

**Minutes**  
**NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Thursday September 29, 2011, 6:45 pm, Library**

**Present** – Erica Lewis, Erica Robertson, Chris Cummins, Taylor Coburn, Natalie Coburn, Mindy Heaney, Wendy Dancer, Marie Fullerton, Fritzie Deleon, Kara Kane, Claudine Lukawesky, Lisa Peirce, Michelle Chue, Jeannie Sit, Stephanie Humphrey, Susan Thurow, Nicole Cooper, Nancy Baillie, Diane Speer-McBean, Julie Brown, Sue Brookes, Gina Fortsas, Punam Davis, Christine Wilby, Frank Chang, Lynda DeBono, Joseph Wong, Amy Carter, Sarah Dawson, Wilmar Kortleevever

**Regrets** – Rachel Chernos Lin

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION – WILMAR KORTLEEVEVER**

After a 30 minute Welcome/Mixer, the meeting was called to order. Wilmar explained the format of the Home & School Council and Home & School Association meetings.

**2. MOTION** Jeannie Sitt, Nancy Baillie  
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA CARRIED

**3. MOTION** Gina Fortsas, Sue Brookes  
APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2011  
CARRIED

**4. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE – KATHY RIBEIRO**

- Kathy reported that Northlea had a very successful school opening.
- In terms of our enrolment, we were right on the TDSB target. Therefore, no restructuring or re-jigging of classes was required. We did have to apply for one additional exemption in the primary division which was granted.
- Our head count is 854 students.
- We've already had a school-wide dental screening which went smoothly.
- We have started the lice checks – one more day remaining to check the whole school.
- The first fire drill, an unexpected Hold & Secure and epi pen training have all taken place.
- Students attended one of the "Expectations" assemblies in early September.
- PSP 'Kiss 'N Ride" is a new initiative starting next week. The students have already attended an assembly about PSP conducted by Toronto Police.
- Safe Schools Committee – Will be chaired by Kathy this year. There will be 6 meetings and she is looking for 1-3 parent reps. She also needs teacher, support and caretaking reps. Traditionally, Safety Committee meetings have been at lunch time but she would consider changing the time. Kathy asked anyone interested in being a parent rep to speak to her after the meeting or to contact her tomorrow.
- Eco School – Last year, Northlea received the Platinum award. We'll be pursuing this award again. The Eco Schools committee consists of Miss Andrew, Mlle. Shulman and Mrs. Reiken.
- All staff are now in place. It was a bit more challenging this year – we started with a surplus and then went to vacancies.
- There are two new Chairs this year: Lindsay Borden (Technology Lead) and Taggett Cornish (Primary Chair).

**SPECIAL EDUCATION - BECKY JENKINS**

- Becky reported that in terms of Special Education, the biggest change for this year is that we've gone to a web-based system for IEPs.
- Northlea has 100 kids on IEPs – includes a wide range of students from gifted to DD.
- We have a new consultant for our family of schools – Deanna Cape

## **EQAO – JEFF LITTLE**

- Jeff reported that the results for Northlea's EQAO show an increase across the board.
- Our scores are even a little higher when the kids who didn't write the EQAO are excluded from the data.
- Jeff noted that we'll talk in more detail at a future H&S meeting.
- He noted that our higher scores are the result of a team effort by parents, teachers, CATs, etc.

> Julie asked how our enrolment numbers compare with what was projected – Kathy reported that we are lower than the projection but close enough that they didn't take any teachers away.

> Claude Lukawesky asked when individual student results will get mailed to the parents – Jeff Little reported that they are being mailed this week.

## **5. CHAIR'S REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Since the start of school, Wilmar and Sarah have attended a number of interesting meetings and events with the administrators, ward election candidates, etc.
- They've been working closely with the School Support team, a group that falls under the School Council area. The School Support team is responsible for September packages, the Safe Arrival program etc.
- Kara Pearson-Kane, co-chair of School Support reported that there are still some vacancies for afternoon Safe Arrival volunteers. This job requires a time commitment of an hour or two bi-weekly and involves making sure that all kids are accounted for in terms of attendance – both in the morning and after lunch.
- For more details, visit the website or e-mail Katherine Whaley (contact info on the site).
- Wilmar thanked Karen Zeppa for overseeing the September packages, a very large job. Once again, there was a whole team of parents in charge of decollating these packages.
- PSP Launch – Wilmar told the group about the Parent Safety Program. It involves a number of safety issues, not just the new Kiss 'N Ride program.

## **PSP - Launch of Kiss 'N Ride**

- Erica Robertson, co-ordinator of this program, told the group it launches on Monday.
- Parent training has taken place and there have been student assemblies led by Toronto Police.
- Right now, Erica has just a few volunteers. She is hoping more will step up. The time commitment is 8:30 – 8:45 am.
- Parents wear orange vests and there will be a couple of orange cones marking the drop off area.

> Claude pointed out that having the NCCC parking lot gate closed has really helped cut down on people walking through this area.

> She also asked if there will be people on Rumsey directing parents to the Kiss 'N Ride on Sutherland. Wilmar reported that there will be parents doing this on Rumsey (if volunteers are available) and more police around in the first few weeks of the program.

> Sue Thurow asked about getting a crossing guard at Broadway & Sutherland. - Wilmar said that they may need to get one with the additional traffic. We'll have to wait and see.

> Julie Brown reported that the Police Services will be doing an audit of signage around the school.

> Julie asked Erica how many volunteers she has and how many she needs. - Erica said that she has 12 people but would like to have 20. Will also need a point person to go the office and get the vests in the morning.

> Claude asked if the Kiss 'N Ride will also be available at lunch. - Wilmar said that it will just happen in the morning.

> Claude asked if program is a pilot. - Wilmar responded that if it works, then it will continue. We're not planning it as a pilot.

> Gina Fortsas asked about increased snow removal. Will the City come out and clear the banks around the Kiss N Ride area? - Wilmar responded that police will ask the City to do this. Caretakers may help out too, although it's not part of their regular duties.

>Sue Brookes told the group about seeing in-street lights flashing on the road at crosswalks out West. They were a lot more visible. - Kathy said that this is something that she and Julie could take forth in their discussions with City traffic reps.

## **6. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

> Sue Brookes asked about our new area Superintendent. - Kathy said that her name is Rauda Dickinson. She happened to be at Northlea on the day of our hold & secure. She's highly experienced and organized.

> Kathy told the group about a fantastic parenting expert, Dr. Karen Gordon, coming to speak at Northlea on Oct. 20, 2011. We're sharing the cost with Bessborough.

- 7. MOTION:** Gina Fortsas, Sue Brookes  
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

### **Minutes NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING Thursday September 29, 2011, Library**

Meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm.

1. **MOTION** Lynda DeBono, Lisa Peirce  
APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA CARRIED
2. **MOTION** Nancy Baillie, Sue Brookes  
APPROVAL OF THE H&S ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2011  
CARRIED

## **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Wilmar reported that we've had a busy and successful first month.
- Wilmar acknowledged and thanked our new webmaster – Frank Chang.
- He reported that both Frank and Sarah Dawson did a fabulous job working on the site over the summer
- The website is completely new and contains tons of new information as well as re-ordered content. It can be updated by a number of people.

## **4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Communication – Sarah Dawson**

- Sarah told the group that a school-wide email test started in late June. Emails are now going out through the school rather than via class parents.
- Class parents have done a great job of collecting class lists – we're just missing two.
- Emails are now going out every week via this new list.
- Right now, Wilmar is cutting and pasting names from the master list but Frank is working on an electronic solution.
- The emails no longer contain attachments but direct people to the website.
- Changes to the site include: up-to-date layout and content; lots of graphics; new graphics which mean new info; a comprehensive calendar and a current staff list

> Lisa Peirce noted that the site also has a great search engine.

- Overall, Sarah reported that we're pleased with how the communications area is moving forward and thanked everyone involved for making it happen.

#### **Community Events – Claude Lukawesky**

- Welcome Back BBQ – Claude told the group that Marie Fullerton did a fabulous job running the BBQ this year. She brought in lots of exciting, new events for every age group.
- If anyone has constructive comments about the BBQ, please feel free to email them to the address on the website.
- Claude told the group that we need a co-ordinator for the next year's Welcome Back BBQ. Whoever takes it on will have a big support system to help them.
- Staff Appreciation – Claude now has two people to run this area - Cathy Sturdee and Laura Piccinin
- Year Book Co-ordinators – We need two people to oversee this year's Year Book.
- The Chess Program starts next Wed. This is a very successful lunchtime program being run by Stephanie DeHaan this year.
- Marketplace is coming out this week. It's a great advertising venue for those with items or services to sell or promote to the Northlea community.

#### **Extra-Curricular – Sarah Dawson**

- Sarah is still looking for a volunteer to head up the Extra-Curricular portfolio.
- There will be 8 lunch time and afterschool programs running this fall and there's the possibility of a 9<sup>th</sup> one. There has been a great response this year, partly due to the new weekly emails.
- She has been asked about running several other courses, including Babysitting, but at this time, we do not have an appropriate provider for the requested programs.

#### **Fundraising – Lynda De Bono**

- Lynda gave the group a brief overview of her plans for the next two years.
- The past two years have been very successful in terms of fundraising.
- Lynda plans to keep programs that are doing well – e.g. QSP (Nancy Baillie) and Acorn Cards.
- She has already introduced one new program to Northlea - Mabel's Labels. This program took Lynda 15 minutes to set up and brought in \$750!
- Family Fun Night – Lynda told the group that we still need a Co-Chair for this event. Gina Fortsas has stepped up to take on one Co-Chair role but we still need someone else to make this happen.
- Lynda reported that Co-Chairing this event for the past two years was a fantastic experience for her. At the end of the day, it's a fun fair and is not insurmountable to run this. The Co-Chairs will have the chance to frame and shape this year's Family Fun Night as they see fit.
- New initiative – Lynda plans to launch something new before the holidays. She'll get into more details as we get closer.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

None to report.

6. **NEXT MEETING** - TBD but will likely be late October or early November.

7. **MOTION:** Nicole Cooper, Diane McBean  
TO ADJOURN THE MEETING CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.