

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes for Meeting on Monday November 9th, 2020 at 6:45 held virtually via Google Meet

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
 - Erik Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:48. Seconded by Tracey
 - Introductions
 - Erik Gordon - Principal
 - Angela Cowan - VP
 - Carolyn Cyarto-Rogers - VP
 - Eva Greenwood – Office Staff

2. Approval of September 29, 2020 School Council Minutes
 - A typo was pointed out on second page, 5th point from the bottom where it refers to Neighbour, it should be corrected to say Neighbourhood Network
 - Motion to approve minutes made by Karen and seconded by Solmaz

3. Student Council Reports
 - Two student representative attended the meeting – President Camilo and VP MaKenna
 - Activities undertaken by Student Council were highlighted including Halloween decorations and on Thursday and Friday handed out candy with COVID precautions implemented
 - Also had a number of Spirit days on Thursday/Friday including Dress up Groovy Days, Jersey Days and Twins Days
 - Holiday Help is coming up for Christmas where School Council will receive a list of items needed for families and through cash online they will collect the funds to make purchases of whatever possible. Holiday Help is advertised on banners and on Instagram
 - Grade 9 Day – Due to COVID, couldn't do a traditional welcome day. Planning is taking place with Captains to have activities to ease transition and inclusivity
 - Student Council are trying to keep engagement going and kids are encouraged to stay active with school spirit days

4. Staff Reports
 - No formal staff reports

5. Administrative Reports
 - Student photos and yearbook – Board is setting dates for photos and setting proper protocols. Dates will be in the new year and will be confirmed once they are set. Graduates are top of mind for grad photos. As for yearbooks, school is in discussion with provider. Challenge this year is not having a year book class and not having class photos and individual photos but there are a number of ideas circulating and there are on going discussions. Some options include having parents upload photos or incorporating photos from student council. Looking at different ways to make it happen and will update us accordingly

- Grade 9 Days – As mentioned earlier, Captains are planning activities for Grade 9 with a theme of Celebration and Connection. Dates will be next week or week after and will be announced shortly
- Report cards distributed Thursday November 19th – Report cards will be distributed through students Gapps Accounts. Report cards will provide information regarding students achievements. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher
- Assessment & evaluation – 30% summative assessment – Parents may have already received messages from teachers regarding changes to summatives at end of year. Teachers have flexibility and professional judgement to focus more on instructional time and make adjustments to the assessment. If you have any questions, please talk directly to your child’s teacher
- Update – Community Volunteer Hours – For this year’s graduating class (2020-2021), requirement is 20 hours of community involvement. Ministry is providing greater flexibility for all Secondary School students. No longer restrictions if providing help during school hours such as helping a sibling with school work or helping with chores around the home. For students 14 years of age or older, can count up to 10 hours from paid employment. Must provide a reflection on how this contributed to others, what did student learn, skills, what did student like and how did the position help achieve career goals. Will include details in Parents Bulletin to be distributed every two week. If students have questions, they can ask guidance and find out what counts. Lots of flexibility and options
- Update to “NHS Principal Profile” – A Principal Profile is used to list characteristics that the community would like to see in a school principal. Executives on School Council will review and update Principal Profile as appropriate. To be completed by end of month
- Virtual parent learning sessions – Looking for ideas on sessions that are valuable to parents. Suggestion around a session on mental health issues for school students. Many students are struggling – need to find out what resources are available. What is available at school level. Erik commented that staff are concerned about mental health of students as they are overwhelmed and not being able to reach out to teachers or guidance and not able to connect because of barrier caused by COVID. School has reinitiated partnership with MOBYS and they will be coming back to NHS to provide support. Nurses on the bus to provide support to students, also virtual clinics for students to access. Can connect to discuss how to share info with community and what to look for, where to get help. Encourage students to continue to reach out to various support/resources. Another session suggestion is to have sessions for parents new to the high school system and not familiar with the various requirements. Cathy Zhang offered to work with parents to introduce them to the system

6. School Council Reports

- No report at this time

7. New Business

- Suggestion to put in the Parent’s Bulletin a link for technology support if a student needs it
- Question regarding the role of nurses in schools – Nurses come in to assess procedures and protocols. They have approved of existing procedures at NHS with no need for alterations

- and they offered some great suggestions. If there is a COVID case at school, then they work very closely with the school. They are not able to take on mental health for students
- AP courses for next year – School is in process of course development and there will be likely AP level courses for example Math AP. Students can challenge AP exam without being enrolled in the AP course. Within a few months the courses selection will be made available
 - Questions regarding leaving building at dismissal time – Students are expected to exit building within 15 minutes of bell. They are not encouraged to hang out in the building. Staff will take into account extreme weather days

8. Adjourn

- Called by Erik at 7:40 and seconded by Tracey