

Newmarket High School

School Council Meeting Minutes - November 17, 2015

**In Attendance:**

Chair: Goetz Milcke  
Secretary: Marina Gravelle  
Treasurer: Arlene Breau  
Principal: Shawn Bredin  
Vice-Principal: Karen Parris  
Guidance Teacher: Mary Perin  
SOAA: Eva Greenwood  
Student Council: Maddy McMaster

Juliane Goyette	Terry Richard	Poupak Pournazari	Janet Skolud
Samantha Dunnickliff	Elaina Mota	Lisa Harrison	Gwyneth Anderson
Anne Hughes	Helen Chen	Mary Ma	Sophie Chen
Peter Cozzi	Jeannine Cardinali		

Minutes taken by: Marina Gravelle

Meeting was called order at 6:45pm by new chair Goetz Milcke

**Student Report:** Maddy McMaster from Student Council (External Affairs)

- Events already enjoyed by students = Spirit Day - Fall Frenzy, Blue Jays Day, Hallo-week, Buy-in for football game, sweat pants & sweat shirts day.
- School Spirit Wear is now available for purchase.
- Candy drive after Halloween – all candy collected was sent last week to Canadian soldiers stationed in Afghanistan
- All announcements continue to be done daily via Twitter @goodmorningsnhs and, through announcement banners displayed in the main atrium for upcoming events, posted on window at main office.
- Upcoming events:
  - o Holiday Help – Our school works in partnership with York Region Community Services to identify families in need. Our Student Council has identified classes that wish to participate in the Holiday Help Drive to help these families. The classes will receive a wish list and the students must raise funds/gifts, which are then delivered anonymously by York Region Police Officers.
  - o Movember: all male students who chose to participate and grow a mustache during the month of November can have their before and after pictures taken and published in the Year Book. Cost will be \$2.00/photo (fundraising)
  - o Lumberjack Day with Beaver Tail sale
  - o Christmas Week

Due to a misunderstanding, the list of attendees (with e-mail addresses) from the previous meeting held on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 was given to Marina Gravelle for filing before the minutes were properly distributed. Therefore all attendees will receive the previous minutes, and minutes for tonight's meeting, together.

**Council Members:**

- Jeanine advised that Angelica McIntyre and Lori Guthries (both absent) requested to join the council as voting members. Their e-mail information will be sent to Goetz Milcke along with these minutes, to ensure they are included in our communications.

**Next Meeting Date:**

- Next meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> meeting) is scheduled for Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:45pm in the library - the remaining 2 meeting dates will be determined during the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Administration Reports:** Shawn Bredin and Karen Parris

- The semi-formal is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Aurora Manor. This event is traditionally attended by grade 10 and 11 students, however it is also open to grade 9 students.
- The Senior Prom is scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- The Fall 2015 School Council Forum (CEC North) will take place on Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Denison Secondary School (135 Bristol Road in Newmarket), from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. It is a great opportunity for participants to meet the Trustee and members of other school councils. Up to 3 parents from our school council must attend - our volunteers are:
  - o Goetz Milcke
  - o Arlene Breau
  - o Terry Richard
- Concerns have been raised by parents regarding the forest behind the school, where people usually go to smoke marijuana using "bongs" made out of water bottles. The forest does not offer a walking path or any shortcuts, therefore kids are discouraged to walk through it. The police are aware of the concerning areas (and drug use that takes place) and periodically inspect the site. Parents must advise their kids to avoid the area.
- Our award ceremony was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and report cards are due on November 18<sup>th</sup>
  - o From 1,320 students enrolled at Newmarket High, 1,124 students scored 70% or higher
    - 358 students – 70 – 79%
    - 766 students – 80% or higher
- Remembrance Day: it was a great event attended very respectfully by all students and staff. There were readings and a choir presentation honoring our veterans and soldiers.
- The Senior students engaged in the Healthy Schools Council have visited grade 9 classrooms sharing the message "stay away from drugs and alcohol", speaking about resiliency and wise choices in efforts to help younger students deal with pressure and stress in a healthier and more positive way.

- There is an upcoming Course Calendar Conversation, which helps students from grade 9 to 11 navigate through course selection for next year. Students will be advised via daily announcements/classroom teachers/guidance office.
- NHS Students have attended the TAMI (Talking About Mental Illness) conference. Two (2) of our students were interviewed by the Era Banner (Rose and Jessie)
- The Take Our Kids to Work Day held on November 4<sup>th</sup> for grade 9 students was a great success, with many kids experiencing a real workday
- Shawn shared the budget breakdown for the year:
  - o \$181.00/student, which amounts to approximately \$240,000.00 for NHS
    - \$33,000 books
    - \$45,000 photocopy (including \$25,000 rental for all photocopiers)
    - \$15,000 phone/internet
    - \$15,000 athletics
    - \$25,000 computer upgrades
    - \$75,000 instructional supplies
    - \$10,000 office supplies
    - \$10 - \$20,000 repairs (non-fixed assets)
- There has been an uptake on School Cash Online registration. All payments are now being processed via School Cash Online, except for small payments (such as \$2.00 to take before/after photos for Movember).
- Please contact the school office if a refund is needed for any payments made through School Cash Online
- The Graduation photos will happen from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>. The students must sign up online.
- The After School Literacy Program is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> week.
- Teachers have been engaged in “English Language Learning” professional learning sessions to help students who require extra support
- NHS is currently ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> school in York Region to offer most athletics and clubs options for its students (the ranking includes Catholic and private schools).
- Sports and clubs have started. A list of staff advisors for the clubs and sport teams is now available on the school website (NHS/School Information/Athletics, Clubs & Councils). Parents can contact the staff advisor for more information.
- Questions were raised regarding an upcoming Science Fair/Odyssey and, any opportunities for activities and competitions. There is a club already being organized and, parents were reminded by Karen Parris that all details for all events are always shared during the morning announcements, tweeted via @goodmorningsnhs, announcements are posted by the main office door and, also posted in the TV screen in the cafeteria. Mary Perin from Guidance Council informed that a few Universities (i.e. University of Waterloo) offer Enrichment Programs/Camps during Christmas holidays and March break - many of them geared towards Science/Computer Science/Robotics, etc.

- Addiction Services of York Region offers a Counsellor who is available to our school ½ day each week to help students with questions, short term care and recommendations during health classes.
- On November 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a parent information night for a School Board approved trip to France. The trip is planned for 2017 in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vimy Ridge Battle during World War 1. Students must have attended a history class in order to be eligible to participate.
- There were about 400 people who attended the “Coffee House” held last week in the school cafeteria. It was an opportunity for students to experience the audition process, and a great number of brave grade 9 students participated.
- Our next musical will be presented in the Newmarket Theater on December 16<sup>th</sup> (*Seussical the Musical*) – Performances are scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 NHS will participate in the Relay For Life event for cancer research. NHS has raised over \$750,000 in the last 9 years through student fundraising. The students/staff create teams and, each team at any given time will have a member walking around the school track during the duration of the event. There are lots of activities. York Region Police Officers are on site to ensure everyone’s safety.
- Poupak Pournazari offered to bring books to be donated to the library. Shawn Bredin explained that books are welcome, however they must be evaluated before being accepted to ensure they are current and in good condition
- A new Lounge area is being planned between the 4 pillars in the school foyer area. The idea is to create a place with tables and chairs where the students can study when other places are unavailable (specifically before and after classes). There were 2 suggestions presented to Shawn by students: 1) to develop an area similar to the lounge area at the school in Finland or; 2) design our own space. The school lounge in Finland is an unsupervised area, therefore it is not the ideal solution. In order to create a public space that can be shared by all students, the Tech class is developing lay-out plans for practical and comfortable seating options.

**Teacher Report:** Mary Perin, Guidance Counsellor, Career Studies

- Students must update their profile in Career Cruising, which is an app that supports them in their career choices (matches are based on interests, personality, required courses, etc.)
- All students from all grades will have lessons from their classroom teachers to work on updating their Individual Pathway Planning
- Grade 12 students are currently starting to visit College and University campuses on their own time
- On November 18<sup>th</sup> there will be 2 post-secondary Fairs hosting College and University representatives to help grade 12 students in their selection. The events are being held at Richmond Hill High School and Richmond Green Secondary School.
- All PIN’s for the applications are available at the guidance office – there are still about 100 to be picked up.
- There will be a presentation for all Grade 12 students next week, on how to apply for College and University courses

- Applications for September 2016 school year are due as follows:
  - o Universities – January 13, 2016
  - o Colleges – February 1, 2016

**Treasurer Report:** Arlene Breau

- School Council Funds reported by Arlene:
  - o School Council balance \$ 598.52
  - o Supplies \$ 500.00
  - o Parent Engagement \$ 500.00
  - o School Grant \$1,000.00
- The grant must be used within the calendar year
- Jeanine informed that the topic for 2015/2016 has been submitted and approved: *“Workshops to provide parents with strategies to support their child’s transition into high school”*. The topic was chosen based on a survey sent to all feeder schools, as the majority of parents reported being nervous and not sure what to expect in high school, or what they should do to help their children.
- It was suggested that we use the \$500.00 parent engagement budget towards a Social Media Event. The idea is to bring an expert on social media to speak to parents and students, as many students do not understand how to preserve their privacy on the internet and how their behavior can affect their life and future opportunities. This would also be a chance for many parents to update their knowledge on what is currently happening in the social media world. Peter Cozzi will set-up a committee with the help of Terri Richard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm