

**Earl of March School Council**  
Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 7:00pm, Online

**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Sheila Ball, Marwan Bakr, David Barron, Rene Faucher, Louise Foley, Brian Fraser, Kai Greenwood, Thomas Holloway, Sunny Huang, Litao Ju, Coco Li, MC, Matthew Marchenko, Tanya Marchenko, Stephanie Nasmith, Melissa and Gavrill, Lili O'Reilly, Ananth Krishnan Parthasarthy, Kamuran Sadar, Ian Urback, Joy Wilson, Jeff Wirtanen, Alexandra Wright, Mara Z, Wei Zhang.

Staff Attendees: Shelley Burnside, Steve Collins, Fay Hughson, Rebecca Montemurro, Nancy Watzenboeck

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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**1. Welcome & Introductions**

David Barron welcomed all to the meeting.

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**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated. (M. Bakar /C. Li)

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**3. Review of Previous Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of November 11, 2020. (I. Urback / C. Li)

A question was asked whether the minutes are posted. Steve responded that they are posted under the school banner on the web site.

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**4. Treasurer's Report**

Ian Urback provided an update on the funds. There is approximately \$1,202.94 available in the account.

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**5. Presentation**

Joy Wilson, Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services.

Joy Wilson will do a full presentation in two weeks. Tonight she will do a 10 minute presentation. Joy presented the "Stages of Change" model using the example of a gamer. The model presents various stages of the change process (precontemplation, contemplations, preparation, action, maintenance and relapse). Joy presented different ways of interacting with a person who is in this process.

- One resource provided is [gamequitters.com](http://gamequitters.com).

- Empathy can be helpful in the process.
- The opposite of addiction is connection.

Parent support is also available. Concerns or warning signs to be aware of:

- Are marks going down?
- Are you only online?
- Are your friendships only online?
- Is the real world less
- Headache and body aches
- Irritable when asked to come down for supper
- A hard time stopping the game

Contact information is: [jwilson@rideauwood.org](mailto:jwilson@rideauwood.org)

The talk in two weeks will be on substance use, stages of use and warning signs.

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## **6. Student Council Report – Student Senator Marwan Bakr**

Marwan Bakr explained that there have been several student council events. February is Black history month and the student council is posting information on artists and historical facts. Also, world cancer day was noted on Instagram. The Student Council is also planning something for Valentine’s day such as a platonic speed dating activity. Announcements and Oh Canada are going smoothly. A question was raised as to whether there is any discussion about the fall. Marwan noted that the general sense is that things won’t be back to normal in the fall.

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## **9. Administration Report Secondary – Steve Collins**

Introductions – 3 VPs, Chair David Barron, Intermediate Teacher Representative Rebecca Montemurro, Secondary Teacher Representative Nancy Watzenboeck, Krista Norton - Music Department, Student Senator Marwan Bakr

Steve Collins provided the following report:

### Staffing Update

- Grant Lowe retirement.
- Richard Grignon Instructional Coach.
- Anthony Anderson Acting Head of Business and Coop.

New contracts:

Tim Kenyon Laura Bechberger Mackenzie Leduc Pooja Manek Lydia Jin Deb Wilmshurst

### Plant Update

Painting in hallways/lockers New Kiln Purchased 34 Athletic Banners in gym 65 Country Flags displayed in hall outside auditorium. 25% of students are not born in Canada.

### School Improvement Planning

Focus moving forward ... return to School Improvement Planning ...

Every School Has An Improvement Plan: called a School Learning Plan ... an Annual Plan ... a collection of Ministry, Board and School-specific action planning.

The School Learning Plan is Gr. 7-12. Represented by a visual that's in a draft form.

What? Pillars of focus, priorities within which we reflect, plan, act, observe ... improve student learning and staff learning ... goes hand in hand.

What? Consistency and interconnectedness and team-oriented.

What? Common entry points for collaboration and improved student engagement and learning, improved teacher best practice.

What? Ownership, Voice, ... the expertise is in the room ... harness and focus the expertise to improve.

Pillars or areas of focus in School Learning Plan:

Visible Learning Cues: Adding more visual aids in classes, improve content retention, self-confidence and engagement ... to improve conditions for learning for our students.

Mentally Healthy Schools: having a mental health strategy, multipronged, mental health literacy, promotion, capturing student voice ... use a reflection tool that can be used in classrooms, look for.

Equity and Diversity: strategy is about communication, relationship building, training and understanding, and our students seeing themselves in the curriculum, they have connections with courses, multipronged.

Lions PAUSE: curriculum expectations and priorities, connections between courses, time and support for students, timely feedback for students.

Other Department/Subject Team Goals:

Steve provided an image of the EOM school learning plan for improvement. Influenced by the Ministry, Board of Education and the school. Collectively working on all the boxes, but also in smaller groups based on departments and specific subject area. Very important to capture the staff's voice and perspectives are critical. Also, parents and students' voices should be included and provide input into the plan. Need to ensure that students' goals are identified and incorporated into the plan.

#### EOM Town Hall in February

A town hall for the students will be organized via Google Meet on Feb. 16.

#### Grad Photos and Caps/Gowns

The Class of 2021 will be invited to order their caps/gowns in advance of graduation portraits scheduled in April. More information to follow.

Questions for discussion:

- Do both secondary and intermediate school kids participate in town hall?

Steve replied it is only for secondary students. This will include the student council and others from the broader school.

Steve would like to do this each month.

- What is the quality control part of the learning plan?

Steve responded that the danger is the focus is on generalities. One part of the plan is that when the teachers are carrying out a strategy, they have to think of a student and the level of understanding before the intervention is applied. There would be an assessment before and after to determine whether there is an impact on the learning of the children.

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### **7. Administration Report Intermediate – Faye Hughson**

Faye is the Vice-principal for intermediate students. Faye reported on the following:

- Staff and students returned to in-person learning
- Safety guidelines were reviewed with updated safety measures
- Elizabeth Zuiani retired on January 31<sup>st</sup> 34.7 years.
- LTO teacher is replacing her
- This Friday, PA day on health and safety in the workplace, February 15<sup>th</sup>, Family Day
- February is Black History month. While important to weave this throughout the year, the month provides a special time to focus on the Black achievement and perspective.
- Visual display case.
- Examples include: Amanda Gorman’s inaugural poem, Hidden Figures and the creation of an infographic.
- Student Council, semi- weekly posts about Black history figures in Canada
- Intermediate section on the website. Faye presented the website and the various aspects.
- School learning plan: Equity, diversity, mental health and visual learning cues. These are the focus for this year.
- Examining literacy resources that are used in classrooms.
- Purchasing novels to reflect the diversity of the students and to ensure they are reflected and more engaged in learning. Also focus on social justice piece. 33% south east Asian. She provided a quick review.

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### **8. Staff Update Intermediate – Rebecca Montemurro**

Earl of March Intermediate School Council Teacher Report - February 2021

Grade 7 teacher.

Rebecca presented a screen shot of her classroom and visuals on the wall. Virtual cues, reading strategies.

- We are happy to be back in person at school with the students. Upon our return, we worked on rebuilding our in-person class communities with different activities, including Community Circles.
- Educators continued to use the various features of Google Meet and other technology applications during the remote learning period. This includes Breakout rooms, Jamboard, online manipulatives, online reading, Google Docs, and Pear-deck. During the remote learning period, for educators, learning to use more of the technology available to them was a bonus, and educators can now bring this technology back to the classroom to improve their instructional practice.

- On January 28th, classes discussed the importance of mental health. They were presented with different mindfulness activities and others which can help to reduce stress.
- We had Green Day on Feb 5th, where students were encouraged to wear Green or their EOM clothing. Educators welcomed them into the school with some fun music.
- Student Council continues to meet virtually after school on Thursdays via Google Meet. The Student Council organized an At-Home Scavenger Hunt Battle of the Grades (BOG) Competition during the week of January 25th. The class representatives lead the activity where students in their class had to find items around the house and collectively try to find as many as they could. This time, it was the Grade 8 classes who won the BOG competition. All of the classes enjoyed the activity and it was a great leadership opportunity for the students who ran the event well during the Google Meet sessions.
- The next initiative for the Student Council is that they will be working on creating a video with their classes about what equity and diversity means to students here at EOM.
- Also, now that we are back to in person learning, Grade 8 students from Council are back to reading the morning Intermediate announcements to the Grade 7 and 8 classes.

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### **9. Staff Update Secondary – Nancy Watzenboeck**

Nancy provided the secondary teachers' report.

Some upcoming activities:

1. Have a new growing chamber at EOM. This will be implemented this quadmester. Allows for the growing of food from seed to harvest. Will begin growing herbs and long range is to support the expansion of the EOM garden's program.
2. 3 m math class: virtual seminar on SIN card, filing tax forms.
3. February 17<sup>th</sup>: I read Canadian day. Hour long panel that classes can watch. Ms. Braxma will be one of the panelists.
4. Debating: 2 of the students have qualified to be on the Ontario Senior Debate competition. Ashley and Abdur will represent the team.
5. Yearbook: Working to document the year. Earl's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ways that students have stayed connected. Yearbooks are on sale for \$60.00. Class photos through google meet or other methods. Siblings page in the yearbook: Siblings in the snow.
6. Grad photos plan is being worked on. Detailed to be sent when finalized.

Nancy provided a screen presentation on what it looks like in other areas on secondary side:

Hand sanitizer, marked floors with arrows, classroom doors are open, no lockers are used.

A question was asked about the sterile look of the school. Classrooms are better.

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### **12. Council Projects / Budget Spend**

David explained that there will be approximately \$2,000 in funds for parent and school activities. He asked Steve to talk about using the money for teacher interviews and booking. A booking system to facilitate parent-teacher interviews.

David wondered about a communication system.

Community sign rental that rotates the message on the sign. Information could relate to student services, events at the school. This lets people know that there are things going on at EOM. One way of letting the community see what is going on.

From a budget perspective, it would cost approximately \$500.00 till the end of the year. This could be a good way of engaging Earl of March with the community around it.

- Ian asked about the cost. Bi-monthly rotation of message till June would be \$500.00.
- Question about whether a course in the school could be used to build a sign.

Steve responded that the major issue is having a system in place that presents the information on the sign from becoming outdated.

What type of system is in place and ensuring the information is current on an ongoing basis.

What type of involvement is necessary for the staff?

- Another question asked about the software booking system: how much would it cost?
- Another comment suggested having an online speaker to tell students and parents how to protect the eyes.
- David responded that that could be a possibility.
- One comment noted that the screen could be a good idea to celebrate the achievements of the school, for example the two students.
- Communication generally from the broader topic of the quality and quantity of the communication from the school. Need to think about the strategy involved.
- Another comment noted that the signs could be communicating good things but they can be used for vandalism and scrambling of letters and messages being created by community people.
- Informal parents' group on Facebook. There is a lot of interesting comments or questions from parents on that group. Could be other ways to reach out to community. Need to consider communications tools and strategy.
- An example of the math curriculum and the issues of math at Earl of March and parents needing to get support. The level of French that kids are graduating with.
- Challenge of the communication plan.
- Can be helpful to solve any problem.
- Information from the school side: there is so much online media. Sometimes a visual, sign can work easily.
- Another comment: communications is a great subject of discussion at a future meeting. What are the parameters?
- The amount of money is about \$1200 now with \$1000 dollars coming. It all has to center around parent and guardian engagement.
- When do the grants have to be spent? It could be rolled into next year.
- Asked that people be prepared to discuss the issues for next meeting.

David reminded everyone about the presentation on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with Joy Wilson. It is open to the EOM community, parents and students.

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**Adjournment:** 8:50 PM

The motion to move the adjourn the meeting was made. (T. Holloway).

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**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 22<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 19:00.

Minutes prepared by: A. Wright

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