

Newmarket High School

School Council

Minutes– Monday Sept 18, 2017 @ 6:45 NHS Library

1. Welcome & call to order

2. Approval of School Council Minutes from May 10, 2017

3. School Council Elections
 - Gwyneth Anderson explained the roles of the four parent council positions, namely, chair person, co chairperson, treasurer and secretary.
 - Peter Cozzi volunteered to be secretary and was acclaimed
 - Poupak Pournazari agreed to continue as treasurer and was acclaimed
 - Gwyneth nominated Juliet as a co chair person and she was acclaimed
 - Elisa Mobile agreed to stand for the position of a co chairperson and was acclaimed.

4. Student Council Reports – Mark Gragtmans – Student Council President – Rebecca and Sophia - Ambassadors of External Affairs
 - a. Upcoming School Events
 - Tie die day will be on September 21st
 - There are future spirit days planned for a number of events including:
 - A scavenger hunt;
 - Color day with each grade assigned a specific color;
 - Just Dance day;
 - Floor volley ball in the Atrium;
 - Twin day in October
 - Denim on Denim day later in October
 - Halloween common lunch with karaoke;
 - Common lunch for all grades in the Atrium with a costume contest.

 - b. Clubs
 - Anne Higgins started a discussion about parents being informed about the clubs available at the school
 - Mark explained that club information is announced and posted in the school
 - Mark stated that students can start their own clubs and that there are application forms at the student council office
 - Erik explained that some classes have a news cast presented on a projector which was noteworthy for journalism training
 - The news cast is called Good Morning NHS

- Anne Higgins asked that more information about the clubs be posted on the website which currently only provides the name of the club and the teacher assigned to it
- Omar Beydoun suggested a dedicated page on the website with more club information and detail

5. Administration Reports

a. School Improvement Plan

i. Mathematics – Kathryn Stewart

- Ms. Stewart introduced herself as head of the math department which consists of 10 excellent teachers
- The current focus is helping students to be critical thinking risk takers
- Kathryn gave the example of vertical problem solving and explained that it promoted the ability to explain math with language
- She also explained the use of nontraditional artistic tools in conjunction with mathematics
- She informed the parents that every Tuesday and Thursday (but realistically any weekday evening) between 2:45 and 3:30 pm there is math help class in room 304
- There is also some peer tutoring for math with grade 11 and 12 students volunteering
- She informed the parents that all teachers have websites with hand outs
- She went on to explain the AP (advanced placement) program
- The students who are in the program in grade 9 have already been participants in the gifted program
- In grade 10 some exceptional students indentified in grade 9 are added to that class
- In grade 11 the classes advance to AP calculus and statistics
- McGill and U.S schools give a university credit for a 4 or 5 grade in an AP class
- She went on to explain that Waterloo has 8 Math contests each year which are available for interested students
- EQAO for grade 9 is in math
- EQAO for grade 10 is for reading and writing
- Starting October 17 there will be 10 lessons after school for literary learning
- NHS rates high on EQAO scores at between 92 and 93%
- Erik advised that over 50% of the students wanted to change courses this year but could not be accommodated because of the high number
- Erick confirmed that the student body is larger this year than last at 1350 to 1360 students compared to just under 1300 last year

ii. Mental Health – Pina Viscomi & Mary Perrin

- Pina explained that Mary Perrin couldn't be at the meeting tonight
- She then explained the brain box kit which included items to help children under stress with art, puzzles, play dough and stress balls
- She advised that a new committee was being formed to consist of a social worker, the guidance staff, the school reserve officer, the mental health nurse supplied by CCAC and John Shep who works with safe schools
- Erick pointed out that the board has provided the school with a counselor and a mental health nurse
- Pina pointed out that mental health and addictions have an association notable by non attendance and under performing
- Anne Higgins inquired about MOBIS which is a mobile mental health unit with nurses and equipment and whether it was available for NHS

iii. Modern Learning – Erik Gordon

- The emphasis at NHS is on the learning environment, namely, classrooms and the library
- Spaces are being designed to encourage collaboration
- The history, business, geography and math departments are implementing this

b. French Immersion Update – Pina Viscomi

- Pina explained that French immersion students take four French immersion classes in both grade 9 and 10 and two more over grades 11 and 12
- The school is considering offering additional French immersion courses in grades 11 and 12
- Pina and Erik estimated that one half of the school is in French immersion

c. Awards Ceremony – Pina Viscomi

- NHS awards of excellence recognized 25 students last year
- Those awards were based on effort, community, and social justice but not academics
- This year the awards will be on May 9th
- On October 24th there will be an awards ceremony acknowledging academic excellence for the prior year with awards for particular subjects
- Students on the honor roll will have an honor roll breakfast
- Farhad Rouhani expressed appreciation that academic achievement is recognized at NHS
- Pina, with a reminder from Eva, informed the parents that interim reports will go out October 13th which is 6 weeks into the school term

- They represent a snap shot of the child's learning with level indication and explanation of how they are performing and where there can be improvement
- The midterm reports will go out on November 17th
- At the end of the semester those reports will go out
- October 26 is the parent teacher meeting evening

d. Parking Lot & Safe Travel – Erik Gordon

- Erik explained how two students were injured last year crossing Mulock Dr. at the top of the hill where there is no pedestrian cross walk or stop light
- He explained that fortunately the two girls are recovering
- As a result of discussions with the school and John Taylor and other town council members the committee as a whole has proposed a cross walk on Mulock Drive at the top of the hill to provide safety for the students crossing there
- Erick explained that the Police and York Region had done a study and had determined that approximately 40 students cross at that point on a daily basis during the school year
- Because the region owns Mulock Drive way it will be necessary for the Region to approve the cross walk and it is estimated that it will be in place hopefully by 2018
- Erick explained that the parking lot had been re-paved and that there is additional painting to be done on the road way
- Peter Cozzi expressed his frustration and disappointment with parents who ignore the sign prohibiting the drop off of children in the bus lane in order to convenience their children
- He proposed a pylon barrier at the exit to the bus lane during the prohibited hours of 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning and the equivalent afternoon hours
- Erick explained that there was further painting to be done at the parking lot and Peter suggested that appropriate painting indicating that there would be no exit during the bus hours in the bus lane be considered

e. School Council Structure & Processes – Erik Gordon

6. School Council Reports

7. New Business

- Peter Cozzi read from the 2017 – 2018 guide to the school year and pointed out that the first item under the values statement for the YRDSB was in inclusivity

- Peter then pointed out that the next page had a translation of the following statement in English in 16 other languages:
- “This guide provides important information about the YRDSB please take it to someone who can explain it to you”
- Peter had further pointed out that at page 5 under the heading introduction there was this statement in English also translated into 16 other languages; “For more information you can visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca. A tool is available on the YRDSB on the website to provide basic translation of board information in about 100 languages”
- Peter then read an article from the Era Banner that indicated that the YRDSB had received the Human Rights Award from the Canadian Muslim Association
- Erik then proposed the dates for the remaining parent council meetings and it was agreed that they would be on October 16, 2017, December 11, 2017, February 5, 2018, March 19, 2018 and May 9, 2018.
- Erik pointed out that music night was to be on October 14,15, 16 and that the performance would be from the “School of Rock “

8. Adjourn

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Parent Network (Speaker Series) - Gwyneth has asked for another parent volunteer to help lead. - Tracy Cole volunteered