

Earl of March School Council
Monday, March 22, 2021 7:00pm, Online

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Marwan Bakr, David Barron, Wendy Barron, Louise Foley, , Christine Handfield, Ananth Krishnan Parthasarathy, Lisa M., Coco Li, Sergei Marchenko, Melissa and Gavrill, Bill Riddoch, Rany Tan, Tim, Ian Urbach, Peter Wang, Alexandra Wright, Mara Z.

Staff Attendees: Steve Collins, Fay Hughson, Rebecca Montemurro, Megan Port, Nancy Watzenboeck

1. Welcome & Introductions

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed all. He introduced the staff and student representative and passed the mic to the chair. David Barron welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated. (C. Li/I. Urbach)

3. Review of Previous Minutes

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

4. Presentation

Megan Port, Earl of March Athletic Director, presented to the attendees.

She presented the athletic team members. Activities that have been completed include:

- Updating the website. Megan provided an update on the department.
- Various classroom activities: snowshoeing, cross country skiing, walking, health, running, biking.
- Modifying activities to respect the COVID restrictions.
- Some community partnerships: Rideauwood, Ottawa, Rape Crisis Centre, Ottawa Public Health, NCCSAA, Fitness Lab, Youth Service Bureau, Ray Zahab.

Megan provided an example of curriculum for physical education and emphasized that physical activity and wellness are priorities.

- Planning for next year includes safe COVID spaces, all gendered grad 9, individual and small group activities, student wellness, fostering a love for recreation and leisure, building grit and resilience, and building confidence.
- Athletics: possibility of e-sports. Hoping that the fall will allow for individual sports.
- Megan explained the requirements for the Athletic Letter.

- Hoping that the students will continue to have an amazing experience and fostering social connections and relationships.

A suggestion was made about starting a cricket team and parent Ananth Krishnan volunteered to assist.

A question was asked about the difference between fitness and physical education. She explained that students were learning skills and applying them to various sports. In grade 10, students can go into fitness, or the main physical education or the smaller groups. Fitness focuses on the individual student and circuit training.

Another question raised asked about criteria necessary for school sports in the fall. The following issues were raised as variables that will impact the fall athletics:

- Vaccinations
- Transportation
- Liability
- Whether schools and boards maintaining the same system.

Another question asked about kids being able to attend school early and shoot hoops at the school. At this time, the school board does not allow any after hour use of the facilities.

A question was asked about using the exterior facilities. It was clarified that students cannot bring in their own equipment for recess. The school is considering purchasing equipment for use during recess.

5. Treasurer's Report

Ian Urback provided an update on the council funds. Ian announced that further \$500.00 was received so the total is now \$1702.94. There are no expenses to report. He is participating in an audit as part of a normal financial management process in March.

6. Student Council Report – Student Senator Marwan Bakr

Marwan Bakr explained that today was the first day of Wellness Week.

- There was a live event on origami. On Wednesday there will be yoga and on Friday a baking event.
- There is a mental health resource for students.
- There is also a playlist based on students sending in songs that they like.
- There is a pet picture that students share pictures of their pets.
- Grade nine orientation is scheduled for the end of April.

A question was raised about the finances of the student council. The budget has not had many expenditures this year.

Another question was asked about the election for next year. It will be held in the end of May. Charles was elected as the trustee candidate.

9. Administration Report Secondary – Steve Collins

Steve Collins introduced the following: VP Faye Hughson , Chair David Barron, Intermediate Teacher Representative Rebecca Montemurro, Secondary Teacher Representative Nancy Watzenboeck, Dept. Head of Health and Physical Education Megan Port, Student Senator Marwan Bakr.

Steve provided the following report:

Communication ... lots of communication over last 2 months ... thank you for your understanding and responsiveness.

- Board and EOM
- Course information sessions
- Course Selections
- Confirmation of Selections
- School Preference Confirmation
- Other updates ...

School Preference Update

- School preference results
- 2020-2021 21% (300) of Secondary students attended virtual school (OCV), 40% (250) of Intermediate students attended OCV
- 2021-2022 5% (76) of Secondary students attended OCV, 5% (27) of Intermediate students attended OCV
- Course choice more favourable and more kids back in the school in 2021/22!

Staffing - New Hires

- Department Headships
- Technological Education - Scott Pemberton
- Business and Coop - Anthony Anderson
- Special Education and Student Services - [Michelle Walter](#)
- Canadian, World Studies and Humanities - Nancy Watzenboeck

Plant Update - recent purchases

- Science Carts in Room 273/283
- Guitars
- 4 water bottle filling stations to be installed
- Personal fitness equipment

Website Content Review

- Terrific content, up to date, dynamic/ever changing ... check out ...
- School News
- Academics
- Student Services
- Literacy test not offered in OCDSB this year.

Grad Photos

- May 3 - May 10
- EOM and EOM OCV students included

EOM Town Hall on February 16 - students and Principal

- Mental Health ... anxiety and stress was discussed ... next steps to support our students ...
- Need to continue to promote the resources we have as many kids are not aware
- With Student Services staff ... we'll create a clear/eye-catching visual ... to post on site, in school classrooms, reference at presentations... to effectively inform our students and to encourage them to speak to an adult if they need support ... receive feedback from students during the process

EOM Commencement Consultation March 15 and Survey March 16- 23

All OCDSB secondary schools will be committing to a consistent and equitable graduation celebration that honours all our graduates in June 2021. And EOM Admin would like to hear from the Grads! We'd like to send their thoughts and preferences to the board for their consideration.

It is expected that COVID-19 protocols will still be in place in June 2021 and will thus have an impact on what aspects of a traditional graduation will be implemented. As such ...

COVID-19 protocols must be followed regardless of the format of the event and any school-based in-person element will require physical distancing, mandatory wearing of masks, and expected sanitizing procedures as has been established throughout this school year.

Large, in-person gatherings will not be permitted (even in outdoor settings)

Any planned element that encourages large in-person gatherings, such as car parades, will not be permitted

On March 15 at 3:00 PM, Principal met with Gr. 12s to create the survey.

On March 16, the EOM Commencement Survey was sent to all the graduates. Grad to complete the survey before March 23 at 9 AM. Questions on survey:

What elements would you like to see and/or experience that will make your Commencement special?

For the video portion of the Commencement Ceremony, what features would you like to see?

What types of small-level initiatives could be implemented in our school that would also celebrate the Class of 2021? (ex. a photo wall)

Is there anything else that you would like to share with EOM Admin regarding Commencement 2021?

The results of the survey will be shared with the EOM graduates and will be sent to the OCDSB for their consideration.

We expect to hear back from the OCDSB before the April break regarding the criteria and direction we'll need to follow when organizing Commencement 2021.

A question was asked about after school programs and whether they will be reinstated. At this point Steve is unaware of any decisions related to these types of activities. It will likely depend on the rate of vaccination of the population. Ideally by February of next year they will be back. A question was asked about the teachers' unions meetings. Steve had no information about that issue.

A question was asked about the in-school or online form. Steve advised to contact him directly and or email the school.

Another question was asked about the quadmester system and whether there is any positive to the system. The blending of face-to face and technology and creativity linked to technology has been very positive. Students need personal connections so four-hour classrooms will not continue. Staff are far more competent with technology.

Appreciation was noted for Steve taking the time to meet with the grads.

7. Administration Report Intermediate – Faye Hughson

Faye reported on the following:

- Grade 8 photos will be booked just for grade 8 on May 11th and 12th.
- The leaving ceremony will be similar to the grad ceremony for the grade 12s. More direction to follow.
- Grade sixes coming into grade seven in the fall, a welcome to grade seven information session will take place in April for a virtual event.
- The OCDSB is trying to develop a central human rights policy based on the responses from a survey.
- The police officer working with the school is working with students about the consequences of using technology and online use in an appropriate way.
- Some successes out of the covid year included having community partners access the classroom virtually.

8. Staff Update Intermediate – Rebecca Montemurro

Rebecca provided the Intermediate School Council Teacher Report.

- On Feb. 24th, it was Pink Shirt Day. Students were encouraged to wear pink to symbolize that they were standing together against bullying and practicing kindness towards everyone.
- The week of March 8th, all classes had a virtual workshop from Rideauwood. The presentations included a trivia game about substance use. The Grade 7 presentation focused on the substance categories of alcohol, cannabis, vaping and technology. In the Grade 8 presentations, the substance categories also included prescription medication and opioids.
- Last week, staff organized 3 curriculum-related activity days for all the Intermediate Students. On Wednesday, classes participated in different class community building activities, all led by their Student Council Class representatives. On Thursday, each student worked on building a replica of a famous structure using index cards and tape. Next, they individually built the tallest spaghetti tower which they could. Then, working as a class, they planned and built a Marble Run where each student was responsible for building a section of the machine. On Friday, the students in each class worked together to try to solve a mystery, solving clues using their Science knowledge. Trophies were awarded for each of the building challenges during a school wide Google Meet Friday afternoon. The students enjoyed all of the activities!
- Student Council continues to meet virtually after school on Thursdays via Google Meet.
- They are currently working on planning the next Battle of the Grades competition.

9. Staff Update Secondary – Nancy Watzenboeck

Nancy provided the secondary teachers' report:

- She spoke about the growing chamber, a large chamber that was acquired through a grant for the Earl Gardens' program. This week tomato seedlings and herbs were planted. Seedlings will be transferred to the gardens. There will be other community applications in the future.
- Music has had to work to creatively offer music in the COVID environment. The music program has an audio gallery on the website. All recordings are individually recorded and pieced together. Music will continue next year.
- The library report: offering virtual drop ins Monday to Thursday to access online.
- A forest reading book club. Students read the books and vote on the best one.
- Student interested in the book match program and Ms. Johnstone will match them to the book and deliver it to the student's classroom.

A question was asked about when the last date is for grade 12 students receive an offer from university. Steve suggested that the parent reach out to student services to receive an accurate response.

12. Other Business

There will be yearbooks this year. Steve provided details following the meeting:

- The yearbook is \$60 cash or cheque made out to Earl of March, or \$70 for the yearbook with personalization (student's stamped in gold on the cover). We had it available on School Cash Online earlier this year, but I know it didn't work out for everyone. The yearbook will be delivered in September.
- If you want to buy it, please put the money in an envelope or sandwich bag with student name and student #. Please email me to arrange dropping off the payment so we can minimize contacts (eg. if the student is in the same hall where I teach then I can meet them in the hall outside my classroom, otherwise I will ask the student's teacher to collect the yearbook payment for me).
- We are including photos that students send in again this year on the "Student Submission" pages. Students can use this form to send in photos: <https://forms.gle/bLtqch7DcCE7z3Hv8>
- People can contact Ms Torres for further information (stacie.torres@ocdsb.ca)

Adjournment: 8:15 PM

The motion to move the adjourn the meeting was made. (A. Wright).

Next Meeting: Monday, April 19th, 2021, 19:00.

Minutes prepared by: A. Wright