

Newmarket High School

School Council Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2016

**In Attendance:**

Principal: Shawn Bredin  
Vice-Principal: Karen Parris  
Guidance Teacher: Mary Perin  
Treasurer: Arlene Breau  
Secretary: Marina Gravelle  
Student Council: Maddy McMaster  
Student Council: Tiger He  
Eva Greenwood  
Juliane Goyette  
Peter Cozzi  
Anne Hughes

**Absent:**

Chair: Goetz Milcke  
Vice-Principal: Susan Richard

Minutes taken by: Marina Gravelle

Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by voting member Peter Cozzi (in Goetz Milcke's absence) and presided by Principal Shawn Bredin

**Opening:** Shawn Bredin, Principal

- Shawn informed that due to unforeseen circumstances our chair Goetz Milcke was unable to attend the School Council meeting. All voting members agreed that Shawn would preside the meeting in Goetz's absence.
- Copies of the minutes from the previous meeting (held on January 12<sup>th</sup>) were distributed and Shawn asked if anyone had any questions and could confirm that all information was correct. All agreed that the minutes captured everything that was discussed accurately.

**Student Council Report:** Maddy McMaster and Tiger He

- After a successful campaign and election, the NHS Student Council has a new Vice President → Jason Seguya
- The school Semi-Formal dance was a great success and took place on February 18<sup>th</sup> at The Mansion Events Center. The theme for the evening was "Neverland"
- Recent Spirit Week event
  - Twin Day (dress alike)
- Upcoming Spirit Week events
  - Super Hero Day
  - Decades Week (students will have the opportunity to dress up according to a different decade each day of that week)
- Current projects:
  - Organizing the School Carnival scheduled for May/June.

- Organizing Canada Day school events
  - Spirit Wear – the school council is working to develop something new and unique for the spring (ideas around lanyards, water bottles, etc)
- A new NHS Spirit message board was added to the right side of the cafeteria. The students have the ability to make suggestions via the suggestion box and view all upcoming events, which are now displayed in posted calendars. This will reinforce the information that is broadcasted daily during the morning announcements and atrium banners.

**Administration Reports:** Shawn Bredin, Principal; Karen Parris, Vice-Principal

- An e-mail was sent to all parents inviting everyone to participate in a live streaming presentation from Michelle Cassidy on mental health. Michelle is extremely knowledgeable and a great motivational speaker.
- A parent symposium was held at the end of March. Typically 2 or 3 parents from School Council would have been invited to attend, however Goetz did not have the opportunity to share the details with the council. Shawn attended in our behalf and reported that the symposium topics were presented as ‘mini-conferences’. Some of the topics (i.e. supporting kids for math at home) were very high level and generic. The symposium was junior based and designed to help parents of grade 8 students who will be transitioning to grade 9 in the fall.
- The NHS students watched a presentation from the Toronto Argos Bullying Prevention Program, spreading the message “stand-up and not be bullied”. The presentation was in partnership with ESP (Empowered Student Partnership), where the speakers shared their past experiences and gave students tools on how to deal with bullying.
- MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) is scheduled to make a presentation to the students tomorrow, April 8, 2016. A truck that was involved in a fatal car accident (due to drunk driving) will be towed to the school and left in the parking lot during the first week of May to serve a powerful visual exhibit reminding what could happen to anyone who chooses to drink and drive. Pylons will surround the car and signs will be placed asking students to respect the exhibit.
- A Coffee House is taking place tonight (April 7<sup>th</sup>) from 7:30 to 9:30 pm - fundraising event for this year’s grade 12 prom. The fundraising includes a talent show and bake sale
- NHS **does not** offer or endorse any prom or graduation parties or trips. Certain companies use school names to entice students to buy party tickets or book trips, however the school is not involved in any way in these activities, therefore students are not supervised by any school staff. These occurrences have been so common that investigative TV shows like 20/20 have done segments on such misleading companies. Trips planned by the school are clearly communicated to parents.
- The School Board approved trip to France is planned for 2017 in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vimy Ridge Battle during World War 1. Students who were eligible to participate have already registered. Upcoming meetings will be announced.
- As suggested in the last council meeting, Shawn shared the video presentation from Shawn Achor with our group (author of the book “The Happiness Advantage”). Shawn Achor runs one of the most popular courses at Harvard, which support mental health through techniques to change our thinking pattern: you don’t need to achieve success to be happy, but rather be

happy to achieve success. Essentially the video is an introduction to his positive method of thinking and, how you can train your brain to become an optimistic person. His approach emphasizes what is changing in the world of mental health support - the word "cope" is now replaced by "positive psychology".

- Teachers are continuously encouraged to support student's mental health. An example was given of a teacher from another school who takes the students on a 5 minute walk to help them relax and reenergize.
- During the last staff meeting a question was presented: "what have you done to support your student's mental health?" As a great example, one of the music teachers added a musical note from a coloring page to the last page of the test sheets. The students could 'take a break' from the test for a few minutes and, color the musical note as a way to relax their mind before continuing the test.
- On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 NHS will participate in the "Relay For Life" for cancer research. The students/staff will create teams and, each team at any given time will have a member walking around the school track. The event will end at 10 pm and York Region Police Officers will be on site to ensure everyone's safety. All information will be shared with students at the assembly scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- NHS expects the same number of students to be enrolled for the 2016/2017 school year
- There are 2 teachers retiring and not returning to NHS for the next school year:
  - Sterling Hook – Business Department
  - Mary Dempster - Library
- Exam Week – on April 8<sup>th</sup> an e-bulletin will be e-mailed to everyone sharing the new exam schedule format for June 2016, which will allow grade 12 students to start a day before all other grades (due to graduation deadlines). The overall schedule starts on Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> and ends on Monday June 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Start time for Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:50 am (period 3 - grade 12 only)
  - Start time for Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> until Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am (all grades)
    - Tuesday: subject taught in period 5 (all grades)
    - Wednesday: subject taught in period 4 (grades 9, 11 and 12)
    - Wednesday: subject taught in period 3 (grade 10)
    - Thursday: subject taught in period 2 (all grades)
    - Friday: subject taught in period 1 (all grades)
  - Start time for Monday June 27<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 am (period 3 - grade 11 only)
  - Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> – Review Day – debrief of final work, results, etc. Teachers are available to meet and discuss results with students
- Mid-semester Report Cards (hardcopy) will be issued on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Grade 12 students will also receive an electronic file that can be transmitted to Colleges and Universities to support their post-secondary applications
- May 26<sup>th</sup> - Grade 12 prom
- June 28<sup>th</sup> – Grade 12 graduation

- All graduation invitations have been mailed to all families. There will be 300 graduates from the 2015/2016 school year. The ceremony will be held at Ray Twinney Rec. Complex (Arena 1).

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

- Until Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> the guidance office will be accepting applications from senior students who wish to be student captains. The student captains will support grade 8 students' transition into grade 9 by guiding them during school tours, answering any questions they may have, showing them all resources available and participating in school events that engage grade 8 students.
- All students' course selections for the 2016/2017 school calendar years have been finalized.
- Five (5) students from NHS have been selected to receive the "Give Back Award", which honors students who have gone above and beyond to give back to their community. The celebration to congratulate the students will be held next week at Magna Centre.
- Guidance counsellors recommend pre-approval for all volunteering hours. Although it is not a requirement, the pre-approval guarantees that the hours will be counted towards the student's volunteering records because the guidance counsellor will be able to ensure the organization is eligible. The Ministry of Education has a firm set of rules surrounding organizations that are considered non-profit and having the pre-approval in place can avoid disappointment.
- Summer school is open for registration and will be held at Sir Mulock Secondary School from 9:00 am to 3:20 pm. The summer school offers:
  - Reinforcement - for students who did not attain a credit or wish to improve their current mark
  - Acceleration – for students who wish to accelerate their program for earlier graduation or to take an additional course during the regular school calendar year
  - E-learning (some subjects) – a list of subjects is available under the YRDSB website - Continuing Education

**Treasurer Report:** Arlene Breau

- There has been no change in the budget
  - Current School Council balance = CAD 598.52
  - School Grant = CAD 1,000.00
- The grant must be used within the calendar year
- There are several restrictions on how the funds can be spent. The original idea was to use the funds to pay for a "Social Media Event" (still in discussion); however, the possible speaker would be willing to do the presentation at no charge. Unfortunately the money cannot be used towards food & beverages, nor towards a gift card for the speaker. We discussed the idea of having gift bags with informational material for the attendees. Another idea was to add a copy of the book "The Happiness Advantage" to the gift bags. Arlene Breau offered to read the book and provide some feedback.

**Social Media Event:** Peter Cozzi/Shawn Bredin

- Shawn spoke to Danny Prvu from Gwyneth Anderson (social media speaker) to gather preliminary information on his social media presentations. He has not been able to reconnect with Danny since they spoke.
- Peter informed that Danny has a busy schedule as he speaks throughout North America and, the best way to reach him is through his wife who knows his calendar and availability. Peter will share her contact details with Shawn so that he may reach Danny again to arrange a date.
- The presentation will be open and advertised to other parents from other schools
- Presentation date - TBD

**Next Meeting Date:**

- Meeting 5 – Monday May 9<sup>th</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm