

Earl of March School Council Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2022 (this meeting was postponed from March 28, 2022)
7:00 pm
Via Google Meet

Attendees: Melissa Adams, Allison Alvi, Anthony Anderson, David Barron, Steve Collins, John Douglas, Louise Foley, Joanne Greenwood, Thomas Holloway, Faye Hughson, Chantal Kaye, Coco Li, Ryan Liu, Sergei Marchenko, Lili O'Reilly, K. Smith, Mahesh Thiagarajan, Ian Urbach, Mara Zarins, Jerry Zhang

Regrets: Ram Manikavasagar, Naveenta Om Verma

Welcome and Introductions - David Barron, Co-Chair

Review and Approval of Agenda - David Barron, Co-Chair

- Motion to approve the agenda moved by Coco Li and seconded by Thomas Holloway. Motion carried.

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 to the next meeting.

Student Council Report - Jerry Zhang

- Spoke about Battle of the Grades and Battle of the Schools. Both activities promote school spirit and support local charitable causes.

Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal

- Staff updates - Congratulations to two teachers who have been extended in their roles as department heads for the next four years: Anthony Anderson, Head of Business, Co-Op, Technological Studies and Digital Learning and Nicole Charron, Head of Science. Congratulations also to Maris Barnabe, who has accepted a department headship at Nepean High School for next year.
- Daily absenteeism rate went up to 7% in March. This represents an increase of 10-15 students per day. Staff absenteeism has increased by 1-2 per day.
- School board recommends that we continue with virtual school council meetings for the time being.
- At least 90% of students are wearing masks and well over 90% of staff wearing masks.
- Field trips within the city are allowed to proceed.
- Famous Canadians project - a collaboration between Grade 10 History and senior Fine Arts students. Steve showed some of the portraits that have been created. Grade 10 students chose an influential Canadian from the past forty years that they think deserves recognition and they pitched these figures to the senior Visual Arts students who created original portraits. Portraits

are hung on classroom doors and some will be framed and mounted in the hallways. This project will continue next year.

- Grad breakfast is scheduled for May 31. Continental breakfast provided. If students have ordered their cap and gown by the breakfast, they will get two guaranteed tickets to the commencement. Students will be asked to wear EOM colours to the breakfast as an informal group photo will be taken outside that will be given to students in their commencement folder.
- Commencement is scheduled for June 30. Hope to have an in-person ceremony. The Board is setting limits on the length of the ceremony and the number of guests in attendance so the school is looking at holding two ceremonies on the same day.
- After school math and English help is being planned for next year for grades 7-12.
- School climate survey will be completed by secondary students next week (intermediate students will complete it later in April). The Board mandates that the survey be done every two years. Participation is voluntary and anonymous.
- Literacy tests for Grade 10 students are taking place May 3 and 4, 2022.

Question to Steve- Can you speak to what you've seen in terms of academic progress (in light of Covid)?
Answer - Always looking at the data. Kids at Earl do very well. At Semester 1 mid-term, there were 20-22 kids at risk of not passing. By the end of the semester, that was down to just a handful.

Follow-up question - So you haven't seen a spike in unsuccessful kids?

Answer - No. EOM students typically do 5-6% higher than the Board average. That said, the teachers and staff are always looking for ways to improve. To this end, an action plan is in the works, called "Lions Paws" that will involve dedicating more time and support, particularly for grades 9 and 10 students, for de-streamed subjects. More to come on that later.

Intermediate Admin Report - Faye Hughson

- Elimination of cohorting at breaks and lunch. Students can go to the cafeteria or the lower foyer to eat their lunch.
- Taking a gradual approach to reintroducing larger events and activities.
- Intramural sports are taking place.
- Staffing - Megan Mitchell (Grade 8 ETFI teacher) has gone on maternity leave. She is being replaced by Mischa Ludin who started today.

Intermediate Staff Report - Faye Hughson (on behalf of Melanie Gavan who was not in attendance)

- Anthony Marchildon -White is piloting an experiential learning initiative about the impacts of urban sprawl. Focusing on the proposed development of the Kanata Lakes golf course. Students will be meeting virtually with the Kanata Greenspace Coalition as well the City Councillor for Kanata North, Cathy Curry.
- Some of the classes in portables are undertaking watercolour painting, which is an ambitious task given that there is no water available in the portables.

- Grade 7 classes have started a building project in science. Planning happening this week while building will start next week.
- Chess club is running.
- Intermediate school council can now meet in person during the school day. Council initiative resulted in 28 shoe boxes being filled for Interval House local women's shelter. Wellness week being organized for May.

Question to Faye - What is happening with the instrumental music program?

Answer - Mr. Steiner and Ms. Hardiman have started a virtual after-school program. Nothing in person right now.

Secondary Staff Report - Anthony Anderson

- School Library is now open for in-person visits. Just launched spring contest and students can win a Chapters gift card. Ms. Johnstone, the librarian, is looking to offer gift cards as prizes for library special activities. Asks parents to please email her if you have an "in" with a local business for gift cards or other prizes that will appeal to teens. Forest of Reading program is continuing to meet every two weeks and new members are welcome.
- The Library will be hosting 2 museum discovery boxes - one will be a First World War discovery box and one will be a Canadian discovery box. Teachers are signing up now to bring their classes to this hands-on activity.
- Grade 12 Drama students will be presenting *The Sound of Music* on June 10, 11 and 12. Looking for help making costumes as well as help to build pieces of the set. Canteen help is needed at intermission. Proceeds from the canteen will go to help Ukrainian refugees. There are business sponsorship opportunities. Businesses who provide financial support to the production would have their business advertised in the program. Letters to solicit sponsorships will be ready soon. Would love the help of Council - looking for parents who have connections in advertising world to promote the show.

Question to Anthony - How have co-ops been going?

Answer - Very well. Two teachers, Lydia Jin and Graham Kappel, have put a great deal of effort into securing placements for students and their hard work has resulted in some excellent co-ops. One student, who is interested in studying architecture, has a placement at the firm of Ottawa architect Barry Hobin. Another student, interested in dentistry, has a placement in a dentist's office and has even been able to watch some procedures.

Question to Steve - What is the projected growth for next year?

Answer - Earl is the biggest high school in the board (grades 9-12). Expecting 35 kids from OCV (virtual school) and approximately 50-60 additional students. Building holds a lot of people. As our trustee mentioned at the last council meeting, our building is a robust building that is better equipped than many to handle capacity.

Open Discussion

OCASC Update - Thomas Holloway

- Thomas was not able to attend the OCASC meeting held March 24, 2022 so Ian Urbach attended in his place. Thomas delivered update to Council based on Ian's notes.
- Thomas explained what OCASC is and what it does.

Constitution Review Update - Melissa Adams

- Revised document is ready for review and discussion by whole Council.
- Revisions include additions of missing sections that are required by the Board and restructuring for better organization.
- Action Item: Discussion of the document to be added to agenda for next meeting.

Question to Steve: Will Grade 8 students from Katimavik be able to tour the school?

Answer: No in-person tours offered for Grade 8 students.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Thomas Holloway. Seconded by Coco Li. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Next Council meeting is Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm.