

## **Earl of March School Council Meeting**

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

**Library, Second Floor**

**Attendees:** Melissa Adams, Anthony Anderson, David Che, Steve Collins, Louise Foley, Melanie Gavan, Joanne Greenwood, Daniel Lau, Jaime McDonald, Caitlin McIlveen, Monte Molepo, Maria Short

**Regrets:** Thomas Holloway, Ram Manikavasagar

**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 February meeting. Seconded by Maria Short. Motion carried.

### **Student Council Report - Daniel Lau**

- Planning is underway for Battle of the Grades. A variety of events will be held and points awarded. Decided to hold it after mid-terms to get maximum participation but it means that it will not be in the yearbook. Popular event with older grades, especially Grade 12 students.
- Structural change within Student Senate.

### **Secondary Admin Report - Steve Collins, Principal**

#### **Staffing**

- Starting staffing process for next year.
- Beginning with department headships, which are for four-year terms. Looking to fill department head positions in Fine Arts, Math and English.
- Expect quite a bit of hiring for the upcoming year. 1650 students now (high school) with an additional 60-70 students anticipated. 26 portables currently.

Question about construction of a new school.

No announcements from the Board.

EOM currently has 26 portables and will go up to 32 portables.

Comment from the floor that if construction goes ahead on the Clublink lands, with an estimated 2000 new homes, our current school cannot handle the influx of new students.

#### **Programs**

- EOM School Data 2023 to be collected (last updated 2019. Had been stopped due to the pandemic)  
Types of data:
  - School Climate Surveys - students/parents/guardians/staff

- o student engagement, sense of belonging, safety and student voice
- Pyramid of Interventions: Three levels or tiers. How do we respond when students are not learning? The solution requires a systematic process of intervention to ensure students receive additional time and support for learning according to a school-wide plan.
- What other things would we like to collect data about?
  - o Student birth countries, student first languages spoken at home
  - o Multilingual learners data
  - o Special Education data - exceptionalities
  - o Credit accumulation - What percentage of students are achieving 8/8, 7/8, 6/8 ... credits per year.
  - o Course pass rates in Gr. 9 and 10 compulsory courses - what percentage of students are getting 70% or higher? What percentage of student success is at Level 3/4? Level 3 is 70-79% and represents the provincial standard for achievement. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with considerable effectiveness. Parents of students achieving at Level 3 can be confident that their children will be prepared for work in subsequent grades or courses.
  - o Where are EOM students going after they graduate? Are they entering the workplace, starting apprenticeships, going to college or university?
- Why do we want to know all this?
  - o It is important to understand our current reality, know our students and school community. This knowledge guides lesson, school and department planning and goal setting in a thoughtful, fact-based and precise way.
  - o Also used for curriculum reviews and revisions, change in assessments, and for assuring diversity in our classrooms.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Eva Olsson, Holocaust survivor and Order of Canada recipient, will speak to our intermediate students on March 27. She is a 99-year-old Bracebridge woman who has spent much of the last three decades sharing her story of survival and speaking out against hate.
- On March 28 and 29, actor Leslie McCurdy will bring the play *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* to EOM.
- The EOM Muslim Students Association is organizing a Ramadan Iftar (dinner) event at the school, on Friday, March 31 from 5-9pm. ALL staff are invited. Iftar is the main meal of the fasting day, which occurs at sunset every day of Ramadan.
- EOM Music Regional MusicFest - All four concert bands received silver standings, and the junior and senior jazz ensembles received gold standings. Senior jazz band was recognized as the best band at their jazz competition, the first time since 2005. MusicFest Canada's national competition is May 15-20, 2023 in Niagara Falls. Approximately 140 students are attending from EOM.

### **Important Dates:**

- March 23 Parent-teacher Interviews
- March 30 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

### **Senior Staff Report - Anthony Anderson**

#### Library Learning Commons - Laura Johnstone

- Canadian War Museum First World War Discovery Box is back - an interactive experiential-learning experience for Grade 10 History students.
- Completing our Science in Popular Media information-literacy workshops with all Grade 9 Science students, teaching them how to evaluate scientific claims and references in popular media, including social media.
- Used Book Sale to raise funds for Red Cross Earthquake Relief in Turkey and Syria was a great success. Raised \$130, which turned into \$260 with the Government of Canada donation match.
- At this week's Book Club, we are taking a break from Forest of Reading and reading "Earl colours" books – books with green and/or gold covers. As always, discussing whatever books anyone wants to talk about. New members are always welcome – meetings are posted on Instagram and in the Library Google Classroom (code gjvc2ug).
- Displays this month feature Women's History Month as well as Forest of Reading Red Maple and White Pine books.
- Congratulations to Grade 10 student RenRan Sun who has been chosen in two separate writing contests. She has been selected in the first round of the Polar Expressions Publishing Contest for both Poetry and Short Story, which means that her work will be published in this year's anthology and she will move on to the next round of the competition. She is also a quarter-finalist in the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies Speaker's Idol Competition, and will move on to the next round this week.
- RenRan learned about these competitions through the Library Google Classroom. Students are encouraged to 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](https://earlofmarchss.ocdsb.ca/academics/library_learning_commons) and to follow on Instagram @eom\_library

### **Intermediate Admin Report - Caitlin McIlveen**

- Highly diverse student group.
- Two trips planned for end of year.
- School Climate Survey is ongoing.
- Mental health - There are lengthy waits for therapists. Resources have been shared with families. Teachers work on classroom wellness daily. School social worker is very busy.
- Anti-bullying is being reviewed more explicitly. PREVNet (**P**romoting **R**elationships and **E**liminating **V**iolence **N**etwork) is an online resource that reviews myths around bullying.
- Caitlin distributed a handout to meeting attendees about the Aligned and Integration Model (AIM) for School Mental Health and Well-Being – the image is annexed to these minutes.

- Culturally relevant pedagogy - students need to see themselves reflected in the curriculum, the school environment so they can feel engaged in their learning.
- Incident with slurs/epithets - administration is looking to address this outside of the incident to have a broader conversation with students.
- SPARK - a program where physical education is placed at the start of the learning day. Looking at how to bring it to the intermediate level. Different than DPA (daily physical activity).
- Ramadan - document came out today about how to support Muslim students.

### **Intermediate Staff Report - Melanie Gavan**

- Both grades have upcoming end of year trips. Grade 8 deadline has passed, the Grade 7 deadline is March 28.
- F7A and B watched *The Social Dilemma*, analyzed the film and had a debate. Ms. Taggart was wondering if school council would be interested in watching and having a discussion.
- Intermediates have booked Eva Olsson to speak via a Google Meet on March 27 at 11:30.
- Congratulations to the Grade 8 Girls Basketball Team for winning the Tier 1 Regional Basketball Tournament. This season the girls got better with each practice and when they reached the championship game, they were the best version of themselves. No team at the tournament worked harder and it showed in the final when the girls won 37-23 to become Champions!
- Grade 7 girls and boys basketball intramurals have just ended. Had a good turnout and spent about a month playing during recess time. Hope to return to tournament style play next year for Tier 2.
- Next sport for intramurals is badminton (no Board Tier 1 or 2 tournament this year)
- Musicfest was a great success and both bands came away with a silver standing.
- Student Council ran a very successful Winter Wonderland dance and concession.
- Upcoming student council events: Spirit Week, Easter food drive and possibly candy grams
- Continuing with the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) reading assessment/diagnostic and the accompanying literacy program. Assesses fluency, accuracy and decoding. Angela Vennor, intermediate learning support teacher (LST), would be happy to talk to school council about this program if there is interest.

Question regarding end-of-year trips and fundraising: At the February meeting, Liane Hoekstra asked about the possibility of having parents/council help with fundraising for the Grade 8 Camp Olympia trip.

Answer: Louise followed up and Ms. Hoekstra confirmed that "it was well in hand" and no assistance from council was required.

Question: Training for teachers to support student mental health

Answer: Teachers work on building a trusting relationship with students. Have a team they can connect to.

Question: How can parents be better advocates for mental health resources?

### **School Council Admin Report - Louise Foley, Co-Chair**

- This report is a new addition to council meetings and is a way to communicate council activities and updates.
- Earl of March Parents Facebook Group - moderated by Louise Foley in her role as an EOM parent but not an official council or school group. It is a group for EOM parents to help EOM parents.
- At a previous meeting, a question was asked why Earl of March did not have both Tier 1 & Tier 2 athletic teams – the question was forwarded via email and an email response was provided by Megan Port, Head of Athletics. Louise provided a summary of the email at the meeting – the full text of the email is annexed to these minutes.
- Principal Profile - Planning to have it ready to share and discuss with council at April meeting.
- Forward agenda items this is a new section of the agenda to include suggestions for discussion at future meetings.

**OCASC** - Thomas Holloway sent his regrets, along with information about Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) and the meeting held on February 16 as well as the upcoming meeting on Thursday, March 23. The information is annexed to these minutes.

### **Open Discussion - Diversity and Inclusion**

- This discussion item was brought forward by Maria Short. She has heard from her children, who at the intermediate level, that there is resistance from students to messages of diversity and inclusion. Maria is wondering what can be done where there is a conflict between student beliefs and diversity and inclusion messages.
- Maria suggested that a survey of students be conducted. Melissa Adams noted that a lot of this information would be captured in the School Climate Survey, which was confirmed by Steve Collins.
- Jaime McDonald spoke about having a focus on caring
- Another parent shared a success story about their child, who has autism, being accepted by classmates.
- Monte Molepo suggested we consider holding parent information sessions. Would allow for parents to talk to parents about their concerns. Would have to be well-moderated.
- OCDSB has a speaker series that may address some of these themes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by a participant. Seconded by Joanne Greenwood.  
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Next Council meeting is Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm, in person in the EOM Library.

### **Question regarding Tier 1 & Tier 2 teams at EOM**

At the January School Council Meeting a question was asked about whether Earl of March could have both Tier 1 & Tier 2 athletics teams so that more students could participate. The email response below is from Megan Port, Head of Athletics.

We are very fortunate to have some amazing and very experienced coaches, but every year athletic directors throughout the NCSSAA struggle to secure enough teachers and community coaches for each of our 4 seasons. Additionally, we have coaches who volunteer for multiple seasons as such, there is often a tight turnaround for them and this sometimes can result in only 2-3 tryout opportunities. As the athletic director, I definitely encourage coaches to run a few (1-2) development opportunities (practices) before making cuts. I know our varsity field hockey program runs 3 "learn to play" days then 2 tryouts. A few of our teams such as Nordic and Rugby have no cuts and often our volleyball teams take a few "red shirts" so they can develop and practice with the team. Additionally, our Alpine, cross country, and Track and Field teams allow all students to participate, train and develop and then they compete for a spot at the NCSSAA festivals. With regards to our junior girls volleyball, there were about 40 athletes who tried out and this year the coach did take a larger team than usual. With 6 positions on the court generally teams only carry 10 - 12 athletes, and this year they carried 15. The coach opted to carry a larger team and have no "red shirts" with athlete development in mind. Additionally, our athletic council and PE staff ran an all gendered grade 9 only volleyball intramural program in the fall.

This year many of our teams had larger than average turnouts for tryouts, likely due to COVID and students not having many opportunities over the past year and a half. The number of participants did catch a few coaches off guard. As such we have been having seasonal debriefs and planning ahead. Your feedback will also help with this.

Creating opportunities for students to get involved in sport and athletics is a big focus for me and my team. As a large school of 1500 secondary students trying out for a school team can be competitive. Our athletics program runs around 30 - 32 teams a year plus 3 - 4 sport specific clubs, such as ultimate & softball. With this, we are one of the largest athletic programs in the city. To ensure maximum participation we don't pull up juniors to play on senior teams and we run very few varsity teams. This allows for more juniors to get involved and promotes true athlete development, and program building.

Lastly, with gym space being tight due to the number of teams we have in season at one time and hosting home games, it's hard to offer additional practice teams or clinics. We don't have the coaches and have very limited space. It would be ideal, but unfortunately at the moment it's honestly not viable. We will continue to strive to create opportunities for students through our teams, clubs, and intramurals.

Increasing participation of girls in sport, as well as long term athlete development, is a real focus of mine.

## **OCASC Update - Submitted in writing by Thomas Holloway**

### **EOM School Council March OCASC Update**

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) met Thursday, February 16 (with 29 councils represented) and will meet again this upcoming Thursday, March 23. Given the timing of this month's OCASC meeting, I'll provide an interim update if anything relevant and time-sensitive comes up.

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/sign-up-to-stay-in-touch)

- **Membership Fees** – If it hasn't been paid yet, the \$35 fee should be paid by check and made payable to OCASC c/o Lisa Greaves, 500 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 3P1. **[Note from school council secretary: Louise Foley confirmed that membership fee was paid on March 3, 2023]**

**Alternative Schools Advisory Committee** – After discussions with five councils, the Alternative Schools Advisory Committee is looking to address the huge lack of engagement and exhaustion that councils/members are experiencing and is collecting information about other councils feeling the same.

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** – PIC is to meet next on 2/22 and, as part of its agenda, is looking to develop a Work Plan. Recommendations from OCASC included communicating a strategic plan with parents; helping parents be a larger part of their child's education; learning in school; helping parents navigate the school system; funding; resource support for parent engagement and administering grants. It was noted that Tess Porter (FACE), who was working with PIC for OCDSB, was leaving her role.

**WIFI/Technical issues delegation** – As a follow up, a couple of member-councils indicated that their schools were having technical issues with connectivity, particularly in older buildings where modifications had been made post-Covid, and with the change to new provider. They would like to know if other schools, such as ours, are experiencing the same problems, and then to have participants, whether councils or parents, participate at an upcoming COW meeting to bring the problems to the Trustees' attention.

**PRO GRANTS/HELP** – PRO Grant applications were due 2/20, but it's understood that late applications will be allowed, subject to approval. Schools are allowed to team up with other

schools/councils, to help facilitate use of PRO Grants. OCASC ran a program to help schools with applications. Various councils offered ideas for what they've chosen (e.g., equity, multiculturalism, cultural food, anti-racism, mental health) and providers (e.g., Parents for Diversity). It was noted other school boards rolled out their PRO grant programs much earlier and some offered more than ministry minimum levels (e.g., Toronto rolled out their program in the fall and double the amount of Ottawa). OCASC plans to research further what other boards have done and work with PIC to see if improvements can be made to how the program is rolled out annually in Ottawa.

**Grades 9 and 10 removal from school exams discussion** – Concerns were voiced by several councils of the OCDSB's decision early in the school year to remove grades 9 and 10 from exams. Many felt the decision was relatively last minute (at the start of the school year) and not well communicated to parents, with little input from stakeholders (e.g., students, parents, councils, teachers/ unions). Many felt it was a disservice to students who will face exams for the first time in grade 11, ill-prepared for their more important school years in preparation for college and university. While some were less concerned about the exam itself (particularly where summatives replaced exams), there were concerns over the "breaks" for the grade 9 and 10s causing a disruption in learning. Many felt it was disingenuous to call them "student success days" when most students didn't need the time to catch up, and that an opportunity was missed for the board to use the time in an innovative way (e.g., promote volunteer opportunities, hold workshops on writing exams).

**OCDSB parent/caregiver school climate survey** – A reminder that surveys can be completed through March 24.

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. Below is a list of upcoming meetings, starting at 7pm.

**Upcoming OCASC meetings:**

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

Please contact me (Thomas Holloway) at 857-251-7975 or at thomasholloway@hotmail.com if you have any questions or would like me to bring something up at the next OCASC meeting. Likewise, as OCASC's rep to the OCDSB Committee of the Whole (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.



# Aligned and Integration Model (AIM) for School Mental Health and Well-Being

