

Earl of March School Council Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2022
7:00 pm
Library, Second Floor

Attendees: Attendance was not taken at this meeting

Welcome and Introductions - Steve Collins, Principal

Steve introduced himself as well as those people sitting at the head table: Ramashan Manikavasagar (last year's co-chair); Cheryl Szebidenszky (secondary vice-principal); Faye Hughson (intermediate vice-principal); Daniel Lau (student senator for the current school year).

Student Council Report - Daniel Lau

- The Student Council is busy welcoming students back.
- Planning is underway for student events, including a club fair, where students can learn about and sign up for the various clubs at the school.

Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from last meeting were not available so this item was postponed until the next meeting.

Formation of new School Council for 2022-2023

- Steve gave an overview of the role of School Council, which includes encouraging active parent involvement. He explained the process for determining the new council.
- 12 individuals put forward their names, which is the maximum, so no vote was required. Moved on to executive positions.
- Council for 2022-2023 is:
 - Secondary Co-Chair: Louise Foley
 - Intermediate Co-Chair: Ramashan (Ram) Manikavasagar
 - Secretary: Melissa Adams
 - Treasurer: David Che
 - Communications Officer: Maria Short
 - Members-at-Large: Ara Salazar, Mante Molepo, Subo Leemansrajah, Anshu Garg, Joanne Greenwood, Nick Davidson, Josephine Davidson
 - Principal: Steve Collins
 - Vice-Principal: Faye Hughson
 - Secondary Teacher Representative: Anthony Anderson
 - Intermediate Teacher Representative: Melanie Gavan
 - OCASC Representative: Thomas Holloway
- Executive members to email Steve directly with their position and contact information.

Intermediate Admin Report - Faye Hughson, Vice-Principal

- Extremely positive start to school year. Different vibe due to fewer restrictions (still have online health screening and hand washing protocols).
- 677 students (projected 653 students), 24 classes (13 Grade 8 classes and 11 Grade 7 classes).
- 36 staff members this year including 31 contract teachers, 2 LTOs, 2 designated occasional teachers, and 1 full time educational assistant.
- Meet the Teacher is this Thursday (September 22).
- Focus this year is on literacy instruction. Have purchased some specialized reading programs.

Question to Faye - For Meet the Teacher, do parents move around to each class?

Answer -Yes. Also, unlike during Covid, students rotate between classes this year, not teachers.

Question to Faye - How do you find out who your child's teachers are?

Answer - Ask your child for their timetable or email Faye.

Intermediate Staff Report - Melanie Gavin

- Sports are beginning to get underway. First one is cross country, then touch football.
- Truth and Reconciliation Day is September 30

Question to Melanie - Is cross country a "feeler" for other sports (that is, to see if other sports will run)?

Answer - There are no health and safety restrictions regarding sports. Waiting for funding information from the Board.

Question to Melanie - Will there be a cross country meet with other schools?

Answer - Likely.

Question - Can parents volunteer at the cross country meet?

Answer - Melanie will find out.

Question - What does it take to initiate a new club?

Answer - The requests for new clubs come from students. Each club requires a teacher to supervise.

Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal

- Communication - With teachers via Google Classroom. The administration tries to avoid sending too many emails (approximately 2-3 per month). School website is an excellent resource. The administration plans to use Twitter for communicating with the school community.
- Staffing: Susan MacDonald is the new, temporary superintendant. Will be in the position for 2-3 months.
- Megan Port is Acting Vice-Principal and Leigh Williamson is Acting Head of the Health and Physical Education department.
- Secondary staffing - 8 teachers have returned to Earl from virtual school. 18 new staff. 90-95 teachers on staff. 9 LTOs (long-term occasional teachers).
- Secondary enrollment is 1500 (projected 1452).

- While there are challenges in terms of space, the positives outweigh the negatives at a large school. More diversity in terms of course offerings.
- 31 international students (15-China, 2-South Korea, 4-Vietnam, 1-Turkey, 5-Italy, 1-Germany, 1-Switzerland, 2-Spain)
- Building updates: There was significant work done at the school this summer. A new roof has been completed; most lights have been switched to LED (not quite completed); asphalt has been laid at the back of the school to address flooding issue; and the technology storage container has been moved from the main parking lot.
- There are no school buses at EOM this year. All buses are OC Transpo buses (8 or 9 buses). Steve noted this has cut down on a lot of the chaos at dismissal.

Question - Flooding of the gym

Answer - Flooding of the intermediate gym happened just before school started. It will be about another week before it will be usable again.

- Secondary Open House was held September 15, 2022. Estimated 550-600 parents attended. Approximately 30 parents who were EOM alumni were in attendance.
- A school snack program is being implemented for students in need. The school has received funding from the Ottawa Network for Education Program for 40 students.
- Looking to restart literacy and numeracy afterschool programs. Will be a drop-in format, run by qualified teachers and offered at the school. Steve has sent out an expression of interest to the staff. Will need at least 8 students to operate.
- Cafeteria is not yet open.

Question - Where do funds from the cafeteria go?

Answer - Discretionary spending.

- Evaluation for secondary students - 70% from term work, 30% from final summative.
- Grades 11 and 12 will have final exams while grades 9 and 10 will not.

Question - How are grades 7 and 8 evaluated?

Answer from Faye - A combination of term work and tests.

Question - Will just starting to write exams in Grade 11 have a negative impact on students as those are grades that count for university admission?

Answer from Steve - No.

Upcoming dates:

Post-secondary information night	October 6
PA Day	October 7
Parent-Teacher interviews	October 13 (will have progress reports before then)

Question - Heard that there are not enough lockers for secondary.

Answer - Steve said this is not true. There is a bank of lockers that is available.

Question - Recent school lockdown. What follow-up is done with the students?

Answer - It was a secure school, not a lockdown last week. A secure school is a way to control the environment, keep students out of the halls. For instance, if an ambulance is required to transport a student, want the halls clear for ease of transport and for privacy.

Question - Is there an assembly held to reiterate that anything that could be considered a weapon should not be brought to school?

Answer - No, that should be obvious. There is also a code of conduct for students.

Question - Will de-streaming of Grade 11 math happen?

Answer - In Steve's opinion, no, it will not.

Question - Parent is not receiving updates in Google Classroom.

Answer - The parent needs to receive an invitation. Follow up with the teacher.

Secondary Staff Report - Anthony Anderson

- OSSTF (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation) awards open to grades 9-12. There are 11 awards of \$1000.00 each this year to be awarded. Grades 9-12 students may enter multiple categories in Prose, Poetry, Visual Arts, Painting and Drawing, and Media. Contact Mr. Kelly (teacher) for more details.
- Library Learning Commons updates
 - Library orientations are being conducted with grades 7 and 9 students
 - Information accessed via the library website or Instagram
 - Join Library Google Classroom for updates
 - First Earl Reads! Book Club is coming up. New members welcome.
 - Reading for Me sessions with Grade 9 English students just finished. Students browsed the library to find a book of their choice, and later this term they will be having book clubs and individual book chats with Ms. Johnstone. In the coming weeks all Grade 9 students will be coming to the Library for an introductory workshop on avoiding plagiarism.
 - In-person Scholastic Book Fair November 14-18. Volunteers need a vulnerable sector check.

Question - Secondary clubs?

Answer - A club fair is going to be held so students can learn about their options. The fair is currently being organized.

Open Discussion

Question - Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).

Answer - Steve replied that it is not connected to Council.

- Megan Cornell noted that election for new school board trustees is coming up and that often the candidates are not well known. The person at the top of the ballot tends to win.

There are 6 people running. Tom Holloway and Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) are trying to organize a candidate meet and greet.

- Ram raised the question about whether future council meetings should be held online or in person. To be discussed at next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Next Council meeting is Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm.