

Newmarket High School Council
September 17th, 2014 Minutes of Meeting

First School Council Meeting of the school year.

Chair:	Bessie Vlasis	Acting Secretary:	Jeanine Cardinali
Administration:	Shawn Bredin	Susan Richard	Karen Parris
Office:	Eva Greenwood		
Student Rep	Roya Abedi		

In Attendance:

Gwyneth Anderson	Iva Huschka	Maria Crosse
Lorna Duquette	Barb Whelpley	Doug Crosse
Lori Anderson	Guangxia (Shaw) Meng	Jennifer Casa-Todd
Pam Scheps	Ken Tsui	Natalya Cherepana
Kelly Hayes-Frederick	Arlene Breau	Jennifer Morris
Evelyn Siebert	Karen Dunn	Terry Richard
Soja Zadeh	Afsaneh Nowrouzi	

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Bessie Vlasis.

Bessie thanked Admin and Council for the wonderful years spent at Newmarket High. She explained that while she no longer had children attending Newmarket High, she would be available for consultation with any new chair, and that as a member of the community she would continue to be interested in the Newmarket High Community, and offer support. Bessie turned the meeting over to Shawn Bredin, the principal, to chair the election process. Shawn opened by thanking Bessie for her years as School Council Chair and thanking her for her years of dedication, saying she had been the "Perfect School Council Chair" and he would miss working with her. He reminded her that school council can always have a "community representative" and invited her to consider this position.

Shawn reminded council that members of school council are representative of the school as a whole, and should conduct themselves accordingly. He reminded members that discussions should be targeted to school policy and community, not personal issues or individual student issues. Shawn advised that all executive positions would be open and asked for volunteers for positions. Persons who were considering a voting position on School council should take their attendance at each meeting very seriously, as voting depended on a Quorum. Shawn asked for Volunteers for each position.

Chair: Jeanine Cardinali volunteered for the role of chair and invited Gwyneth Anderson to Co-chair with her. Gwyneth Accepted. No objections.

Treasurer: Arlene Breau volunteered to continue as treasurer. No objections.

Secretary: Shaw Meng volunteered to be secretary. No objections and lots of applause and thanks expressed. All self-nominated parents were acclaimed for council, as per Page 5 listing all members of the Newmarket High School Council for 2014/2015.

Meeting turned over to the New Chairs, Jeanine and Gwyneth. Gwyneth Anderson assumed Chair, while Jeanine Continued with the minutes.

Student Report- Roya Abedi Grade 12

Roya advised that she along with Ally Aris a grade 10 student would be the student representatives and give school council an overview of student life at Newmarket High

- 1st semester is usually quiet, but a few events are being planned. The school dance for September 18th has been cancelled due to lack of student interest. Not enough tickets had been sold. Students will be refunded the \$5 dollar ticket price. The dances cost approx. \$3, 000 to run. The teachers volunteer their time, but police are required to be on site, and they are paid for.
- Spirit day is being planned for the end of November. They are planning MOvember, where all the guys grow mustaches in support of cancer. The theme will be Lumber Jack, and everyone will dress like lumberjacks and beaver tails will be sold.
- Funds are being raised to support "Food for Thought".
- Halloween activities are being planned.
- Frosh week activities are being planned.
- Roya encouraged parents to support any student who is considering running for school council. She described it as a great opportunity to learn about student life, and to make new friends and share ideas, while working as a team. Mr. Finkle is the teacher who helps student council.
- Semi-formal planned for February and is usually sold out. They sell approx. 400 tickets.

Council Member, Maria Crosse, asked for more information regarding Food for Thought.

Sean explained that food for thought was a program where brown bag lunches are provided for less fortunate students in our community. The program is anonymous, and students are identified in a number of ways including referrals from teachers. High school students transport brown bags to area schools, on foot or on bikes. A few years' back two Newmarket High students make local news when they raised \$1,000 to provide lunches to the less fortunate. Today about 30 students work together to make these lunches.

A parent asked how students could find out about tryouts that were happening for sports teams. Shawn explained that these tryouts are announced on Newmarket High web-site "Good morning Newmarket High". Inquires can be made to Laurie Johnson who is the athletic designate at Newmarket High. Shawn also informed that weather days are also announced on the Board Web-site, and the Board will take over the phone system. Shawn also reminded us that the schools do remain open on these days buses are cancelled

Admin Report Shawn Bredin

- We currently have a student population of 1300 Full time students. Too many students to have a common lunch.
- We had two openings for French Immersion teachers, which took a while to fill. We have currently filled these openings and new staff should be in place very shortly.
- 180 new laptops, and 600 will go with Windows 7
- Due to new Anti-Spam bill, you have to sign up and agree to receive bulletins from the school. Money is not to be discussed.

- Eva Greenwood was introduced as office supervisor and the bones of Newmarket High. She was thanked for the smooth transition back to school and locker assignments.
- Pro-Grant for \$1,000 has been approved. In February or March Newmarket High along with other community high schools including Huron Heights, Dennison, and Mulock high will pool resources to have a “Mental Health and Our Teens Evening”. Newmarket high council members, Bessie, Jeanine and Gwyneth are representing Newmarket High. It was noted that this network group started many years ago by Bessie and Gwyneth back at the Bogart School. It was exciting to note that some of the members from other public schools are now part of our council. Last year Molly Burke was presented at Newmarket High and received an excellent turnout.

Admin Report Susan Richard

- October 8th at 2:00 there will be a student conference. Focus is on Safety and Bullying. 5 students from NNH will attend and their focus will be the needs of the school. Our police resource officer will be in attendance.
Not sure what this is – we had an ESP conference on October 7, where 5 students attended with our school community resource officer and Dr. Neceski. Some of the topics included bullying, cyber bullying, healthy lifestyles, mental health.
- **Dress Code:** Susan reminded all parents to be aware of the dress code in effect at Newmarket High. This code was developed by admin. And school council. It includes modest dress and no ripped jeans, or profanities written on clothing or encouraging bad behavior or gang related activities, substance abuse or weapons.
- Sept. 29th to October 3rd is **Safety Week**. Representatives from local agencies will be available to provide handouts and information on Addition, Mental Health, Smoking, Transit, and STDs by Public Health.
- **Interim reports** due out on Oct. 10th. **Interview night** October 22nd. Interim reports are a quick view at how a student is doing so far. Interviews are scheduled every 10 minutes.

Shawn Bredin advised that some staff asked if it would be ok to change the time of the interview from 6:30-8:00 to a new time of 6:00-8:00. After a brief discussion, it was voted that school council was in favor of the new time.

Susan Richard continued.

- **Clubs.** Many clubs are available at NHS. Students hear announcements on a daily basis regarding the first meetings of most clubs. Students can also visit Student Council office, located next to Cafeteria for information. Students can start a new club and can go to the office for information and direction on how to start a new club.
- **Musical Theatre** is started and will present “Footloose”. 68 students are involved in this class. Performances will be in December and held at Newmarket Theatre.

- **Fall coffee House November 13th.** This is a coffee shop like atmosphere in the café, with table cloths, candles, coffee, tea, and baked goods. The entertainment is excellent. This is not school bands, but individual students showcasing talent. Students must audition and the show usually runs 7-10.
- **Parents are encouraged to drop their children off away from the bus route.** Good places are on Pickering behind the school, or towards the back of the parking lot. The route in front of the school is reserved for student transportation buses. Please do not drop at front of the school. A short walk is good for the student, and will lower congestion at drop off and pick up times. Co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Student Safety in regards to crossing on the Mullock hill is being addressed. Susan has asked police and the town to look into this. They are looking into it, but many layers must be addressed and we are still awaiting suggestions to the solution.

A parent, Doug Crosse, asked about signage in regards to the “**Defibrillator machine**”, at NHS. The sign outside states it is in the building, but he was wondering if there are other signs that point people in the right direction. Doug reminded members that he and his wife brought the issue to council and our chair at the time, Bessie Vlais, brought the matter before the board. Shawn Bredin replied that the AED is located beside the elevator, near the Main Office, and that he would look into the signage. He advised that while some felt the most appropriate place may have been outside the gym, they were advised to keep near the office. The logic of keeping it near the office is because that is where most people tend to head first for help.

Pam Scheps thanked the Staff at Newmarket High for the smooth and easy transition her child had starting grade 9 at Newmarket High. She stated she was very impressed. Shawn thanked Eva Greenwood for her efforts.

Future meeting dates were set for the following evenings.
Tuesday, October 28th, 2014 and Tuesday, November 25th, 2014

Gwyneth Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:15

School Council September 2014-June 2015

The following candidates were acclaimed members and now form the New School Council for Newmarket High.

Jeanine Cardinali	Chair	jeaninecar@hotmail.ca	905 895-1223
Gwyneth Anderson	Chair	gwynfand@rogers.com	905 895-0576
Guangxia "Shaw" Meng	Secretary	wm_happymeng@yahoo.ca	905 967-0489
Arlene Breau	Treasurer	arama-breau@rogers.com	905 953-0855
Maria Crosse	Member	mariafcrosse@gmail.com	905-853-4756
Karen Dunn	Member	kjdunn18@hotmail.com	416 727-9850
Lori Anderson	Member	lori@guthries.com	905 476-0721
Evelyn Siebert	Member	esiebert@the-wire.com	905 888-1826
Iva (Eva) Huschica	Member	mihuschka@rogers.com	905 830-4372
Jennifer Morris	Member	jenmorris.ns@gmail.com	647 294-9181
Kelly Hayes-Fredrick	Member	kelly.hayes21@hotmail.ca	289-264-4838
Shawn Bredin	Principal	shawn.bredin@yrdsb.ca	
Susan Richard	V.P.	susan.richard@yrdsb.ca	
Karen Parris	V.P.	karen.parris@yrdsb.ca	
Eva Greenwood	Office	eva.greenwood@yrdsb.ca	