

Earl of March School Council Meeting

Monday, January 24, 2022

7:00 pm

Via Google Meet

Attendees: Melissa Adams, Anthony Anderson, Sheila Ball, Richard Boulianne, Catherine Burch, Steve Collins, Megan Cornell, Louise Foley, Melanie Gavan, Shiguang Guo, Thomas Holloway, Leigh Ann Horner, Faye Hughson, Chantal Kaye, Coco Li, Sutha Manik, Ramashan Manikavasagar, Sergei Marchenko, Mante Molepo, Bill Riddoch, K. Smith, Cheryl Szebedinszky, Ian Urbach, Mara Zarins

Regrets: David Barron

Welcome and Introductions - Ram Manikavasagar, Co-Chair

Review and Approval of Agenda - Ram Manikavasagar, Co-Chair

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes - Naveenta Om Verma

- Naveenta was not in attendance and minutes from last meeting were not available so this item was postponed.

Student Council Report - Jerry Zhang

- Jerry was not in attendance so the Student Council update was postponed.

Presentation - Leigh Ann Horner, Department Head, Languages

- Presentation on how texts are chosen for language classes (secondary level)
- Core texts ("classics") are still being taught but students are offered much more choice
- Risk of "fake reading" when students are required to read texts they don't connect with. Student choice drives student engagement.
- Various criteria considered, including authentic voice and lived experience of the author
- Leigh Ann reviews list of proposed texts with Steve
- Updating classroom texts takes time and money. Steve pointed out that "budget is always a consideration" as there are purchases to be made for other courses as well.
- Trying to work on developing a continuum through the grades
- Texts for French classes - staff try to choose ones written in French, not translated from English

Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal

- Introduction of Cheryl Szebedinsky, new vice principal. Cheryl will be replacing Shelley Burnside who is retiring next week.
- Cheryl spoke briefly about her teaching experience. She was a teacher at Rideau High School before it closed, then taught in B.C. for a number of years before returning to Ottawa and teaching at Bell High School (which is where she met Steve Collins). Cheryl will be supporting students and families with surnames M-Z.

- Christina Merkis has been hired as a contract teacher. She is a former EOM student and has been teaching at the Ottawa-Carleton Virtual School.
 - Absenteeism during Covid. At the secondary level 6% of students are away on a typical day. Need to keep this in mind when looking at absences during Covid.
 - Course registration for current grades 9, 10, 11 is upcoming.
 - Steve would like to solicit the views of School Council Members. He has prepared a Google form titled *EOM School Council Reflections*. He would like to know what practices implemented during the pandemic we would like to see continue, what practices we would like to see dropped and what practices we would like to see created moving forward.
- Action Item: Steve will send the form to Ram to share with Council to prepare for discussion at the February/March Council meetings.
- Upcoming dates:

January 27 - High School Virtual Parent Information Night 6:30 pm

February 2 - Student Success Day (secondary)

February 3 - First day of new semester (Expected to be 4 classes, 75 minutes each)

February 3 - Grades 9,10, 11 Course Selection Info Night

February 10 - marks available for secondary students

Question - Can current grade 12 students attend summer school? Answer is yes.

Question - When will students get second semester timetables? Answer is January 31/February 1.

Intermediate Staff Report - Melanie Gavan

- not a lot of updates, beyond the switch to virtual learning and back to in person learning

Secondary Staff Report - Anthony Anderson

- Several teachers have recently welcomed virtual guest speakers to their classes.
- BTT (Information and Communication Technology in Business) class has been creating projects using the 3D printers. Students really get to show their creativity. One student made a box with a working hinge. Teachers give students real world problems to solve.
- Earl Reads Virtual Book Club begins February 11. Will be reading selections from Red Maple/White Pine (Forest of Reading program)

Intermediate Admin Report - Faye Hughson

- Intramurals, clubs on pause
- Long-term occasional teacher has been hired

Open Discussion

OCASC Update - Thomas Holloway

- OCASC's seat at Committee of the Whole (COW) has been maintained

- Voluntary Covid tracker is available

Constitution Review Update - Melissa Adams

- Revised document is ready for review by whole Council. Thanks to those who offered their input.
- Revisions include additions of missing sections that are required by the Board and restructuring for better organization
- Action Item: Melissa will send the draft to Ram who will distribute it to Council members two weeks prior to the next meeting. Discussion of the document to be on agenda for next meeting.

School Overcrowding - Megan Cornell

- Megan sat on the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) that resulted in grades 7 and 8 being brought to EOM. She is familiar with the process.
- She cautioned that none of us who have children currently at EOM will see any changes while our children are at the school. The accommodation review process takes a long time.
- Megan suggested that Council invite Christine Boothby (OCDSB Trustee for Kanata) to speak at the next meeting.
- EOM currently has 1356 students where capacity is 1079. Steve confirmed that currently there are 23 portables in use. When he started at EOM, he was told there was a plan to eventually have 32 portables.
- Opening of new Stittsville Secondary School has been delayed by one year (September 2023). Confusing info on Board site about whether Arcadia community will be part of the catchment area for this new school.
- Action Item: Ram to contact Christine Boothby to invite her to attend next Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next Council meeting is Monday, February 28, 2022, 7:00 pm