



BNC School Council Meeting - February 26, 2024 - Minutes

Welcome: Yvonne Stahlmann, *School Council Chair* and Kim Hand, *Principal*, Jim Wardel, *Vice Principal*

Land Acknowledgement - Kim Hand

Introductions: All in attendance (name, student at North, items you are interested in hearing about), or name and your connection to the school

Presentation: SHSM - Program Highlights - Teacher: Dave Emslie
Curriculum lead for Tech SHSM programs – construction, auto, broadcasting, cosmetology and business – presented a video interviewing SHSM students in all different areas– grades 11 and 12 – some of the advantages of taking this program are that you receive extra courses that make you more employable right out of Secondary School, courses like: first aid and CPR training, working at heights, forklift training, lifting training, hands on courses (textured hair processes, colouring courses, cutting courses), WHMIS, etc..

This training helps students with getting into their college course of choice, and helps get jobs and scholarships. This helps with job placement after high school, and extra experiences like a creating social media for a suicide prevention group or work placement within the field for real life experiences.

SHSM also incorporates a co-op program for each credit. Opportunities for placements in the field and occasionally within the school if there is a placement available. You can also complete placements during the summer.

School trips to other colleges and post-graduate placements within the field of your choice.

Red Seal on your diploma showing you are an “expert” in your area.

Parents feel that this program is a great start for students and promotion of the skilled trades.

This year there are 50 sections of tech courses running within our school and they all provide a very positive environment for students.



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Q) When students are involved, do they miss a lot of class time? No, the trips and other events are single day events, and they are school based trips which will help in the future and with academics, which supports other classes as well, due to this, other teachers are generally very supportive of these activities.

Students need to let guidance know they are interested in a SHSM program and they will help provide course choices and guidance to ensure success in these areas.

Updates -

School / Principal: Kim Hand - provide updates on recent events and upcoming events at the school.

- Course selections for next year – need to be in by end of the week and can meet with guidance counsellors for understanding of what is available and what choices will help to make decisions for the future. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to reach out to the guidance department to understand how choices can affect their students moving forward.
- Prom and grad meetings have occurred, to ensure that students are prepared with information to ensure graduation.
- After March Break, school Parent / Guardian / Teacher interview night will be on March 21, 2024 from 5-7pm – using the same method to book online with teachers. The school will provide teachers email addresses to ensure that you can connect with the teachers or you can access them through looking them up on the Barrie North website.
- Winter sports are wrapping up, many successful teams and single athletes (wrestlers and skiers going to OFFSA) and spring sports teams are practicing including rugby and more spring type sports.
- Celebrations around black history month including curriculum items embedded into courses as well as other informational sessions and in class presentations that have been occurring.



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- Papillion – school magazine – first edition of this year became available this past month, this is a literary magazine which features art, poems, short stories etc. The plan is that they (the group of students and staff involved) are going to continue to produce a magazine each semester of school. This is the first time it has been in print edition, and it was available for \$5 per magazine with an online version is also available. This edition was also partnered with the McLaren Art Centre that is also hosting and helping create ads for buses and terminals regarding “what is your first love” – as community involvement piece, the information taken from these advertisements will be used to create work in the next edition of the magazine. The art and poetry is definitely professional level production here within North. Well done!

Teacher Representative: Minky Archbell

Teacher Rep updates: no update today

Student Representative: Student Council President - Rowyn Dinsmore and Madeline (Student President)

Student Rep updates: This week is busy – semi-formal dance on Thursday this week, Old Hollywood – there is going to be a girl’s rugby buy-in later in the spring. Some of the other things that SAC will be doing is North-Fest for the end of the school year, which may look a little different this year, as the leadership class is not running this semester, but they would really like to keep this tradition alive.

February was very busy for student’s council with many different events and fundraisers – candy grams, music in the café, and many other events. Grad BBQ will be coming soon as well.

Special Guests (if any): Jim Wardel – new VP here at North started in November of this year. Has not worked within this Board until now, but is finding this building, students and staff are all very welcoming and this has been a wonderful experience, as there is a ton of school spirit here and an environment that embraces sports and extra curriculums within the school. He is very happy to be here.



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Ms Hand is very happy to have him here, he has a great number of extensive teaching experiences including tech and other courses.

Special Guest updates: see above - SHSM Program Highlights
School Council Chair: Yvonne Stahlmann – nothing to bring forward at this time.

Items for discussion:

As discussed at our January meeting, we were going to revisit this.

- 1. Fundraising ideas - food program - food availability for students**
 - a. Overview of concern / issue brought forward at last meeting - looking for potential fundraising ideas:** Kim Hand - please see the notes from last month's meeting.
 - b. Wellness committee is working hard** – embraced Eat Well to Excel program, which is helping to provide food to students and the Wellness committee is looking to expand this further, as they are working with some of the classes to have frozen foods available to students that are kept within freezers so students have access to them. Looking to have small fridges and other foods available to students in all areas of the school. Looking at the potential for other fundraisers and how we can connect with local businesses and how can we better manage this. Previously Mr. Wardel has worked with schools to work through some of the issues that come up, and is reaching out to the Barrie Food Bank to connect with them and some of their programming. He is hoping to have students reaching out and continuing to build this program, and possibly add to their tech programming including urban gardening to help maintain properties and learn to grow their own food.
A parent offered that they may have recently heard that there could be a grant to help with funding for tower gardens. Ms Hand is looking to help create learning opportunities within our



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courtyards for window gardens, instead of a traditional greenhouse. This is just starting to happen and is creating conversations around these ideas within the school, to make it more widespread instead of isolated conversations. Strategic and thoughtful planting is very important. Community resources are always welcomed.

- c. Ideas brought forward:** none
- d. Concerns voiced?:** none

2. Pro-Grant Application: Is it available this year? What would we like to use it for? (*purpose to bring parents / school community into the school / together for learning purposes*)

- a. This grant is no longer available, we have missed the application time for it.
- b. We currently have a \$500 grant that we can utilize. We discussed using this money to have a vinyl sign created for School Council for things like Grade 8 night and any other events that we participate / help with. This was agreed upon, and it was decided that Yvonne would create some sample ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

3. Items brought forward?:

Question about financial literacy and how we can help with that for parents and for students. Civics and careers had students do an exercise in budgeting and planning for students. There is also a financial literacy component in the new grade 9 programming. There are also other courses that have units related to this as well, so that all students will get some of this at one point or another during their time in secondary school. Learning to create a plan and stick to it is very important skills for students to learn. Many initiatives within the school about community involvement and services, including



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volunteering and how students can be involved in this. We could also include some more information to parents about how this information is being imparted to students and what courses have this information involved in them.

When curriculum changes information comes from the ministry and Board to provide resources to teachers to help develop resources. It might be interesting for parents to understand what their students are learning and help them to understand and support skills students are learning.

Ms Hand will look at providing some information in the school newsletter related to financial literacy and how students learn about this.

School Improvement / Upcoming changes?

Student council was asking if the school could have access to a tap payments for items, as well as having opportunities to continue to have cash based purchases. Some students would like to have the opportunity to have payments for school events and purchases via tap pay. The school would be charged a fee for this service, so the school is looking into how this could work for the students overall.

Cell phones in classes – what is the school policy on this within the school? Ms. Hand informed the group that she would not recommend to staff that teachers take students cell phones. These are very expensive devices and the teachers and school do not want to be responsible for these personal devices. She regularly recommends that they teach how to appropriately use them, what spaces are safe to use them, distractions etc. but there are lots of times when students use cell phones for research, class assignments, instead of Chromebooks, etc..

If it is identified that the student is not able to manage their responsibilities, they could be asked to take it to their lockers, or parents are emailed about their student's ability to manage this responsibility. The use has really changed how students research items and submit items. In older classes



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they are encouraged to consider how it is affecting their ability to pay attention in class as it is their education that they could be harming. Each teacher has their own rules and ways of dealing with it. Some teachers embrace this tech, others do not.

The school is currently looking at their tech resources and are adding more Chromebooks into the mix for all students to have access to them. As these are skills that students need to have for moving forward, and they need to be adaptable with these skills and responsibilities on their own when they leave the secondary school environment. School budget is being invested for the health and wellness of the overall student body to decrease potential for distractions and to teach life skills for moving forward. The school is also expanding their knowledge and life skills related to AI and how it will impact teaching, learning and student life moving forward. This will also be taught to students in the future. The Board is also helping to navigate through these types of things: how can this be used to their advantage and how can we manage this appropriately with adaptability? Teachers are trying to learn about how this will affect their practices moving forward and how students can use this to both their advantage or disadvantage for the future.

Students shared how they feel about the use of AI and how staff can use it to make things better and how this is new to them as well.

Further discussion took place about how we all need to decide collectively how to use this to benefit all and what it may look like moving forward.

There has been a resurgence in things like this within the SHSM skills that are being taught within the schools and how this gives students advantages when moving forward into the workforce and onto whatever post-secondary choices they make.

Upcoming Events at the school:

- February 29, 2024 - Semi-Formal Dance - Hollywood
- March Break - March 11 to 15, 2024



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- March 19, 2024 - Special Education Info Session - Reading Strategies - ** This is a SCDSB run event. Please check their website for more information. **
- March 25, 2024 - School Council Meeting
- REMINDER to all parents to ensure that they are checking the simcoecountyschoolbus.ca site for bus cancellations - Barrie North is within the CENTRAL area on this site.

Any thoughts on items you would like brought to these meetings?

- Skills Ontario / Canada information
- Someone from The Lodge, Grad Coaches, OYAP, Special Education - discuss support available -
- Other projects such as the Urban Canopy project - to create parent awareness
- Community resources - Barrie Library, Board approved travel companies that provide trips for students outside of school year, etc.
- Guidance Office staff to describe the services they provide or access for student assistance - could also be Student Success

Questions or concerns raised by Council meeting attendees:

No further questions or concerns were raised.

Reminder: Spirit Wear is available for **ordering February 5 to 15 with delivery March 7 - 9, 2024**, **April 1 - 14, 2024 with delivery the week of May 6, 2024**, and **May 1 - 14, 2024 with delivery the first week of June**
All Spirit Wear is ordered online - please check out the Barrie North Collegiate website under “*Our School*” - “[SPIRIT WEAR](#)”

Upcoming School Council Meetings:

- **March 25, 2024**
- **April 29, 2023**



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- **May ? (none mentioned)**
- **June 3, 2024** (if there is time / interest / need)

Please check the North website for information and links to important items and updates! Nor.scdsb.on.ca Did you know there is also a link to the

Meeting closed at: 8:33 pm