

## **Newmarket High School**

### **School Council**

#### **Minutes – Wednesday April 5, 2017 @ 6:45 – NHS Library**

1. Welcome & call to order – Meeting was initiated at 6:45 and greetings shared.
2. Approval of School Council Minutes from Jan 26, 2017 – Minutes from previous meeting approved.
3. Reports from School Council
  - a. Regional Parent Symposium – Erik, Gwyneth, Michelle and Helen attended. Almost 800 people attended. Having a greater opportunity to connect with parents from other schools would be helpful. There was a huge variety of topics from JK to Grade 12. Erik went to the math session about math talk and using manipulatives. A program from Jo Boaler was presented to participants. Erik also went to a session called Circle of Caring, it is a francophone organization that supports anti-bullying, with indigenous roots. Gwyneth said she went to a session where a presenter talked about how frightening it was to move to a new country. She talked about the elementary school where her kids attended and she had a parent ambassador. She said the school was the hub of the community, she felt safe and welcomed.
  - b. Other Business – The importance of having someone from Student Council present at meetings was discussed. Erik will ensure that we have an avenue of communication with them. It was suggested that minutes be emailed to the student council as well. -It was also shared that teachers at NHS communicate a great deal with parents, keeping them informed about what is happening in class. Parents are very appreciative of this. Kudos to NHS teachers! – Gwyneth said that the Speaker Series is well underway. Jordan Axani presented at NHS and about 120 people. The next speaker is from Youth Speak.
4. Administration Reports
  - a. Student Awards Ceremony – Pina reported that the awards were introduced on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the staff meeting. To date, 14 students have been nominated. Pina will send out reminders over the next few weeks. Nominations close on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Pina will work with the office to prepare certificate, send out invitations, invite teachers and prepare the script. Gwyneth and Evelyn will organize the reception and decorations. The event will occur on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 in the library or the theatre.
  - b. Focus of 3Ms – Modern Learning, Mental Health, Mathematics – Erik talked about the importance of communicating the school improvement plan. The school is currently in the process of developing a plan, that is very fluid and organic. It is a five-year plan with

cycles of refinement. It was suggested that the school share the 3M information with parents and that email is the best way of communicating. Erik said that NHS will email information moving forward. Pina suggested including the NHS twitter handle in the email so parents can see what is happening in the school. Erik shared how inquiry boxes are used. Pina talked about the work that the mental health teams are doing (brain breaks, gratitude journal, confidence building in French classes, etc) as well as Marvelous March through Healthy Schools. Evelyn expressed that students having four tests the same week is very stressful.

- c. Lines of Communication – Edsby, TeachAssist, e-bulletin, phone, etc. Parents indicated that Edsby was easy to use and that they liked it. Erik said that in the future, Edsby will be used to replace calling in for absences and TeachAssist. Parents shared that they prefer email over Synervoice.
  - d. Other Business – Erik spoke about service dogs and the benefits of having them in schools (e.g. reducing stress and anxiety). St. John’s will bring dogs on May 30<sup>th</sup> during periods 3 and 4. – Pina shared that Josh sent an email from London. All is going very well and they are leaving for Normandy at 5 AM tomorrow. – Erik talked about timetabling and possibly looking at all students having lunch period 2, 3 or 4. A reason is to see less kids in the halls and atrium during classes. Some parents shared that a common grade 9 lunch is important because the students are young and they want to eat with their friends. Another parent said that not having a common lunch introduced in grade 9 could also be advantageous because it introduces them to others in the school. – Erik talked about the parking lot being very busy. It is requested that cars not park or stop in the interior bus lane as it is dangerous and blocks traffic. – A parent asked how one can find out when clubs meet. Information is on Twitter, announcements and posted outside Student Council.
5. New Business - none
6. Treasurer’s Report – No funds used.
7. Adjourn – The meeting ended at 8:32 PM