

Merivale HS School Council Annual General Meeting
October 6, 2020

Agenda:

Welcome

Election of School Council, Members at Large

Staff Report

Principal's Report / Question and Answer Session

Past Chair: Gemma Nicholson (election)

Call to Order: 6:30 PM

Welcome & Introduction: Jean Fulton-Hale, Principal, introduced the MHS Administration Team, Secondary Vice Principals Toni Agraniotis-House, Giovanni Donato, and welcomed Intermediate VP Jennifer O'Doherty to Merivale.

AGM – Gemma explained the role of Council and invited additional expressions of interest from those in attendance.

There were 5 advance self-nominations, and 5 expressions of interest from the assembled parents/guardians.

All 10 members were acclaimed based on the MHS School Council Constitution. From this group of 10 Acclaimed Members at Large, the Executive will be selected based on available positions provided by Gemma and through self-identification by interest in the role. Jean will circulate a list of roles via email to the Members at Large. The executive will be introduced at the 3 November 2020 School Council meeting as per the Constitution.

Staff Report, Megan Fox

Guidance Team has set up a Google Classroom for graduating students (grade 12). All grade 12s are encouraged to join the classroom via their OCDSB email account. Important information is shared regarding post-secondary information, virtual campus tours. Guidance has shared a handout with all grade 12s with this information.

Our classes are busy learning new routines across all grades.

The Library has two Google Classrooms – one for Intermediate, and one for Secondary students. The library provides access to digital resources, e-books, research tools for students. In addition, the library posts for significant events such as Orange Shirt Day and Concussion Awareness. The Library hosted a special presentation for Orange Shirt Day (Truth & Reconciliation Commission and University of Manitoba) via Google Meet which was an opt-in experience for students.

Principal's Report/ Question & Answer Session

Q: Will there be extra-curriculars/clubs offered virtually?

A: We are exploring a sustainable process, and are not in a position to go forward at this time. Our focus is on the classroom and to ensure we are well-established in our learning environment.

Merivale has a dual platform for secondary (full year/semestered) and staff who have

responsibilities in both as we navigate our final transition year. Any plan needs to be sustainable for all: students/staff/families.

Q: Could you talk about the number of contact teachers for Intermediate classes.

A: Our Intermediate classes are at approximately 20-23 Students. Each class has 3-4 teachers connected to them. This is based on direction from the OCDSB. The teachers are responsible for managing their physical distancing and all have PPE. Not all teachers see the class on the same day.

Q: We received a message from the school that is an OPH letter. What is the process the school uses?

A: Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is the lead agency for managing the tracing for a Covid positive person. On the OCDSB website there is a flow chart that shows how the school follows the process established by OPH.

Q: Can classes go outside for fresh air?

A: We need to be mindful of how people are exiting/entering the school, and the amount of people moving around the school at any given time. Hopefully you all received the information from the controlled fire drill. At this time, all dedicated outdoor space is in use for our Physical Education classes in all grades, 7-12.

Q: How does the school track attendance for students who are on their at-home day?

A: (Gio Donato) The teachers take attendance multiple times and it is specific to each group – in-person students and then for students who are learning remotely. We need to track which students are in school, and if a parent/guardian calls to notify the school of a student absence we record that information as well.

Q: What is the virtual option for in person learning?

A: This is dependent on decisions that would be made by the Government (Premier, Minister of Education) and the Medical Officer of Health for Ottawa. In the event the Board or school must pivot, the in-person students will be supported by their in-person teachers. Students would be following the schedule in place, with the current level of instructional time.

Q: How can body breaks be included in the Intermediate schedule?

A: We continue to learn and integrate feedback from teachers on how we can improve. There are clear expectations from the OCDSB by grade which we also follow.

Q: What are the timelines for notification from OPH?

A: OPH is the lead agency, and we cannot comment on their processes. The news report from today (6 October 2020) indicated they are experiencing significant volume.

Q: What is happening with recess, distancing, games and equipment use?

A: There are a number of restrictions and protocols that we must follow. We are all on a learning journey. Our first priority is student safety and building students' skills for physical distancing. This is a partnership between school, student, and family.

Q: How is the school managing washroom visits and tracking?

A: (Jenn O'Doherty) We did a walk through before the start of the school year with our OPH School Nurse to determine best practices. All teachers have a tracking form/sign in/out sheet that helps to manage occupancy in the washrooms.

Q: Are there any updates from OSTA?

A: No, we have no updates. The situation with buses is very challenging and changes frequently. The best thing for parents to do is contact OSTA directly with your questions.

Q: How will parents know who a replacement teacher is if one is needed?

A: The replacement teacher should send a message through Google Classroom to introduce themselves in addition to alerting the students directly.

Q: Should we encourage physical activity at home?

A: Yes, we encourage students and families to plan daily physical activity for the at home days.

Q: Will there be a Meet the Teacher for Intermediate families?

A: Students received welcome information and a video when they arrived. We are working on a process for families, in particular, grade 7 families, to connect with the staff. We missed meeting you all in person at our Open House (April 2020) during the closure.

Q: What is being done about bike thefts? Could information be shared with parents in advance regarding bike security.

A: (Gio Donato/Toni Agraniotis-House) There have been 4 thefts. Our School Resource Officer (SRO) has been at the school to support staff. There are staff on duty at dismissal times and we are looking to improve a security camera angle to provide greater oversight. Students are encouraged to put locks around the frame of the bike as an additional security measure. We will keep this item in mind when planning back to school messaging.

Q: Will the adapted delivery model be reviewed?

A: No, we do not anticipate this will be reviewed/changed.

Q: What is happening for Commencement, 2020?

A: We expect direction from the OCDSB this week, and look forward to sharing this achievement/milestone with graduates and their families.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 PM