

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes – Monday Oct 16, 2017 @ 6:45 NHS Library

1. Welcome & call to order by Erik
 - Seconded by Juliane

2. Approval of School Council Minutes from Sept 18, 2017
 - Discussion about how to circulate the minutes
 - Minutes of last meeting approved with correction to Juliane's name
 - Publication of the minutes with full names of parents is approved subject to review at future meetings

3. Student Council Reports
 - Samantha discussed the future plans for student council
 - YRDSB is now having satellite Presidents' meetings at different schools
 - Pajama day is this week
 - The following week on Oct 25 is pumpkin ring toss
 - Oct 26 there will be movies in the library with a club fair during the day and in the evening
 - Oct 27 will be trick or treating with candy give out
 - Oct 28 will be sweats on sweats – casual day
 - Oct 31 common lunch and healthy schools is giving out clementines
 - There will be a pie eating contest which is hoped to be healthier than past events
 - Take your kid to work day is on November 1
 - This is when grade 8s come to the school to experience High School for a day
 - The following day is coffee house day
 - Nov 8 is twin day with therapy dogs as a stress reliever resource
 - Nov 9 is the post-secondary/work fair from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
 - Mary Perrin explained that every year there is such a fair hosted by different schools and this year it will be held at NHS
 - The other participating schools are Huron Heights and Dennison
 - There will be post-secondary schools and community service booths
 - All are invited
 - Another will be hosted at Alexander MacKenzie HS for south region of YRDSB on Nov. 2
 - A west end school will be hosting one as well
 - There is also a fair at the Convention Centre
 - The students are encouraged to visit the campuses they are considering
 - The scholarship reports are sent out bi-monthly and are circulated then
 - The Fall Dance is tentatively scheduled for November 16

4. Staff Reports

- The Regional School Council meeting will be at Huron Heights on October 24 at 6pm and dinner is served
- Elisa agreed to attend this event
- Tracy Cole, Poupak, Linda Gilbert and Kim asked to attend the October 28 cross Ontario event at Bill Crothers HS
- Parents can self-register - the program is called "Dream Big – School Council Symposium"
- Erik will send a flyer to all parents on the Parent Council

5. Administration Reports

- a. Regional School Council Meeting – Tues Oct 24
- b. School Council Training Symposium – Sat Oct 28
 - NHS has focused on groups for enhancing student learning and involvement
 - These include learning strategies, substance abuse and other strategies
- c. School Improvement Planning
 - i. Student, Staff & Parent School Climate Surveys
 - The student survey which had a return rate of just over 600 – about ½ of the student body
 - This Friday's PA day will start to analyze this information in order to form the topics for the symposium
 - Parents also filled out a survey which will be received by the School Admin to be used for the symposium
- d. French Immersion Update by Pina
 - A student survey was done in the French Immersion class
 - The stated goals for the students were to gain an ability to converse and communicate in French
 - Students are required to take 10 immersion credits to get a certificate
 - Currently they have taken 8 credits by the end of Grade 10
 - The students wanted to take more courses after grade 10 to meet the 10 course requirement and it was agreed that courses should be added later in their school career
 - At the student Town Hall students expressed that they wanted more grammar and more classes in French
 - 70% intended to attend University
 - 50% of the students plan to take science
 - 86% said they would take law, anthropology, co-op, leadership, travel and tourism, visual arts, natural disasters, tourism and world religions
 - Their ultimate goal was to gain fluency and increase job opportunities
- e. School Programs
 - The school staff are now considering course development because the students will be choosing courses in February
 - The available programs will be developed over the next few months

- The students will have to consider the significance of courses for their goals
- These need to be taken into account in grade 10 course selection
- Kim asked what is available for grade 11 and 12 gifted students to keep them interested
- Erik advised that the AP program was available for those students
- Samantha noted her experience with gifted students in her courses and that those students think beyond their course material on a self-motivated basis
- Jay asked when acceptance to AP programs started
- AP starts in grade 11 and is called pre-AP
- Erik advised that parents should access the pre-AP teacher in grade 10
- Samantha explained the detail about vertical learning and felt it had benefits
- She also stated that some people do struggle with it
- Samantha explained how the teacher reviewed each group's results in class about problem solving
- Leslie supported the challenges of difficulty in problem solving and the rewards from a solution
- EDSBY registration for parent-teacher interviews are open for scheduling
- Teachers have 24 slots but teach 60-90 students which creates logistic challenges for scheduling

f. Homework

- At the department heads meeting tonight the teachers discussed the type and amount of homework
- The type of homework should be meaningful and relevant
- The guidelines are 60-90 minutes per night
- The discussion about this issue will continue among the Department heads
- The teachers are of the view that there is sufficient time during class for work completion but the students are not using their time effectively and that there is a resulting need for homework in order to complete the daily allocated work
- There are platforms which parents can access to determine their child's homework
- Peter stated that his experience has been positive with teacher-parent communication and complimented the email format that he receives
- Mary Perrin noted that there is time management instruction in grade 10
- Kim asked if there could be more done to improve student time allocation learning

g. Principal Profile

- Erik explained that there is a Principal profile setting out the listed characteristics of and rationale for them for Principals.
- Those qualities are: commitment, flexibility, Team-leadership, being inviting, friendliness, approachability, lifelong learning, being an advocate, supportiveness and bilingualism

h. Substance abuse

- 12 people including teachers, community representatives and parents formed a group and have developed a course of action
- The most recent – 3 year old data – was available
- The real world issues program was attended by Kim
- The communication with other parents program has a parent focus
- The peer mentoring program has an in school focus
- There was work done on a survey to be used across the student spectrum
- There will also be a parent survey with a working date of Monday Nov.27 at 9:30 am to 10:30 am
- Kim, Leslie Trovoto and Tracey Cole agreed to attend
- Kim indicated that she and Mary Perrin were putting together ideas
- Atia Haq will come in to the school as a professional to assist this program
- Goals include communication, awareness, education, and support
- Pina discussed with Kim a peer to peer group and will be preparing a group of students to form teams to go into grade 9 classrooms with Pina and start those discussions
- There are regular discussions about drug use in Phys Ed
- Kim picked up a card publicizing an App called “Well Track” while at York University which walks a person through the process of coming to a healthier state after stressful issues
- Kim reported that a Trustee had stated that this issue is not the responsibility of the board partly because of cost
- There was discussion about a few Apps circulated to the schools such as a destressing App
- Erik and Pina did contact MOBIS about its availability to visit NHS but have not heard back yet

6. School Council Reports

- a. Pro Grant funding & proposal
- A \$1000.00 grant has been approved

7. New Business

- Stephanie Liddell will attend the next parent council meeting to speak about substance abuse with another OPP officer
- More parents will be invited and it is hoped that many will attend

8. Adjourn

- At 8:43

Next Meeting – Monday Dec 11th – Presentation by YRP regarding substance use and abuse