

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes for Meeting on Tuesday January 5th, 2021 at 6:45 held virtually via Google Meet

1. Welcome, Call to Order and Introductions
 - Erik Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:49. Seconded by Susan Carson
 - Introductions
 - Erik Gordon - Principal
 - Angela Cowan - VP
 - Carolyn Cyarto-Rogers – VP
 - Eva Greenwood – Office Staff
 - Susan Carson – Math Teacher
2. Approval of November 9th, 2020 School Council Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes made by Erik and seconded by Tanya Gripich
3. Student Council Reports
 - Two student representatives attended the meeting – Claire Gravill and Alex Simion
 - Activities undertaken by Student Council were highlighted including December Holiday Help which collected over \$3,000 and helped six families. Also, a food drive which went well and filled up to two out of three boxes
 - Culture week- every day an announcement to tell students about different cultures and how they celebrate the holidays. There were also displays, videos and door decorations
 - Gave out candy canes outside of school – got students excited about school and the holidays
 - Spirit Wear – Changed supplier and had a great experience with new supplier. Merchandise delivered to students before Winter Break
 - Keeping spirit up through Instagram during online learning weeks and having spirit wear days even when attending classes from home. Looking for any other suggestions
 - Main goal is to make students excited about school, engaged and happy at NHS. Student Council has done a great job in the last few months providing joy and cheer throughout the building and to the student body
4. Staff Reports
 - No formal staff reports
5. Administrative Reports
 - Timetable for Semester 2 – Staff are in the complex process of completing the timetables for second semester. 270 students from NHS have opted to attend virtually in second semester. There are 1200 students attending in person but that has impacted the number of courses, teachers and classes available. Some courses are not able to run and are removed impacting timetables. The course selection was impacted for online and in person courses. Removing courses and reassigning teachers has impacted timetables. Trying best to accommodate compulsory courses. Timetables will be delivered on January 22nd by email to students and

they have one week where they can request a change but there may not be too many options to change to. Guidance are trying their best to accommodate everyone

- Course selection for next year (2021-2022) – Students should think of courses for next year. Can go on website and My Pathway Planner to start thinking about it. Course selection will be entered in February and deadline will be end of February to complete
- AP Courses – no need to apply to be in AP class. Exams for AP courses are typically written in grade 12 and students can challenge the exams on their own. NHS offers AP Math and Computer Science. Not sure what will happen in future years for AP course offerings. Math classes are usually sought after but others are not as popular
- Yearbook – Updated by Angela Cowan. Will be having grad memory book. Senior art class is taking a leadership role on that. Will send out communication with more details very soon. Originally were developing a yearbook but that proved not possible. Anyone that paid for a yearbook should have received a refund by now.
- School Photos – Top of mind for grads. School photos are not occurring across the Board. They are on hold for now
- Parent Learning Sessions – Adolescent mental health: managing anxiety during COVID session to be held on Thursday January 21st. Will be discussing mental health and managing student anxiety. Delivered virtually by Mental Health Lead Patricia Marra-Stapleton. Three elementary school communities will be joining. A message will be sent this week with more details. Session is 1-1.5 hours with questions and answers. Ideas for other sessions suggested is considering Youthspeak which is a charity running for 17 years in Toronto and it is a YRDSP approved provider. Focused on mental health and well-being for youth and offer a variety of workshops that may be delivered to students, parents or both. Some topics include COVID sessions or anti-racism. A topic for both parents and students would be useful. A suggestion for a topic such as building healthier relationships was also suggested. A session on anti-racism for both parents and students in the spring would be appropriate. Faye will follow up with Youthspeak to get more information and details on cost. An estimate of the number of parents that may attend is difficult to come up with but possibly between 30-90 with 3 communities combined. Tanya will look into York Region Police offering on anti-racism as they provide sessions and concrete steps on the topic and they can be present for free
- Parent Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant) – Ministry is continuing with the PRO Grant. Can apply for \$500 that may be used for parent engagements sessions, parent information sessions or parent resources. For more information, please visit the following link: [PRO Grant 2020-2021](#) Need to apply for Grant. Tracey Cole will connect with Shameela as she has submitted our application in the past. Deadline to apply for PRO Grant is January 29th.
- “Excellence Awards” A character-based awards night with nominations made by staff. Has been a great evening in the past where students are celebrated with the parents and has been a great success. This year the event may be held virtually similar to the graduation event. Confirmed there is interest in holding event with the following parent volunteers that will be part of a committee to organize and manage the event: Theodora Simion, Tanya Gripich, Tracey Cole, Karen Peck and Faye Shen. Event is scheduled for May 20th

6. School Council Reports

- No report at this time

7. New Business

- Math Waterloo Contests – Since NHS is not able to organize and prepare for the contests and the contests are virtual, students are able to register directly and independently. Some contests are coming up in February. Info will be shared in upcoming parent Bulletin. For more information please visit: <http://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html>
- A Student Survey will be distributed to students by end of the week regarding their experience and to find out how they are feeling. Students will receive survey through their GAPPS account. Please follow up with your child to ensure they have received and completed the survey.

8. Adjourn

- Called by Erik at 7:45 and seconded by Faye Shen