

Earl of March School Council Meeting

Monday, January 16, 2023

7:00 pm

Library, Second Floor

Attendees: Melissa Adams, Anthony Anderson, Sheila Ball, David Che, Steve Collins, Louise Foley, Melanie Gavan, Joanne Greenwood, Daniel Lau, Suboshana (Subo) Leenasrajah, Ram Manikavasagar, Caitlin McIlveen, Mante Molepo, Maria Short, K. Smith, Shannon Wang

Regrets: Thomas Holloway

Call to order: 7:02 pm

Welcome - Ram Manikavasagar

Approval of Previous Minutes

No changes to the draft minutes. Louise Foley moved a motion to approve the minutes from November 2022 meeting (there was no December 2022 meeting). Seconded by Joanne Greenwood. Motion carried.

Student Council Report - Daniel Lau

- Student Council is organizing a Spirit Week. Moving the holiday assembly to February. Planning a Wellness Week for after exams.
- Student Senate - focus is on equity.
- Breakfast program - looking to implement. Question about the difference between this program and the snack program already offered at the school. Current school program gets funds from Ottawa Network for Education. Maybe expanding program?

Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal

Staffing

- Welcome to Caitlin McIlveen, new Intermediate Vice Principal. She came to EOM from a K-5 school in Gloucester. Caitlin taught history for grades 7 and 8 for a long time before becoming an administrator. She also taught at Hopewell Public School and Fielding Drive Public School.
- Megan Port will continue as the Secondary Vice Principal until the end of the year.
- Interviewing for contract positions. Have hired for 7 classes, still 1 to go to make 8. Most of these new hires are known at the school.

Question: Regarding intention to hire racially diverse staff.

Answer: School does not have input on teachers colleges and who applies/is accepted. Need to hire from pool of candidates available.

Programs

- There are 3 tutoring programs offered at the school:
1) Math Help Program

After school math help from EOM math teachers. Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-5pm, grades 7-12. Averaging 20-25 students with a spike up to 30-40 when tests are upcoming. Attendance is voluntary.

2) EOM Peer Tutoring Program

One-on-one tutoring for grades 7-12 in a variety of subjects. Usually meet at lunch.

3) In-class tutoring

In response to destreaming, 26 students from Grades 11 and 12 go into Grade 9 and 10 destreamed classes every Friday.

Also, unofficial tutoring happens at lunchtime, often in subjects like math and physics.

Exam Period

- Overall mark is based on 30% evaluation. During the pandemic, 100% of overall mark was from term work.
- Only Grade 11 and 12 courses have exams.
- Evaluations are only in the morning. During the afternoons, students have the opportunity to submit or resubmit work. This is referred to as "credit rescue" or "student success".

Upcoming dates:

- February 2 - Welcome to High School session for current Grade 8 students
- February 9 - Course selection information night for current grades 9, 10, and 11 (options for courses in grades 10-12)

Question to Steve about EQAO results.

Answer from Steve - EQAO results don't count towards grades. They are a "snapshot".

Question about evidence records.

Answer: Not typically sent to parents. Depends on approach by teacher.

A short discussion followed about the pros and cons of EQAO testing.

Senior Staff Report - Anthony Anderson

Fine Arts - Cynthia Wood

- Grade 12 Drama students are presenting a play called *7 Stories* on January 17-18 at 7:00pm. This is a PG-14 "dramedy" with a run time of 2 hours including a 15 minute intermission. Content warning: discussions about mental health and suicide. Includes dark humour, smoking, domestic violence, gunshot.
- Learn more about this classic Canadian play here:
<https://www.canadiantheatre.com/dict.pl?term=7%20Stories>

CWS - Kathy Sigmund-Scheepers

- Three Grade 10 History classes visited the Canadian War Museum on Wednesday, December 21 for a professionally guided tour as well as some self-guided time.
- The Grade 11 World Religions class had Minister Brian Cornelius (First Ottawa United) and Reverend Bob Albert (Anglican Diocese of Ottawa) visit the class for the unit on Christianity in December. Imam Zijad from the SNMC Mosque (Barrhaven) will visit the class on January 18 to support the unit on Islam.

Ski Club

- Ski Club is starting up again with a trip to Camp Fortune on February 1. Allyson Tayler is leading this club with support from Kathy Scheepers and Gord Roller. Students will have four nights of skiing.

Math - Deb Lisak

- Grade 9 students taking Math this semester will be writing the EQAO Math assessment January 18 and 19. If they have questions, they can email Ms. Lisak.

Taylor McCabe

- The peer tutoring program with senior students who have been matched to help in destreamed classes is working very well so far. Students who might hesitate to ask for help are responding well to working with older students and having more support available during class time.

Library Learning Commons - Laura Johnstone

- Teen Advisory Group held a Library Secret Santa as a fun holiday variation of Blind Date with a Book, with “secret” books wrapped as presents.
- *Earl Reads* Book Club kicked off 2023 sharing the books that members read over the winter break. In February, the club will be reading and discussing Red Maple and White Pine nominees from the Ontario Library Association [Forest of Reading](#). Club members will join other Ontario students to vote for their favourites to determine the 2023 Forest of Reading winners. New members welcome.
- Students are welcome to come to the Library when they’re not in class, whether to work on schoolwork or to find a quiet place to rest and unwind. However, during the evaluation/exam period, the Library is being used for exams and credit rescue, so it will not be open for regular library activities.
- Students can join the Library Google Classroom with code **gjvc2ug** to stay informed about resources, library events, book clubs, opportunities, volunteering, and more. Students and parents are invited to check out our Library website at: https://earlofmarchss.ocdsb.ca/academics/library_learning_commons and to follow us on Instagram [@eom_library](#).

Physical Education

- PhysEd classes are participating in the Tournament of Champions. This is where all core PhysEd students participate in a tournament with and against their classmates. Students get to showcase the skills and strategies that they have learned throughout the semester.
- The Senior Boys basketball team made it to the semi finals in the St. Joe's Jaguar Classic tournament.
- The Junior Boys Basketball team record this year is 8-0. They play Samuel-Genest today in the semi-finals. If they win, they will be playing in the Tier 1 City Championships on Wednesday.
- The Senior Girls Volleyball Team is at the midway point in their season.

Intermediate Admin Report

- Deferred to next month's meeting due to Caitlin McIlveen's very recent arrival at EOM.

Intermediate Staff Report- Melanie Gavan

- The Grade 7 and Grade 8 bands will be performing at the Capital Region MusicFest on February 24. Rehearsals for both bands have started again.
- Basketball season is starting up. Only Tier 1 (Grade 8 teams) will go to a tournament. Grade 7 will be intramural.
- Chess, guitar and other clubs are continuing.

- Ski/snowboarding days are beginning next week. Each grade will be going to Camp Fortune for two days of skiing, snowboarding or snowshoeing. The school pays if a student cannot afford the cost.
- Two English Grade 7 classes went to Bill Mason Outdoor Education Center today.
- Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School (technical high school) information session on Thursday.
- PD day Friday for Intermediate students.

Question: Is trip to Camp Olympia going ahead?

Answer: Still waiting for approval for Grade 8 trip to Camp Olympia.

OCASC - Thomas Holloway sent his regrets, along with information about Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) and their upcoming meeting on January 19. The information is annexed to these minutes.

- Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings are open to the public
- Earl of March Council has not paid the \$35 OCASC membership fee yet. Steve indicated that the school office could issue a cheque at the council's request. It was noted that the Council treasurer should be the one to do this.

Discussion about guest speakers and future council discussion topics. Suggestion of inviting someone to speak about equity, diversity and inclusion.

Question: Who do students talk to regarding references?

Answer: Caitlin indicated that past teachers can always be reached.

Question: For high school athletics, is there a possibility of having Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams to get more kids involved?

Answer: Steve asked for the question to be emailed to him.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Louise Foley. Seconded by Maria Short. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm, in person.

OCASC Update - Submitted in writing by Thomas Holloway

EOM School Council January OCASC Update

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) has not met since our last council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for this upcoming Thursday, January 19. Given the timing of this month's OCASC meeting, I'll provide an interim update if anything relevant and time-sensitive comes up (e.g., PRO grants, near-term events, etc.).

Some information from my last update that's still relevant if council members or other parents are interested in participating or looking for direct updates:

- You can sign up for the Supporting School Councils newsletter, including the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and other targeted emails at:

[Ottawa-Carleton District School Board : Sign Up to Stay in Touch \(constantcontact.com\)](https://www.constantcontact.com)

- **Arts Advisory Committee** – Nancy Solange Dean from OCASC helps run this committee of the OCDSB, and she is encouraging school councils to elect and send representatives to this committee. There are four main streams: visual arts, drama, dance and music. For more information, feel free to reach out via email at artsadvisoryocdsb@gmail.com
- **Membership Fees** – I was not sure if this was paid yet, but a membership fee of \$35 should be paid by cheque and made payable to OCASC c/o Lisa Greaves, 500 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 3P1

Committee of the Whole (COW) – The next COW is January 17 with the public session starting at approximately 7pm. The agenda, along with expected delegations and publicly available materials, can be found at: [Committee of the Whole - January 17, 2023 \(escribemeetings.com\)](https://www.escribemeetings.com). A link will be available on OCDSB's website if anyone wants to follow along online.

As a reminder, all **meetings** of OCASC are open to the public and anyone can participate. Please make sure to follow along on OCASC's webpage and Facebook page. Meetings will be held monthly and will alternate between virtual and in-person. Note, we expect to continue our discussion on anti-bullying and PRO grants at the upcoming meeting later this week. Below is a list of upcoming meetings, starting at 7pm.

Upcoming OCASC meetings:

01/19/2023 – in-person, TBD
02/16/2023 – virtual
03/23/2023 – in-person, TBD
04/20/2023 – virtual
05/18/2023 – in-person, TBD
No June meeting

Please contact Thomas Holloway at 857-251-7975 or at thomasholloway@hotmail.com if you have any questions or would like him to bring something up at the next OCASC meeting. Likewise, as OCASC's rep to the OCDSB COW, please let me know if you have any items that you would like me to be aware of or speak to in that capacity. OCDSB provides their agenda packages in advance of their monthly meetings.