

Earl of March School Council Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2023

7:00 pm

Library, Second Floor

Attendees: Melissa Adams, Anthony Anderson, Sheila Ball, Steve Collins, Louise Foley, Joanne Greenwood, Liane Hoekstra, Daniel Lau, Sathy Paskaran

Regrets: Thomas Holloway, Subo Leenasrajah, Ram Manikavasagar, Monte Molepo, Maria Short

Call to order: 7:06 pm

Welcome - Louise Foley, Co-Chair

Approval of Previous Minutes

No changes to the draft minutes. Joanne Greenwood moved a motion to approve the minutes from January meeting. Seconded by Sathy Paskaran. Motion carried.

Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal

Staffing

- Hired new contract teacher for Career Studies
- Hired 9 LTO (long-term occasional) teachers for Semester 2, plus 5 continued from Semester 1

Programs

- Welcome to High School Information Night (for current Gr. 8 students) was held on February 2, 2023 and 450-475 people attended. The session included introductions, an overview of graduation requirements, programs, course selection, electives and a Q&A. Department heads were on hand to answer specific questions.
- Thanks to the tremendous generosity of a family in our community, a new memorial scholarship will be introduced at EOM's commencement ceremony this June. The scholarship will honour a graduate of EOM and his passion for music. The \$1000 scholarship will support one student each year for the next 20 years who plans to pursue further education in music. Details are still to be determined, including the name of the scholarship, selection criteria, etc.
- 2023-2024 course selections in Xello must be submitted by the end of the day on Monday, February 27, 2023.
- Semester 2 Progress Reports - Teachers will communicate progress to students March 1-9, 2023 by email, evidence record, phone call or Google Classroom. Parents will be informed from each teacher. Feedback will be: student is progressing well OR an area of focus or next step. Teachers will directly communicate with parents if a grade is below 50% and/or course credit is at risk.
- Parent-Teacher interviews will be held March 23, 2023.
- Course withdrawal date is May 5, 2023 for students in a Grade 11 or Grade 12 course. If students withdraw from a Grade 11 or Grade 12 course after the posted deadline or

“drop date,” the course will be recorded on their Ontario Student Transcript (OST) and be seen by colleges/universities.

Building/Equipment

- 6 desktop computers have been purchased for the Manufacturing Technology lab to support the use of CAD software. Expect to buy more in the future.

Important Dates:

- February 17 PA Day
- February 20 Family Day
- February 23-25 Capital Region MusicFest (Concert Bands performing at EOM)

Student Council Report - Daniel Lau

- Coffee house being held on Thursday, February 16, 2023
- Tickets for the upcoming musical are now on sale. *The Addams Family* will be presented at the EOM Auditorium on April 27, 28 and 29 at 7pm and April 30 at 2pm. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased online or at the door.
- Implementation of OCDSB's Menstrual Equity initiative has been delayed because of difficulty obtaining dispensers due to supply chain issues.
- Mental health initiative - focusing on prevention

Senior Staff Report - Anthony Anderson

English - Leigh Ann Horner

- Celebrating Black History Month in many English classes by asking students to share storytellers they admire from the Black community with their classmates. They have chosen authors, poets, journalists, actors, directors, and songwriters. These presentations have been an inspirational way to start off our classes every day!

Canada World Studies - Brandon Crilly

- International Certificate Program - Students currently in Grade 9 or 10 can sign up anytime. Requirements include a language component (other than English and French) and internationally-focused courses. Contact Mr. Crilly for more information.

Library Learning Commons - Laura Johnstone

- The Library is ready for Valentine's Day with a display of love-themed books and a Guess the Candy Hearts contest! Guesses are due at the circulation desk by 12:10pm on Tuesday, and we will award the candy jar to the winner just in time to share (or not) for Valentine's Day!
- The Library is featuring displays of non-fiction and fiction books for Black History Month. Next week will feature Freedom to Read Week. Stay tuned to the displays, new books, and promotions on Instagram @eom_library!
- February 21 and 22, the Library will hold a lunchtime used-book sale in the Upper Foyer to raise funds for Red Cross Earthquake Relief in Türkiye and Syria (until February 22, donations to the Red Cross will be matched by the Government of Canada). All books will be \$0.25. Book donations of popular fiction published in the last 10 years gladly accepted (we have very little storage space, so at this time we cannot accept any other

type of book). We will have a box inside the Library for students to drop off book donations, or parents may bring them to Main Office labelled Attention: Library.

- Earl Reads Book Club has shifted into Forest of Reading mode. The club is meeting every two weeks to discuss Red Maple and White Pine nominees, and will join other students across Ontario in April in voting to determine the 2023 Forest of Reading winners. New members are always welcome – meetings are posted on Instagram and in the Library Google Classroom (code gjvc2ug).
- Welcome Ms. Brenna Wyman to the Library! Ms. Johnstone will be on partial leave until the end of April, so Ms. Wyman will take over as Teacher-Librarian in the afternoons. As well as being a qualified Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Wyman (the students call her “B”) is also a qualified yoga instructor, and she will be holding yoga sessions at Secondary Lunch in the Library on Mondays. Students can stay tuned on the announcements and on the Library Google Classroom for details.

Intermediate Admin Report - Liane Hoekstra

- Enrichment mini-course offered through Carleton University. 30 students participating with names drawn via a lottery system. The list of names is posted in the atrium. Can apply again in Grade 9.
- Camp Olympia - 3 days/2 nights in June for Grade 8 students. Have already had requests from approximately 20 families to help with \$310/student cost. Ms. Hoekstra asked if intermediate parents would be interested in helping to fundraise. Due to the low meeting turnout, only one intermediate parent was in attendance but offered to help.
- Term 1 report cards being sent out February 15
- Ms. Hoekstra provided some examples of what diversity and inclusion initiatives are happening at the intermediate level:
 - Black Student Association:
 - Intermediate students have connected with the Black Student Association at the high school level
 - Students will be watching the one-woman play, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*
 - Making a video of issues that students face
 - Intermediate students want to organize a coffee house
 - Equity and Diversity Club - Ms. Hoekstra indicated that it has been challenging to get this club off the ground this year. Success depends on interest and initiative of students from year to year.
 - Gay-Straight Alliance - Intermediate club members are connecting with the high school club.
 - Question about other clubs - There is a Muslims of Earl club, a Chinese club and a Rainbow club at the school.

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.

Earl of March Parents Facebook group - Louise Foley

- Louise is now the moderator of the group
- Unofficial group that is not run by the council. A group for information sharing.

Brief discussion held about snow days, attendance on those days and whether new material is introduced. Steve reminded the group that on snow days, only the yellow school buses are cancelled (OSTA). Earl of March is served exclusively by OC Transpo buses that still operate.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Melissa Adams. Seconded by Joanne Greenwood.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm

Next Council meeting is Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm, in person.

OCASC Update - Submitted in writing by Thomas Holloway

EOM School Council

February OCASC Update

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) met Thursday, January 19 and will meet again this upcoming Thursday (February 16). 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.ottawacsb.ca/sign-up-to-stay-in-touch)

- **Arts Advisory Committee** – Nancy Solange Dean continues to encourage school councils to elect and send representatives to this committee. For more information, feel free to reach out via email at artsadvisoryocdsb@gmail.com
- **Membership Fees** – If it hasn't been paid yet, the \$35 fee 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 COW met twice since our last EOM Council meeting, on 1/17/23 and on 2/7/23. At the first meeting, the Trustees, after much debate on the specifics, approved a motion to hire a full-time Jewish Equity Coach. At the most recent meeting, a delegation spoke about anti-Palestinian racism. There were a lot of follow up questions to see if another equity coach might be warranted, and OCDSB planned to follow up. A lot of discussion at both meetings covered the Strategic Plan. Parents and councils should have received information to provide input.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – Tess Porter (FACE), was planning Professional Development Training for school councils on 2/8 from 6 to 8pm. Some discussion included the annual PRO Grant, but all the information had not rolled out as of our last OCASC meeting. Nancy Solange Dean was going to go back to the relevant superintendent with questions and some clarification, and an OCASC working group was going to meet to facilitate council participation (See below).

Drive Yellow – OSTA has reached out to OCASC to help with their Drive Yellow campaign to recruit more school bus drivers. As many know, there is a severe shortage of drivers that is expected to continue, and OSTA has been working to recruit drivers since the return to school post-Covid. A follow-up meeting was planned with OSTA to see how best OCASC could be of assistance.