

Newmarket High School

School Council Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2016

In Attendance:

<u>Chair:</u>	Goetz Milcke
<u>Principal:</u>	Shawn Bredin
<u>Vice-Principal:</u>	Susan Richard
<u>Guidance Teacher:</u>	Mary Perin
<u>Secretary:</u>	Marina Gravelle
Eva Greenwood	Juliane Goyette
Peter Cozzi	Evelyn Siebert

Absent:

Treasurer:	Arlene Breau
Vice-Principal:	Karen Parris
Student Council:	Mitchell Vendrov

Minutes taken by: Marina Gravelle

Meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by chair Goetz Milcke

Opening: Goetz Milcke

- Goetz confirmed with all attendees that the minutes from the two (2) previous School Council Meetings (held respectively on September 25th and November 17th, 2015) were correct and the information was not misinterpreted nor there were any missing details. All agreed that the minutes captured everything that was discussed accurately.

Student Council Report: presented by Susan Richard on behalf of Mitchell Vendrov (absent):

- Recent events already enjoyed by students = Spirit Week → Frost Week – immediately prior to winter break, consisting of holiday themes scavenger hunts, tacky sweater day, pancakes, candy gram deliveries, and a common lunch.
- Current projects:
 - o Organizing the school Semi-Formal dance scheduled for February 18th at The Mansion Events Center on Industrial Parkway.
 - o Organizing “Study and Chill” week prior to exams – designed to relax students prior to exams while encouraging studying and positive study habits:
 - Relaxing Music in the Cafeteria
 - Tea distribution
 - Inspirational quotes on announcements
 - Study tips on announcements
 - o Vice-Presidential elections for Student Council
 - Speeches and campaigning to take place after exams.
- Student Council will take a recess from regular meetings after the “Study and Chill Week” due to exams. The council will regroup for the 2nd semester in February.

School Council Meeting Forum: feedback given by Goetz Milcke

- The Fall 2015 School Council Forum (CEC North) was held on Wednesday December 2nd at Denison Secondary School. Newmarket High School Council was represented by:
 - o Goetz Milcke
 - o Shawn Bredin
 - o Arlene Breau
 - o Terry Richard
- Great event with lots of information presented via slide shows. The topics ranged from how a school council should operate* to students mental health (*the School Council Code of Ethics is available on the school webpage).
- The Mental Health portion of the presentation was focused on how to “keep” your child mentally healthy, rather than how to identify potential mental health issues that have not been addressed.
- The video sequences were very educational, discussing how to offer positive encouragement to the students and what we can do to keep them mentally healthy.
- Shawn shared details regarding the video from Shawn Achor (author of the book “The Happiness Advantage”), where he presents the issue of mental health and interaction with other people through a positive spin. We agreed that we would watch the video together as a group during the next School Council Meeting scheduled for April 7th.
- The overall message is that there has been a shift in approach – 10 years ago the messages were about anti-bullying, anti-racism, etc., which emphasized the negativity that surrounded the students. Today’s approach is focused on how to build a positive behavior. Happy people have happy thoughts.

Administration Reports: Shawn Bredin

- Eight (8) full time staff members will be hired for 2nd semester (covering retirements, interim teachers, etc).
- Students of all grades are encouraged to participate in upcoming math and science contests at their respective junior or senior levels (there are 3 upcoming contests planned for February 24th). Universities use this supplemental information to evaluate student’s interest in their subject of choice. It helps them stand-out during the selection process.
- March 31st – Literacy test (OSSLT) – NHS successfully piloted electronic tests, however the Province decided that the tests will be done on paper as in previous years.
- Study Skills – organized by Student Success/Guidance office and scheduled for Thursday January 14th and Friday January 15th during lunch break (35 minutes). Limited number of spaces available. It offers an opportunity for students to learn studying strategies prior to exam week.
- Exam Week – Friday January 22nd until Thursday January 28th
 - o Start time: 8:30 am
 - o Exam week format
 - 1st day – subject taught in period 1
 - 2nd day – subject taught in period 2
 - 3rd day – subject taught in period 3

- 4th day – subject taught in period 4
- 5th day – subject taught in period 5
- Friday January 29th – Review Day – debrief of final work, results, etc. Teachers are available to meet and discuss results with students
 - In the event of a inclement weather (snow day), the missed exam will take place on Review Day (Jan 29th)
- Monday February 1st – PA Day
- Tuesday February 2nd – 2nd semester officially starts
- Wednesday February 3rd – Safe School assemblies informing students on safety procedures
- Friday March 11th – Interim Reports for 2nd semester
- Thursday March 31st – Parent-teacher interviews for 2nd semester
- Provincial EQAO Tests for math – tests being written on Monday January 18th and Tuesday January 19th and a portion will count for final marks.
- Pioneer Camp – music/adventure retreat weekend – opportunity for music students to experience rehearsals coached by professional musicians
- On March 3rd – from 7:00 to 9:30 pm - fundraising event for this year’s grade 12 prom. The fundraising will include a talent show and bake sale.
- NHS Swim Team is proudly sending 14 swimmers to the Provincial Competition scheduled for March
- Shawn shared with us a document titled “Principal Profile”, where all the required characteristics for the NHS Administrator/ Principal (and his/her team) are clearly identified and explained. The Administrator must meet the criteria and specific set of skills to ensure NHS tradition of excellence continues to grow. The document can be obtained from Shawn Bredin or Goetz Milcke.

Teacher Report: Mary Perin, Guidance Counsellor, Career Studies

- On Wednesday January 13th the students participated in a general assembly organized by Guidance office, explaining the steps for course selection for September 2016. The information is available in the school/board website.
- Students who need to have their course timetable changed must set-up an appointment with a guidance counsellor to check course availability; a change form must be signed by the parents
- February 22nd – last day for students to submit their course selection
- The Ministry of Education offers a program for grade 11 and 12 students called SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major). This program helps students focus on a career path that matches their skills. The Ministry offers a list of courses that must be taken (co-op) for areas of interest falling under *Business*, *Construction* and *Sports*. For each area there are mandatory courses to be taken and, the Ministry will pay for certain courses as an incentive to the students (i.e. forklift license under *Construction*). Colleges will carefully consider students who have attended co-op programs and have the SHSM seal on their secondary school diploma.
- Many courses and class assignments can “fit” into the context of the student’s area of interest. For example, a student focused in *Sports* could write an English essay that is sport related.

Treasurer Report: Arlene Breau - absent

- Nothing to report

Social Media Event: Peter Cozzi

- Peter has been in contact with a potential social media presenter - Danny Pervu from Gwyneth Anderson
- Danny has successfully presented to parents and students on social media issues (websites, internet use, security and privacy) at Holland Landing High School
- Peter will share Danny's contact information with Shawn in order to arrange a meeting and discuss the event
- Presentation date - TBD

Next Meeting Dates:

- Meeting 4 – Thursday, April 7th
- Meeting 5 – Monday May 9th

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm