classes tracking their distance walked each day around the school track.

Items for Discussion from Committee Members:

- B. Rafeek - Ask if volunteers should update their forms even though they cannot volunteer inside.
  - Kelly Lalonde advised that it would be a good idea to update so they would not need to do the Criminal Check again. She said she would connect them to Colleen O. regarding it at the school.
- I. Oluwatayo said that students are enjoying Terry Fox so far and most are very happy with how things are going with the school year. A. Hoffman and B. Manning also emphasized how the Terry Fox Run was working well.

Truth and Reconciliation Week - Sept 27 - Oct 1

- K. Lalonde stated that administration and teachers were working together to plan activities for the Days of Reconciliation, including Orange Shirt Day. More information to follow.

**Picture Day & Grad Photos** - K. Lalonde said that an email had gone out that night regarding Picture Day which is scheduled for Sep 20, 2021 . The school has organized 3 photographers to come in for pictures in order to accommodate the COVID protocols. Grad photos have also been scheduled to occur from January 17 - 20th.

**Co-Curricular Sports & Clubs** - K. Lalonde listed a number of sports that are being offered in the Fall at NPSS as well as clubs. She also stated that the weight room will be available with a schedule and will not have a fee this year. She stated that there will be no spectators allowed for activities that are indoors but they will for outdoor activities with COVID protocols in place for distancing.

Items for Discussion from Committee Members:

- I. Oluwatayo asked if masks would be required in the weight room and K. Lalonde said, yes they will be.
- I. Oluwatayo also asked if student cards would be issued again. K. Lalonde said that he should come into the office tomorrow to look into it together.

- H. Speers - Asked for an official statement for those parents with questions online regarding boys football at NPSS.
  - Kelly Lalonde responded that the issue is two-fold. One they need new equipment that costs upwards of \$15 000 and second, safety is very important and the school does not have a coach or teacher advisor for the team. She reiterated that NPSS has only ever had a junior football team in the past.
  - H. Speers then asked if fundraising to help achieve the necessary funds was possible which K.L. was very open to having conversation about. H. Speers said that she was aware of some local businesses that would be interested in helping by donating funds to the school.
  - Amber Hoffman - stated that she would be interested as the CO-Op teacher to speak with Heather further and help with touching base with these companies as the school is always looking for new businesses to support our programs.
  - Amber H. also mentioned that the Library is looking to offer some certification programs this year.

**School Council Meeting Elections** - K. Lalonde asked members if they would like to have the school council elections tonight or instead, have individual nominations emailed in by September 24 with elections held October 2. Members were in agreement that the elections could be arranged tonight.

Items for Discussion from Committee Members:

- A. Dragicevic - thought at first that the Council should wait in case some people were not able to attend the meeting and would be interested in a position. K. Lalonde reiterated that the emails were communicated a couple times to all parents so that the meeting would not be missed.
- Alana, Tania, H. Speers and B. Rafeek all voted for tonight.
- H. Speers was happy to help but did not want a named position. A. Dragicevic agreed to be chair again this year - nomination from Alana, Brandy also offered to co-chair. No one was willing to take the Secretary position at this time.

Future Meetings - K. Lalonde gave dates for future School council meetings, in particular an option to have the meeting either before or after Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews.

- Dates: Oct 14, 2021 at 5:00pm before the Interviews, as parents from school council will be participating in the evening meetings with teachers at 5:30 pm - this was accepted by the majority of members. Meeting will continue to be in Zoom form
  - January 13, 2021
  - Mar 3, 2021
  - May 26, 2021

**Adjournment:**

K. Lalonde adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:28pm.

Kelly Lalonde stayed to answer questions from parents regarding Learn at Home, and future school council meetings

**Minutes Submitted by:** B. Manning

**Minutes Approved by:** K. Lalonde