

Newmarket High School Council

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 Minutes of Meeting

Third School Council Meeting of School Year

Chair: Jeanine Cardinali

Secretary: Guangxia Meng

Administration: Principal, Shawn Bredin

Teacher Rep: Laurie Johnson

Vice Principal, Susan Richard

Office Admin: Eva Greenwood

Members in Attendance:

Maria Crosse

Doug Crosse

Karen Dunn

Lori Anderson

Evelyn Siebert

Barb Whelpley

Regrets: Co-Chair Gwyneth Anderson

Admin: Karen Parris

Treasurer: Arlene Breau

Iva Huschka

Kelly Hayes-Frederick

Resigned: Jennifer Morris

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 by Chair Jeanine Cardinali

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of our Oct 28th meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes by Evelyn Siebert and seconded by Karen Dunn.

Minutes Accepted.

Student Council report

Student reps Melissa and Lea:

The Lumber Jack Friday will be run by the Prom Committee. They are going to sell Beaver Tails. All the profit will go to the Prom committee and Holiday Help. With this fundraising students will sponsors needy families in York region. Two classrooms get gift certificates. Last year, students raised \$500 per family.

Admin Report

VP Susan Richard:

Semester One Final exams: starts on Jan 23 they will be going from January 23rd to January 29. January 30th is the review day. Please don't take your children out of school during exams.

Report Card: Midterm report card was out on Thursday November 13th.

Open House Evening for Grade 8 students and their parents is on December 4th Transition teams are preparing many presentations and displays to introduce different programs and different pathways. There will be staff, students and resources available to support new parents and students.

Closed for Transfers (by Principal Shawn Bredin): The school will closed to out of boundary transfers next year due to the large numbers of students.

Collaboration day and transition planning day with 7 elementary school partners is on Dec 9th.

Loran Scholarship: One student in our school was selected to go to the interview level of this national scholarship. This student is the only student selected in the York Region District School Board.

Sports: Senior Girls Basketball team won in the regional tournament. Cross country team went to OFSAA (Ontario Finals) and had a great race.

Grad Photos: December 1st to 5th is the week for photographs. They have to book the time on their own.

Coffee House: It was phenomenal. Four to five hundred people attended. There is another one in the spring.

Music Production to be held in the Newmarket Theatre on Dec 11 to 13. The tickets must be purchased through Newmarket Theatre. This year the musical is "Footloose" and everyone is encouraged to get out and see this wonderful production.

It was suggested to have the NHS twitter announcement posted on the e-bulletin.

Principal: Shawn Bredin

Midterm report Card Data Analysis presentation: Among 1285 students in NHS, 672 got over 80% and 326 at 70-80%. Overall, 58% of students were level 4, 22% level 3, 11% level 2, 5% level 1 and 4% R. Overall, there were more female students at level 4 and 3 than male students.

Year 2013-2014 course credits: Last year, 97% of Grade9 students earned all 8 credits which was higher than the board average. 93% of Grade 10 students earned all 16 credits and 90% of Grade 11 students earned 23 credits or more. Staff are working with students who are short credits to help them salvage and recover credits in the current school year.

Budget 2014-2015: This year, the school has \$237,000. The school gets around \$ 180 dollars per student. There are differences between what school budgets cover and what the board covers. For example, the school budgets are responsible for books, computers, photocopies, chairs and the board is responsible for the infrastructure of the building. This school year, the school has already acquired 80 new computers, 6 LCD screens, and 6 printers.

Maria Crosse suggested e-textbooks to reduce cost. This continues to be explored and is in place for a small number of courses. A member questioned about a cost share program. Shawn answered that cost share programs will be applied from the Aramark and Vending machines money (\$5,000-6,000) to be used to purchase equipment.

Teachers' Report: Laurie Johnson

Huddle up anti-bullying: A student-driven Anti-bullying committee working with a Toronto Argonaut had their first meeting. There will be an anti-bullying assembly on Feb 26. Promoting Activities include artwork competition, Toronto Argonauts players visiting, and survey monkey to ask students' opinions.

Healthy schools committee involves both students and teachers. Spark program is in the classroom to provide students 5 to 10 minutes break when students lose their focus. The committee was applying the Mindfulness training for students and teachers.

Guidance team: Students are working on their IPP on line in all grades. The school offers one session each semester. Next session will be in February. There is a checklist for each grade being sent home.

New Sports: Winter sports such as Ski team, snowboard team, curling team, boys' hockey and girls' hockey are started. Boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, and a new team formed for rock climbing, also started.

Chair Jeanine asked about activities during the anti-bullying week. Laurie indicated the anti-bullying week was last week. There were announcements everyday; however, the timing of the Huddle up committee meeting was a few days after the anti-bullying week. Laurie emphasized that it will be promoted every day and will be promoted at the assembly on February 26. VP Susan Richard added that they had a successful PC4LW meeting October 29. The school subcommittee works on equality, social justice, global awareness. Fifteen to sixteen representatives from parents, students, caretakers, and staff attended. There will be a meeting every few months. Next meeting is in December. Shawn said that we have a new police liaison (officer Stephanie Liddell). She just started this week. Jeanine informed the members that our previous Chair Bessie and current Co-Chair Gwyneth went to Ottawa and were invited to speak on Bill C-13. Shawn showed the YouTube video for anti-cyber bullying: "we will".

Pro-Grant:

Date of event is February 25th. We were unable to have Dr. Alex Russell because of the cost. Presenters from the community will make up the panel and their attendance has been confirmed. We have an experienced Psychotherapist, speaker Randy Ketterling, York Regional Police, Mental Health Unit, and York Regional Police, Drug and Synthetic Drug Unit. The location has not been confirmed yet. We currently are working with students at Huron Heights who will design the brochure.

New Business about parent engagement:

Maria and Doug Crosse proposed the idea of having a designated free website for school council to increase the parents' interaction. The idea is to have the school newsletter posted to this link, and then parents can sign up to the website as their own choice. There is a current site at the school website; however, there is not much current content in it. This idea will improve parents' awareness and access to resources. Shawn indicated that we need to be aware of the social media piece and it should be monitored by the council. Doug showed the Bogart school council website which is more user friendly, personal, and engaging. Evelyn made a motion to proceed with a school council web-site, on a trial basis. Motion was seconded by Guangxia. Members voted, and all were in favor. Maria Crosse and Lori Anderson volunteered to update the information during this period. The target start date is after New Year.

Future meeting dates were scheduled as followed:

Wednesday, Jan 14th

Thursday, Feb 26th