

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes for Meeting on Thursday June 4th, 2020 at 6:45 held virtually via Google Meet

1. Welcome and Call to Order
 - Erik Gordon called the meeting to order at 6:48
2. Student Council Report
 - No student update from a Student Council perspective
3. Staff and administration Reports
 - Erik asked for parents' comments, reflections and feedback on current school closure situation
 - Some parents feedback included a sense that their children are at a disadvantage with online learning and that there are gaps with the online learning. Parents felt that students are missing teacher's lead discussions and that some teachers are adjusting better than others. Kids may benefit from live streaming of lesson or from prerecorded videos better than written instructions. Some teachers are holding online live classes. Math is a hard subject to teach on-line and some students are concerned about their final marks especially if they had a bad test before March 13th and have tried hard during the online portion of their course, not clear how that would impact their final mark. Some students are thriving although their schedules are thrown off but there are some positive aspects to it as kids are learning at their own time and schedules. Students observing Ramadan managed better with the online learning and allowed them to better manage their time. Students are missing teachers, friends, sports and they are anxious about next year. Looking for clear communication from school and ministry. Clear and consistent communication is key. Mental health is something to keep in mind as well. Lessons need to reflect and be sensitive to the current situation where students may be analyzing something such as a poem on suicide on their own without the guidance of a teacher and the support in a classroom. It is important for teachers to be checking in on the kids at all time and checking in with families. Some teachers are doing recorded videos and adding personal touches at the end which is very welcomed and appreciated. Students have developed ability to be self-directed learners
 - Erik provided various input to address parents comments and reflections which included the following considerations: Erik and his staff have had discussions with regards to gaps in learning and they understand that going into next year it is a concern and they are aware of it and they will manage it. Synchronous Learning will be developed with discussions at the Board level. Ministry has indicated that there will be an announcement by end of June regarding September. Fluency of online learning and face to face learning is an option for September but there is no clarity what that will mean at this time. Teachers want to be back and teaching in the building. Synchronous Learning is encouraged and if in September we are in a similar situation as now, we will move to a more structured online lessons and away from "emergency remote learning". Structure of lessons will have to meet method of delivery. With online learning there are many variables to manage, online safety and technology are big topics of discussion. Teachers' communication including personal touches and human touches are important and they

sometimes don't always get translated. Need to make sure that is coming across to the students.

Assessment and Evaluation is a huge topic that the staff regularly discuss during their weekly meetings. Assessment and Evaluation is a challenge and teachers can alter based on the best interest of the child and it can be based on individual weighting for the child. Reinforce with the teachers that adjustments and weighting that makes sense and is in the best interest for kids. Angie Cowan and Lynn MacDonald as VPs have been working for the last few months with students and supporting students with this regards. Angie encouraged reaching out to her and Lynn if there are any issues

- At end of year, all children will be receive a report card with comments. Not clear how the report cards will be delivered and when. Students can find their final mark online by June 24th. Students should not get new materials after June 17th. Teachers will be collecting and finalizing materials between June 18th and 22nd. June 24th will be last day for online communication.
- June 4th was scheduled to be Prom Night and regretfully it was cancelled. Graduation will be moved to October but no date and location at this time.
- Year books will be coming out before the end of June which will be appreciated by the students
- Week of June 15th will be the week for drop off and pick up. Students can come to school to pick up items and drop off books and instruments. Info will be sent out on how to sign up for the time using Edsby. There will be communication regarding distancing and how to proceed in and out of the building
- Discussions were held regarding a virtual graduation or anything else that can be done to recognize the graduates. Teachers have had discussions on what can be done. Teachers and staff cannot organize or gather more than 5 people as that would be a violation and they cannot participate in any such event or community based celebration. A video was shared with the grads earlier in the day and Newscast are collecting pictures from grads.
- Mary Perin provided an updated on summer school. YRDSB announced today that summer school will be held online and not in person. Registration is open until the end of June. Continuing education will be sending out emails to students. If anyone needs assistance they should reach out

4. School Council Update

- Excellence Award Ceremony may be moved to the fall. Did not finish collecting names of students. Will not be forgotten but maybe moved to earlier in the year
- PRO Grants update – Shameela has reached out to the Ministry of Education and the YRDSB to confirm the status of the PRO Grants and they were not able to provide an update. We had 2 out of 5 seminars but we are exploring using the funds for online events or whether to postpone to next year. No clarity at this time so we are not proceeding until we have clear answers. NHS has \$500 that has not been used, hopefully we can use it in the fall.
- With regards to Grad fee, most families have paid for the grad fee and the fee will be applied for the graduation that will be delivered in the fall. Families that have not paid the fee in full will pay remaining amount. Families that will not be attending the graduation in the fall may ask for a refund

5. New Business

- Questions regarding physical distancing in the fall – Erik does not have any info on what that will look like at this time. Will share info as it becomes available.

6. Adjourn

- Called by Erik at 8:03 pm.