

**Newmarket High School**  
**School Council**  
**Minutes from Meeting**  
**For November 17<sup>th</sup> , 2016**

**In Attendance...**

*Principal* – Shawn Bredin      *Vice-Principal* – Pina Viscomi  
*Co-Chair* – Sheela Zelmer  
*Secretary* (minutes taken by)– Juliane Goyette    *Treasurer* – Poupak Pournazari  
*Student Representatives* – Mitchell Vendrov & Krymson Hay  
Eva Greenwood, Evelyn Siebert, Anne Hughes, Peter Cozzi, Judy Wu

Meeting was called to order by Sheela Zelmer.

**Report from Student Council**

Student representatives Mitchell Vendrov and Krymson Hay did an excellent job presenting to the School Council.

They reported that Halloween week was a tremendous success. The teachers went with a theme Despicable Me / Minions and were definitely in the running for 'Best Dressed'.

There was recently a Grade 8 Day at Newmarket High which was led by the Captains in the school. Fall Coffee House was a great success with some amazing performers.

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> was Bananas & Pyjamas Day which worked with Healthy Schools. There were bananas, loaf and refreshments served to those who filled out surveys on healthy eating.

The school had a Remembrance Day service for all students to partake.

This week there were exchange students visiting the school from Finland to share ideas and learn from one another.

They recently attend TAMI which is a board wide summit on reducing the stigma and addiction issues related to mental health problems. Newmarket High students presented their month long event they did last February and plan to do again this coming February. Each day there is a different activity such as puzzles, Zumba, brain teasers, etc. for students to take part in to help reduce stress and ease the mind. November 24 will be LumberJack Day. A mini stick tournament is planned and BeaverTails will be available. They have tasked the Food & Nutrition class to prepare the BeaverTails and will get more students involved.

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 8 students will visit the school with their parents to learn about the school and get a tour. They are planning on having the various clubs present so Grade 8's can learn about possible activities / teams they can join next year.

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> they are planning 'Board Meeting Monday' where students will have the chance to wear business attire to school.

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> the school is presenting Les Miserables.

There will also be a Frost Week in December with various activities.

Planning is now underway for the semi-formal in February.

They were asked if students can join the clubs at any point throughout the year. 99% of the clubs can be joined at any time with the exception of DECA.

Once again the School Council will be helping local families in need through the Holiday Hamper program. They recently went around to all of the homeroom classes to ask if they would like to take part. Some classes will join with others to do the hamper. They will help out 19 families this year. School Council is working on Spirit Wear and will have it available for sale in the coming months.

**Approval of Minutes from Last meeting** - Poupak made a motion to approve and Peter seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

## **Administration Reports**

### **Shawn Bredin, Principal**

Shawn advised the Council that he attended a School Forum. He went to sessions on Cyber Bullying and on Mathematics. A site that some parents may be interested in visiting is <http://bit.ly/pmathresource>. The school will be changing some math practices and in the coming years math will be brought front & centre. How teachers approach math with their students will continue to evolve. Moreover, the design of rooms within the school and the Board may be changing to create more collaborative learning spaces. They are also working on the Board Improvement Plan [www.bil.ly/YRDSB\\_BIP](http://www.bil.ly/YRDSB_BIP). At NHS teachers have begun by selecting and learning and sharing more about one of the components:

1. Modern Learning
2. Mathematics
3. Mental Health

They are finalizing the course calendars for 2017-2018 school year. In December they will begin talking to students about course selection and by February courses will be chosen.

Gwyneth had asked at the last meeting if there was a possibility of having Michelle Cassidy come from the Board to speak to the School Council at an upcoming meeting. Shawn stated that Michelle isn't available, but Janice Bordonali is (she was formerly the Head of Guidance at NHS). She will come and speak to us about positive Mental Health. Shawn will reach out to her to set this up.

The Healthy Schools team will be going around to Grade 9 classrooms to discuss the harms of alcohol and drugs.

For the next Parents Night the school is considering going to pilot the new EDSBY system where parents will go online and sign up for the parent / teacher interviews rather than the current paper format. The parents at the meeting were all in favour of doing this.

The visitors from Finland were in the school this week as the student reps reports. They were there to discuss the different learning styles. Shawn reported that they excel in environmental design in Finland. Evelyn asked about the recent OSSLT situation. Shawn said that the media noted a 'denial of service' took place. NHS was one of the first schools to begin the online OSSLT testing due to the early start time of the school. As more classrooms signed on to the system it started failing and was out of the schools hands. Many classes were unable to sign in and many weren't able to continue with the test once they

were in. Only about 50 students ended up getting through at NHS and by the end of the day only a few finished the test. The challenge will be how to proceed in March when they do the test again, will it be done by paper or online. The fall testing created quite a bit of stress for all involved and it is hoped this will be avoided in March.

### **Pina Viscomi, Vice-Principal**

Pina reported that she and Shawn recently were able to chaperone a music trip to see the musical Matilda.

Report Cards went out today (Nov 17<sup>th</sup>). Please ask your child to see it and contact their teacher should you have any questions or concerns. A letter was also sent with the report card if the student received an average of 70% or greater. It was reported that 1,055 letters went out from the school. The parents commended the administration on doing this as it boosts a child's self-esteem.

Grad Photos will take place Nov 28<sup>th</sup> to Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Students will need to sign up online to book an appointment for the photos.

January 26 – February 1<sup>st</sup> exams will take place.

Jan 26 – period 1 exam

Jan 27 – period 2 exam

Jan 30 – period 3 exam

Jan 31 – period 4 exam

Feb 1 – period 5 exam

Feb 2 – Exam review day (students are expected to go to school this day)

Feb 3 – PA Day

For Semester 2 exams will take place from June 20<sup>th</sup> – June 27<sup>th</sup> with exam review day set for June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Pina informed the Council that she, Evelyn and Gwyneth met 2 weeks ago to discuss the Student Success Award. They gave us a handout explaining the selection process. This will be an award which is not based on academic achievement but rather to 'honour and celebrate those students with exceptional qualities, attributes and skills'. Students will be nominated by teachers who feel that they are deserving. The Council may acknowledge any amount of students that are put forward by their teachers. We hope to have a ceremony prior to a meeting in May.

### **Treasurers Report**

Shawn reported the ProGrant was approved and we have received funding of \$1,000 to be used this school year.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting was called to adjourn at 7:50pm.

### ***Dates for Upcoming Meetings***

***Thursday January 26, 2016 @ 6:45pm***

***Stayed tuned for an email on future meeting dates***

**Newmarket High School**

**School Council**

**Agenda**

**For January 26, 2017**

- 6:45 Welcome and calling of meeting to order
- 6:50 Report from Student Council
- Questions, Answers, Comments
- 7:00 Minutes from November 17<sup>th</sup> , 2016
- 7:05 Administration Reports, will include Staff updates, Guidance updates, Current Happenings at NHS, Safety
- 7:35 Teachers Report
- 7:45 Questions, Answers & Comments
- 7:50 Any new business arising from reports
- 8:00 Treasurer Report
- 8:10 Adjourn