

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

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**7:00 pm**

**Library, Second Floor**

**Attendees:** Melissa Adams, Aneliya Borisoua-Terziwa, David Che, Steve Collins, Megan Cornell, Josephine Davidson, Louise Foley, Tracey Frost, Teisha Gaylard, Joanne Greenwood, Kristen Lafrance, Jaime McDonald, Caitlin McIlveen, Roop Mukherjee, Sathy Paskaran, Luke Richardson, Maria Short, Kathryn Smith, Yaron Starosta

**Regrets:** Anthony Anderson, Tom Holloway, Ramashan (Ram) Manikavasagar

**Call to Order:** 7:02 pm

### **Welcome and Introductions - Louise Foley, Co-Chair (Secondary)**

#### **Review of Agenda**

No additions to the meeting agenda.

#### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Joanne Greenwood moved to approve the minutes from the May 2023 and September 2023 meetings. Tracey Frost seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Student Council Report - Jeffrey Zhang, Student Senator (Grade 11)**

- Planning a Spirit Week for Halloween.
- Club Fair went really well.
- Election held for Junior Student Senator. Derek Chua was elected.
- First meeting of the Student Senate is being held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

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

##### People (Staffing)

- Acting Head of Health and Physical Education - role shared by Katie Hill and Leigh Williamson as Megan Port is on maternity leave.
- Final enrolment and new sections:
  - Final 2023/24 enrolment = 1646 (roughly 150 more students than last year)
  - 1646 (secondary) + 637 (intermediate) = 2283
  - School is at 154% capacity (1484 is school building capacity)
  - EOM is hiring. Teachers needed for 17 sections, in areas of: Business, Math, English, Science, Music, Visual Arts

##### Plant (Building)

- Steve met with the OCDSB Superintendent about a month ago and expressed his concern about the number of portables at EOM as well as washroom capacity due to large enrolment. Steve is meeting with the Superintendent and Manager of Facilities next week.

##### Programs

- Club Fair was held with over 60 clubs represented. Teachers volunteer their time to support these clubs.
- There are 35 sports teams running this year.
- School musical to be presented in the spring as well as a Grade 11 play and a Grade 12 play.

- Everyone is working to achieve a "perfect" school where everyone is included, everyone feels they belong and everyone is working hard.

**Important Dates:**

- October 17 - Initial Learning Update (formerly called progress reports) sent to families.
- October 20 - Parent-Teacher Interviews, in-person, 3:30-7:30, by appointment only.
- November 1 - Take Our Kids to Work Day for Grade 9 students only.
- November 1 - Launch 2023 virtual conference (for Grades 10-12). This virtual conference will showcase a variety of post-secondary pathways and options available to students. It will feature workshops and exhibitors from colleges, universities, training delivery agents, employers, gap-year programs, and service providers to help introduce students to the world of possibilities beyond high school.
- November 7 - School picture retakes for Grades 7-12 students.
- November 21 - Mid-term marks issued.

Discussion about school overcrowding. Megan Cornell, who was a member of the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) that resulted in Grades 7 and 8 being added to EOM, noted that when the intermediate wing was added, there were two options about where it could be located. Possibility of adding another addition at the location that was not originally chosen?

Question from Melissa Adams - If capping of classes does have to happen due to large enrolment, how is the decision made about which students are accepted in the course?

Answer from Steve - The selection is done randomly.

Question about washroom cleaning since the school is over capacity.

Answer from Steve - Washrooms are cleaned multiple times during the day.

EOM has discretionary funds available for students who may not be able to afford to participate in school clubs.

**Senior Staff Report - Delivered by Steve Collins as Anthony Anderson was absent**

Canadian World Studies - Graham Kappel

- Mr. Kappel's politics class met with the local school board trustee, Alysha Aziz. They presented her with some data collected in a small school survey about students' opinions about the school climate and structure.

Library Learning Commons - Laura Johnstone

- Scholastic Book Fair is back November 13-18, just in time for holiday shopping! Parent volunteers are needed to staff the fair and run the cash, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Laura Johnstone at [laura.johnstone@ocdsb.ca](mailto:laura.johnstone@ocdsb.ca).
- Our first Earl Reads Book Club meeting is this Wednesday at 11:25 am in the Library Media Room.
- Intermediate students have started their biweekly library visits with Mrs. Donovan, and can now request a Library Pass from their teacher to visit the Library at recess on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Secondary students are in the middle of a number of Library curricular activities, including Science Literacy with all Grade 9 Science students and Your Online Profile with all Grade 10 Careers students. We are also working our way through Library Orientations with all of our Grade 9 students to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and welcome in the Library.

- The application process for Secondary Library Volunteers is complete. Successful applicants have been notified in the Library Volunteers Google Classroom, and training will start this week.
- Students and parents are invited to check out our Library website at [https://earlofmarshss.ocdsb.ca/academics/library\\_learning\\_commons](https://earlofmarshss.ocdsb.ca/academics/library_learning_commons) and follow us on Instagram [@eom\\_library](#). Students are also encouraged to join the NEW Library Google Classroom – our Classroom code has changed, and is now **cjasj5o** – for updates about resources, library events, book clubs, opportunities, volunteering, and more.

#### **Intermediate Admin Report - Caitlin McIlveen (Intermediate Vice-Principal)**

- It has been a difficult week across our school communities due to events in the Middle East. Support is being offered to students and resources are available from the Board.
- Progress reports are being sent out on November 17.
- Club Fair was held. Caitlin noted that joining a club can be a real game changer for kids who don't feel connected in the school.
- Presentation by Get REAL is upcoming. Focus of presentation is on messages of inclusivity and the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Caitlin is hoping to schedule an Indigenous dance workshop at the end of November/early December.
- Halloween Dance coming up.

#### **Intermediate Staff Report - Tracey Frost (Grade 8 teacher)**

- Grade 8 girls participated in Girls in Sports October 10. 8 girls in each homeroom were invited to participate. This was a free event and the school covered the cost of the busses.
- Cross country - EOM intermediates did well. Several students made it to boards. On Tuesday, the EOM cross-country team competed in the regional cross-country tournament. Despite the challenging conditions, the team gave an incredible effort and managed to pull out a first place win for the Grade 7 girls, Grade 8 girls and the Grade 8 boys!
- Math clubs have started and Wednesday after school Miss Freed and Mrs. Ferguson will be holding the first Caribou contest, with over 80 students participating.
- Grade 7 and 8 students marked Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day by participating in several learning activities and a memorial walk.
- Club Fair was held October 5. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about clubs and see what is on offer at our school. Students also had the opportunity to make suggestions for clubs.
- Upcoming Student Council activities: Halloween Dance, candy grams. Teachers are dressing up as Scrabble game pieces for Halloween.

Question from Tracey Frost on behalf of intermediate staff - Does School Council have funds available to support the purchase of classroom resources? Intermediate teachers who have worked in K-8 schools are accustomed to receiving funds from school council for this purpose.

Answer from Louise Foley - Earl of March School Council does not fundraise. Our Council's Constitution does not allow for that function.

Question from Maria Short - Would School Council be willing to change our stance on fundraising? It was noted that Grades 9-12 already organize a lot of their own fundraising for events throughout the year. Grades 7 and 8 students would need support to undertake their own fundraising initiatives. Following a brief discussion about fundraising and its benefits/challenges, Louise Foley recommended that in the interest of time, the discussion be paused until a future meeting.

Luke Richardson - Intermediate teacher and advisor for the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Club. Students design, build and code robots. Looking for support for the club. Cost is currently \$100 per student to participate. 73 kids have expressed interest in the club and 30-45 are expected to attend regularly.

Steve Collins noted that EOM has a healthy budget and that his experience is that there has been money left at the end of the school year. He encouraged staff to speak with him directly regarding purchases for classrooms or clubs.

#### **School Council Report - Louise Foley, Co-Chair (Secondary)**

- 2023-24 School Council Membership - Louise explained that Council needs two more intermediate parent members to meet the requirements set out in the council's constitution. Teisha Gaylard and Maria Short volunteered to be members-at-large. This brings our total membership to 13, which is one more than the maximum of 12 outlined in the Council's Constitution. We need a secondary member to volunteer to step down. If no one offers to step down, we will have to hold an election at the next council meeting in November.
- Financial report (David Che)
  - Council's current account balance is \$2667.94
  - Money can only be spent on community building initiatives. Money comes from grants from the Board for engaging with the school community.
  - Money can be used for guest speakers - if anyone has an idea for a guest speaker, email the council account: [sc-earlofmarchss@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-earlofmarchss@ocdsb.ca)
  - 2022-23 financial report has been filed with the Board.
- 2022-23 School Council report was sent as part of tonight's meeting package. Deadline for comments to be sent to Louise (via Council email) is October 25.
- Principal Profile - seeking feedback from Council on the document that was sent as part of tonight's meeting package. What qualities are important for the administration to possess? There was a short discussion about how to gather input and from whom. It was determined that comments on the existing document should be sent to Council email.
- Trustee Alysha Aziz has confirmed she will attend the November 2023 meeting. Megan Cornell has volunteered to coordinate Council's questions for our trustee.

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Roop Mukherjee. Seconded by Maria Short. Motion carried.

Next Council meeting is November 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

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

### **EOM School Council**

#### **October 2023 OCASC Update**

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) met Thursday, September 28 for a shorter than usual (1 hour versus 2 hour) introductory meeting. OCASC meetings typically run from 7 to 9pm on the third Thursday of the month. However, this first meeting is typically pushed back so that councils can elect their members and OCASC representatives. Current officers and others with roles talked about their responsibilities. Christine Moulaison, Co-Chair, noted that the purpose of OCASC, in part, is to represent parents and councils, to provide voices, working together and supporting each other, and to bring information to its members in bite-size pieces. Nancy Solange Dean, Communications Director, added that OCASC is not political, emphasizing that councils still need to advocate for themselves in that regard, but, as Christine added, we can help show councils how to do that. Each school representative introduced themselves.

Membership forms will be sent out shortly with an address for the membership fee.

**Next Meeting/Elections** - The next OCASC meeting will be held this upcoming Thursday, October 19, although they have yet to announce where the in-person meeting will be held. Elections will be held for officers. Given the timing of this month's OCASC meeting, I'll provide an interim update if anything relevant and time-sensitive comes up.

**Committee of the Whole (COW)** – The Committee of the Whole (COW) of the OCDSB has already met twice this term on September 12 and October 3, and will meet again tomorrow, October 17. They appear to be going back to their pre-pandemic schedule of meeting twice per month. Similar to last year, I am OCASC's representative to the COW.

The September COW meeting opened with a delegation emphasizing needed changes to OSTA's safety policies and their lack of communications. Topics for discussion included the proposed Riverside South secondary school attendance boundary, the new Findlay Creek Elementary School study, and student suspensions. Trustee Kaplan-Myrth gave notice of a motion regarding air quality standards.

The October 3 COW meeting opened with a delegation advocating for their neighborhood and the promise of a new school that had not yet been fulfilled. Following, the first matter for action was the district's response to the province's August capital call for their top five priorities. Four of the five schools/projects were repeat requests: AY Jackson, Viscount Alexander, elementary school for the east urban community and new Riverside South elementary school. The district's top priority and new to the list is to build an addition to EOM, given our 31 portables and over-capacity. The motion to approve the submission was carried unanimously. Other items included the addition of an indigenous student trustee.

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** – The OCDSB's Family Conference will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm at Brookfield High School. This year's theme is Educate, Engage, Empower – Enhance Learning Together, organized by PIC and OCDSB's Family and Community Engagement (FACE). Free of charge and held in-person, see [ocdsb.ca/FamilyConference](https://ocdsb.ca/FamilyConference) for registration and details on workshops.

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 for meeting details and topics/discussions of interest. 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:**

10/19/2023 – virtual, TBD; hybrid

Please contact me (Thomas Holloway) at 857-251-7975 or at [thomasholloway@hotmail.com](mailto: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 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.