

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes from Meeting

For October 19th , 2016

In Attendance...

Principal – Shawn Bredin *Vice-Principal* – Pina Viscomi *Vice-Principal* – Josh Platt

Co-Chairs – Gwyneth Anderson & Sheela Zelmer

Secretary (minutes taken by)– Juliane Goyette *Treasurer* – Poupak Pournazari

Eva Greenwood, Evelyn Siebert, Judy Wu, Jing Zhao

Meeting was called to order by Gwyneth Anderson. A motion was made by Sheela to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Poupak seconded and all were in favour.

Report from Student Council

The student council representatives were unable to attend so Vice-Principal, Pina Viscomi, read their report. Student council has recently had high participation in theme days such as jersey day, Battle of the Grades week (in which the Grade 9's won) and there was a Fall Frenzy week. Fall Frenzy included movies in the cafeteria, denim on denim day and flannel shirt day.

Due to lack of ticket sales, the Hoedown Throw Down dance scheduled for October 20th had to be cancelled.

Coming up next week the following days will take place:

Oct 24th there is a scavenger hunt planned for the students with prizes.

Oct 25th will be a movie day

Oct 26th Reverse Trick or Treating where the school council will go to classes and hand out candy

Oct 27th is Karaoke day

Oct 31st Halloween Day there will be a common lunch where each period will be shortened by 15 minutes so a common lunch can take place between periods 3 & 4

The YRPC Presidents meeting will be held on November 10th.

Oct 26th will be the Club Fair in the school where students can find out about the various clubs that they could join or may have interest in. The Club Fair booths will remain set up for the evening of Oct 27th for parents to see when they come for Parent Teacher interviews.

Nov 8th they are waiting upon approval of a PJ Day – Healthy Schools would like to propose Bananas & Pyjamas Day

Two weeks ago they held a Presidents Council meeting within the school for greater coordination between the various clubs so that they can work together and prevent overlapping.

A reminder that for Halloween, students are encouraged to dress up but there are to be no masks or replicas of any sort of weapon.

Administration Reports

Josh Platt, Vice-Principal

There are still concerns about the students crossing on Mulock Dr. to get over to Stonehaven without walking down to the lights at College Manor or the ones at Leslie St. They have reached a road block with the Town on this issue. Apparently the flow of students of students doesn't meet the minimum of volume crossing at this location (the minimum is 200 students). They will go back to the Town/municipality to seek special consideration as it continues to be a dangerous situation for students to be crossing there.

Oct 20th - 390 students (mostly in Grade 10) will be doing the OSSLT. This is a trial through the EQAO online system. They are testing to see how well the system can handle the online provincial testing. If students are successful at this time it will count toward their graduation. If they aren't they have the opportunity to re-do the test in March when it would normally be held. The school is confident about their school's technology capability. Mr. Platt and Mrs. Stewart were commended for all of their efforts in preparing the students for the testing.

Interim reports were sent home on Oct 14th.

October 27th is the parent teacher interview night at the school.

Near the end of November the mid-semester reports will go home.

The Vimy100 trip to Vimy Ridge will still be happening with students from NHS and across Canada going. They have been assured that security will be very tight on this trip with the amount of people going to the area.

Pina Viscomi, Vice-Principal

Pina advised that the Award Ceremony will take place this Friday in the Newmarket Theatre. The invites have all been sent home with the students. Some food and refreshments will be served after the ceremony takes place.

At the last meeting it was suggested that the school council have an award ceremony recognizing students for achievements other than academic. Pina would like to move forward with this; perhaps starting off with something small. A committee needs to work with the teachers who will nominate the students who should be recognized. Gwyneth and Evelyn agreed to help Pina to start the planning of the ceremony and pick a date.

Nov 2nd is take your kids to work day for the Grade 9 students. On this same day is the day that Grade 8 students will go to Newmarket High for the day to experience what their new high school will be like.

Oct 26th is the Empowered Student Partnership kickoff. Pina along with some students will go and learn various aspects about building a positive school to bring back to Newmarket High. They will learn about peer pressure, drugs, anti-bullying etc.

Nov 3 is Talking About Addiction & Mental (TAMI) Health forum. Students will be trained to present to Grade 9s about Addiction and mental health through the Healthy Schools Nurse.

Shawn Bredin, Principal

Shawn advised that this is the season where Grade 12s (and Grade 11s) are thinking about and learning about apprenticeships, college and university. They attend sessions, fairs and visit the post-secondary schools to help determine where they would like to go after high school. Dennison High School had a university / college fair on the evening of Oct 18th at the school for all to attend. Shawn suggested now is

the time to be visiting the universities/colleges and many need advanced notice that you are interested in attending. Many of the institutions have open houses as well as tours happening this time of year. Nov 24th will be the university / college presentation for Grade 12 students on the application process. The window to apply will be open until March.

It was suggested that grade 12 students wanting to apply for bursaries and scholarships should start seeking this information now.

Oct 25th is the Volunteer Fair at the school. Students can find out about volunteer opportunities in the area so that they can get their 40 hours required to graduate or are simply interested in volunteering.

Nov 3rd is the Fall Coffee House in the evening at the school. Tickets are sold prior or at the doors for this fun event. Students come out and show others their talents. All are welcome.

Nov 9th is the Beaver Computer Challenge

Nov 23rd is a math contest that students can participate in.

One of the three focuses that the school has been working on is mental health. They are putting strong emphasis on mental health this year and parents will notice changes throughout the year to help students reduce the stress and anxiety many of them experience. For example, one strategy shared with teachers is that prior to students beginning a test or project that they spend some time engaged in a positive thinking moment. This positive thinking moment could take the form of thinking about something positive, journaling, deep breathing, viewing an uplifting clip, etc. This is in an effort to help students learn to manage stress and should help them going out into the world as they get older.

Nov 10th will be the School Council Forum at Dennison High School.

Nov 11th will be the Remembrance Day ceremony at the school. Students and staff come together in the foyer of the school and have a 20 minute solemn ceremony.

New Business

Gwyneth asked if Shawn could look into getting Michelle Cassidy from the Board to come and speak to the School Council on mental health.

Gwyneth also advised that she attended the ProGrant School Council networking group meeting. It was suggested at this meeting that they do 3 different events over the year. One aimed at Primary parents, one for intermediate parents and one for teens. The teen meeting would deal with transitioning (to high school and post-secondary) and mental health.

It was also suggested that the draft of the minutes from the meeting be approved by the Co-Chairs so that they can be put up on the School Council website for parents to view in a more timely fashion, they will still be officially approved at the following meeting.

The meeting was called to adjourn at 8:00pm.

Dates for Upcoming Meetings

Thursday November 17, 2016 @ 6:45pm

Thursday January 26, 2016 @ 6:45pm

Newmarket High School

School Council

Agenda

For November 17, 2016

- 6:45 Welcome and calling of meeting to order
- 6:50 Report from Student Council
- Questions, Answers, Comments
- 7:00 Minutes from October 19th, 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