

# Draft Minutes Merivale High School Council Meeting, April 6, 2021

**Attendance:** Jean Fulton Hale, Laura Storrie, Jasmine Albagli, Joanna Yi, Ju Huang, Laura Newton Miller, Sandra Ross- Nguyen, Xiachong Chen, Zhong An, Mei Qui, Jackie Keats, Tim Embury, Sophie Jing, Jennifer O’Doherty, J. Ren, Megan Fox, Daniel Ayoo, Sara, Sophia Li, Carolyn Berezowsky, Krista Matthews, Rhonda Cameron, Isabelle Mercier, Pam Woolridge, Lianne, Christina Hackman, Kerry M, Dwayne Lemon, C. Baas, Combareus, Frank O. RulaWorrall , Jonathan Jing Wang,

**Regrets:**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Approval of Agenda**

Motioned by: Zhong An

Seconded by: Mei Qiu

**Review & Approval of Minutes**

Approved by: Tim Embury

Seconded by: Jackie Keats

- Add in Jackie’s last name to the set of minutes

**Reports:**

- a) **Student Council Report** – Daniel Ayoo & Hasset Efrem
  - Wellness Wednesdays launched at the start of March. Encourage students to engage in activities to improve and maintain mental wellness. March 3 – Guest speaker.
  - Different challenges each week shared through Google Classroom
  - Spirt Week May 17- 21 - Twin Day, Hat day, Battle of the grades. Planning for the Oscars on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Prerecorded Award show.
  - Student Senate – Trustee Elections – This week. 4 candidates put their names forth for Student Trustee Election.
- b) **Intermediate Report** incorporated into other reports
- c) **Secondary Report** – Megan Fox

**April 2021 MHS Secondary Educator’s Sharings**

[Autism Awareness Month 2021: Virtual Speaker Series](#) - Presentations April 8 & 22

[OCDSB Sankofa Centre of Excellence - 2021 Pathways to Excellence Series](#) - Presentations Apr 12, Apr 20<sup>th</sup> & May 11

[Police Involvement in Schools - Group Discussions](#) - Student & Parent participation options

[MHS Announcements link](#)

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| SCIENCE | Science Dept hosted a meet early in Quad 3 with second year U of O med students to discuss what med school is like, how to apply, prerequisite courses, and the importance of balance/following what you love to do in post secondary. The med students ran |
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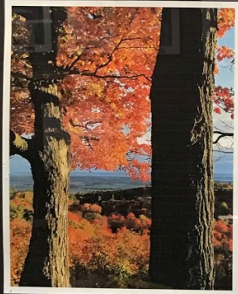
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|                 | case studies with our students as well. The question and answer period was very helpful for our students. About 20 students joined in the meet.  |
| MATH            | Students and staff have been making use of technology tools for Math such as <a href="#">Equatio</a> which also works with ReadWrite, <a href="#">Desmos</a> for graphing applications and <b>Gizmos</b> for demonstrations  |
| STUDENT SUCCESS | Ongoing credit rescue and support of students during the transition from Octo / Quadmester.<br>Students and families will be contacted directly  |
| LIBRARY         | New additions to the Merivale collection - <b>Intermediate &amp; Secondary Graphic Novels</b> A Girl Called Echo by Katherena Vermette, Reckoner by David A. Robertson, <b>French</b> La Guerre de Catherine by Julia Billet and a variety of Diversity selections ebooks and audiobooks are available through Sora (Overdrive) <a href="#">Sora - Quick Start Guide for Students</a><br>Join the MERIVALE LIBRARY google classroom (Gr 9-12) <a href="#">vtbaztv</a> - there is a Book Club that students can join which runs every 2 weeks on Thursday next meeting Apr 8th<br>Ottawa Public Library is a has <a href="#">April Break</a> program for children and <a href="#">teens</a> |
| ATHLETICS       | Phys-ed classes participated in Get REAL workshops   |
| CWS             | Octomester classes are coming to a close, and Quadmester classes are wrapping up. Students are reminded their teachers are ready, able and willing to help with any last tasks!<br><br>For example, students in Grade 12 “Personal Life Management” have wrapped up units on personal finances, budgeting, studying home, tenant & auto insurance, analysed the Standard Tenancy Agreement and studied Landlord / Tenant Board Cases, practiced personal/professional communication, and are now completing a look into the Employment Standards Act. Ready for graduation!!   |

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| Guidance | Thank you families for your attention to the course selection process<br><br>Students interested in summer school should connect with their guidance counselor <a href="#">OCDSB 2021 Summer School (Grade 9-12)</a><br><br><a href="#">Awards and Bursaries managed by the Education Foundation of Ottawa.</a><br>The listing of awards that are available this year is linked. If you visit our <a href="#">website</a> and you happen to click on an award's application link and it is broken, it means that the award/bursary is not available this year. |
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| ENGLISH /<br>LANGUAGES | Musician & poetry workshops arranged by teachers and ongoing collaboration with Ottawa Public Library for activities and events including a workshop by spoken word poet Britta B for poetry month<br>Celebration of Francophonie during the month of March particularly in French classes but all students had the opportunity to participate in activities and learn about countries where French is spoken. |
|------------------------|--|

ART / TECH  
/ MUSIC /  
DRAMA





**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Intro/Advanced**  
**(Grade 11 & 12)**







IB

Additional /  
Community  
resources

**Tech challenges? - Find help online**

If you are experiencing technology challenges, there are many amazing resources provided on the Remote Learning Technology Support page - "How to" instruction documents and videos. If you have an issue that isn't identified, please get in touch for assistance via email [csc.parent@ocdsb.ca](mailto:csc.parent@ocdsb.ca)

Remote Learning Technology Support - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board  
<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=33817631>

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- <https://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/bursary/>

d) **Principal's Report** – Jean Fulton-Hale

- Intermediates: Autism awareness activities taking place to showcase individuality. Butterflies posted.
- Grade 8 milestone photographs being organized.
- Grade 12 graduation photos were successfully done.
- Gr 7 virtual Open House – Save the Date announcement was sent out. Families want this connection with the school. DATE: April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 additional water bottle filling stations have been added. 1 in D Wing (Intermediate) and 2 in a secondary area.
- Initial projections are submitted to the Board
- Looking to welcome – 1200 Secondary students and 285-290 Intermediate Students.
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- Transition planning – 2020/21 – final year for hybrid timetable. Next year everyone is non-semestered.
- Not sure what plan for Sept will be (due to Covid).
- Intermediate timetable built with secondary timetable. 5 day, M-F schedule.
- Learning Support/Student Success team will meet in the spring.
- Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is a district wide PD Day – no school for students.
- This Friday, April 9 is an asynchronous day. No school on Friday.
- Commencement: Looking at ways to honour graduates. Google form was sent to Grade 12s to see what they valued. The students want, a portion of the celebration, to be in person. There will be a virtual component to the ceremony. As soon as we have the finalized board parameters a note will go home to families.
- Megan Fox is coordinating the caps and gowns order.
- For Retake Grad photos contact Edge directly as there are 3 studio days.

Q: What is 100% capacity for the school? Not over capacity yet. Predicted enrollment is not matching actual enrollment. Landed number is not available until the fall

Q: What is the IB population next year? 3 cohorts of students – 140/cohort, dependent on whether they enroll due to Covid.  $3 \times 140 = 420$  students (approximate).

e) **Treasurer Report** – Mei Qiu

- Starting balance – Sept 1 –\$3634.67 - There have been 2 transactions.
- PRO \$500 coming
- 1 Stale dated cheque to reimburse
- \$4119.67 current balance



f) **Reports from Chair/Vice-Chair** – Tim Embury

- No report

g) **OCASC Report:** Zhong An

- March 18 meeting – People feeling optimistic. Please see the attached report.
- Tonight (April 6<sup>th</sup>) There is a meeting, people are asking the Board to close schools.
- Discussions have focused on - Students mental health and people felt schools were doing good work. Parents have been discussing the lack of extra-curricular activities.
- OCV- they have clubs and extra activities and some schools have clubs (like Lisgar)

Q: Are there any clubs at Merivale? - The school decided in Sept. to focus on student learning (our school has a complex school day (quadrimester and octomester). Merivale has focused on the curriculum, band and music (working on a virtual music evening). Art teachers working on displays and some math contests took place this year

Q: Instruments for intermediates: Merivale is guided by the school board program and learning team to see what they can offer based on grade level and panel. No instruments this year as Merivale is a wind instrument program. Waiting for guidance for next year.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **Commencement – Kerry Mortimer**

Q Are there any outside of the school activities that parent groups are organizing for the grads?

- Jean – have to be careful about size of gatherings, stay in own household before and after school. Need to follow the guidelines set out by Dr. Etches. Lawn signs are not inclusive. Need to wait for clearer parameters on gatherings.

Q: OPH just issued a public statement a couple days ago that they could not keep up with close contact tracing. Due to that, are school cases being addressed in timely manner? Can parents make their own decisions whether or not send their kids to the school?

- OPH prioritizes contact tracing at the school. If there is a case at the school, a message is shared with the family from OPH (nurse and case manager). Families will be notified.

### **Q: Intermediate recess/HS breaks**

- Break for high school students - Students are asking for a longer break between the classes
- Some inequity in DPA time between different classes based on the supervision schedule. Supervision schedule was built in September so the school is not able to adjust supervision schedules now.
- Jean has spoken to some parents individually. There is a period of time in the winter when the field is not safe as the field is frozen or melting. In those cases, students have recess on a paved area. One challenge is the restrictions on classes to a zone which does not allow for free play (the school has to be able to contact trace where students are during the day). Appreciate the frustration of students and families. It is a long year for families. Fields are drying out and the

intermediate classes can use them. Phys ed and DPA are outside this week. Looking at recess distribution next year. Based on feedback of students.

Comment: Would be nice if the kids could have some equipment and not just be on their phone. The issue is that school staff would be needed to sanitize equipment. Need touchless sports that children can play in their zone.

**PRO Grant 2021 – Tim Embury**

- The Board is encouraging virtual sessions. If the school is interested, then one session can be signed up for.
- PRO Grant Speakers List included these topics:
- Media Smarts, Parents for Diversity Virtual Speaker Night, Paul Davis Virtual Speaker Night-Social Networking Safety, Rideauwood Addiction, Self-Regulation in Children and Adolescence, The Parent Child Connection

Tim to share the list with the council.

**NOTE:** It was voted that the Council would offer on **May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** – Social Networking Safety: A Zoom Presentation with Paul Davis

**Last Meeting of 2021 – Tim Embury**

- Do we want another meeting in May or June?
- Yes – Early June Preference

**NOTE:** The last School Council Meeting will be June 1, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Meeting Adjourned 7:25 pm