

Draft Minutes Merivale High School Council Meeting, February 2, 2021

Attendance: Tim Embury, Donna Blackburn, Jean Fulton Hale, Kateri Beauregard, Laura Newton Miller, Megan Fox, Rhonda Cameron, Joann Yi, Laura Storrie, Ashivana Sivasambu, Abidiaziz Abati, Rula Worrall, Mei, Isabelle Mercier, Neil Rampersad, C. Bass, Daniel Ayoo, Hasset Efram, Janet Gibson, Philip Mansfield, Toni Agraniotis-House , Pam Woolridge, Lee Ann Sullivan, Bruce Levine, Sarah Connor, Karlene Chinapoo, Jackie

Regrets:

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Motioned by: Tim Embury

Seconded by: Laura Storrie

Review & Approval of Minutes – November 2020

Motioned by: Jackie

Seconded by: Laura Storrie

Welcome: Donna Blackburn – OCDSB School Trustee

- Provided an overview of the Board
- Call or email Donna if you have questions
- Budget meeting tonight.
- Enrollment down 2000 kids (kindergarten is not mandatory) throughout the Board
- Revenue is down (ex. Community use of schools and no rentals to clubs etc)
- Before and After Care is down (so revenue is down)
- Board is not doing as many policy reviews
 - o Reviewing School Resource Officer Position – wanting parent and student input
 - o Launched the Equity Road Map
- Have been approved for funding for new high school in Riverside South
- Staff are working hard under the current situation to make it better than last year for the graduating class
 - o She prepared gift bags for graduates – card for each student and leave the bag for the graduating class

Q: What is the timeline for the RSS high school?

- Everything is difficult due to Covid
- She will follow up with planning and report back
- Likely 2-3 years before is built

Q: Can you elaborate on what the board is doing for grad?

- Planning the grad photos is a top concern
- Safe way, working with Director
- Exploring non virtual ways.

Q: Re the funding for the new high school in RSS. Why spend the money on a new school versus putting money into existing schools?

- No HS in RSS
- Funding for schools (building) is funded by the Ministry of Education
- Serious overcrowding in Barrhaven and the school in RSS will help alleviate
- MHS will have accommodation pressures in years to come
- RSS is a fast growing community and they do not have a public HS

Q: Grad photos – will they happen soon? Is there a timeline to do them soon?

- Staff are working on the protocol. No date
-

Q: Concerning commencement, has the board thought of an outdoor ceremony or in a tent? Is there a date?

- Do not know if we can hold one because it is a large gathering
- Possibly could be done by cohorts (the Board will provide guidance).

Statement from Laura- Congrats on the Me Initiative -

Q: Is there plans on air testing? Any improvements to Merivale?

- There are district standards for air quality and testing. All the building went through a rigorous process before they opened.
- There are fans are running
- We have a fresh air exchange system

Reports

a) Student Council – Daniel Ayoo and Hasset Efrem

- Sprit themed challenges have been planned
- Can do it virtually. Submit a photo on a google form

b) Intermediate Report – Bruce Levine

- Teachers are doing their best to keep kids motivated
- Trying to balance the work
- Focusing on Black History Month

c) Secondary Repot: Megan Fox

[Merivale Announcements Link](#)
[Resources for Parents and Students](#)

SCIENCE & TECH	<p>Tech challenges? Find help online</p> <p>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</p> <p>Remote Learning Technology Support – Ottawa Carleton District School Board https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=33817631</p>
MATH	Math Homework Help

	<p>TVO Mathify Grade 6-12 (Formerly known as Math Homework Help) A free online math tutoring service is available to students Grades 6-10 at TVO Mathify. Ontario certified teachers are available Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. Live tutoring support and 3:30 – 9:00 pm Sunday.</p>
STUDENT SUCCESS	<p>Virtual Homework Help The OCDSB Continuing Education Department is pleased to announce that they are now offering a Virtual After School Literacy and Numeracy Homework support program this year.</p> <p>Students/families can register using the link provided below.</p> <p>This program is available to students in grades 7 to 12 and is running Monday to Thursday from 3:45 to 7:30 pm. For more info, please email contedcredit@ocdsb.ca or call 613-239-2620.</p>
LIBRARY	<p>We strive to celebrate Black Excellence 365 days of the year however February is Black History month and there are special links and information posted in the MERIVALE LIBRARY google classroom (Gr 9-12) vtbazztv and MERIVALE INTERMEDIATE LIBRARY google classroom (Gr 7&8) v7dj3kq</p> <p>OCDSB resources https://www.ocdsb.ca/news/black_history_month</p> <p>OCDSB Sankofa Centre of Excellence https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=36476659</p> <p>Ottawa Public Library activities and resources Ottawa Public Library has chosen the theme “Canadian Black History in the Making” to focus on both the past and the present. We are excited to announce a wide variety of virtual programs through February for a variety of age groups and interests. Learn about the history of Black communities in Canada that have disappeared, attend a vegan Creole cooking class, visit with Black authors, hear members of today’s local Black community, learn how to breakdance, and more – join us for these free virtual events! Some require registration, some are drop in. Click on the events to see details. More events will be announced. Watch for them!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black History Month blog post (OPL website front page) 2. Black History programs (programs page and series search for Black History)
CWS	<p>https://www.hotdocs.ca/p/dfs-february Some great documentary titles available just in February Lessons in Injustice Life without Basketball Soundtrack for a Revolution Willie Hockey 24 www.hotdocs.ca/p/dfs-today Listing of documentaries for students & family at home</p>
GUIDANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Option sheet presentations will be grade specific starting Feb 16th

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance counsellors are encouraging all current grade 11 students to make an appointment to discuss post secondary plans. ● Grade 12 students are encouraged to check the OUAC and OCAS sites to be sure all their current courses and marks are up to date. ● Course selection information is available on the MHS website under student services - course selection information. ● Current gr. 9 join Merivale Class of 2024 with code sfa7v7q ● Current gr. 10 join Merivale Class of 2023 with code k2m5b6k ● Current gr. 11 join Merivale Class of 2022 with code 22m5m4t
ENGLISH / LANGUAGES	<p>Some English classes partnered with the Ottawa Public Library to participate in One Book Canada from January 1 to 31 in over 600 libraries across the country! This is the first national bilingual digital book club and this year's choice is Kim Thúy's famous novel, Vi. Video description https://www.facebook.com/BiblioOttawaLibrary/posts/1933448060126539</p> <p>.</p> <p>Free Access to French Online Homework Help K-12 FSL Students (Core and Immersion) can get access to Voilà Live's Virtual Immersion Campus. Every evening from Monday to Thursday students have access to live Ontario certified teachers online to practice their French and get homework help in French, English and Math. The Virtual Immersion Campus will be open Monday to Thursday from 5:00 pm. to 8:00 pm. for homework help and French practice.</p> <p>For Parent/Student registration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit http://voilalearning.com/en/free-online-tutoring/ 2. Click on 'My school board is registered. 3. Complete the form and use the code: OCDSB0. 4. You will receive a link to download the platform the next day. Learn more here https://voilalearning.com/en/

ART/TECH



Presenting Sr. Band's completed version of our Bruno Mars medley (part 1)

[Sr Band virtual performance](#)

<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p>	<p>Message from Family Services Ottawa</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>We have spaces available in our upcoming parenting groups: Parenting Through High Conflict Separation and Divorce – beginning Tuesday January 26, 2021 Anger Management ... especially for parents – beginning Thursday January 28, 2021 For families who are unable to commit to a 6 week group, we are offering a 2 hour workshop, Effective Parenting Through Positive Discipline on Tuesday January 26, 2021.</p> <p>Best regards, Wendy</p> <p>Wendy O’Connell-Smith (she/her) Coordinator, Parenting Programs</p> <p>Family Services Ottawa 312 Parkdale Avenue Ottawa, ON, K1Y 4X5 Tel / Tél.: (613) 725-3601 ext. 108 Fax / Téléc.: (613) 725-5651 www.familyservicesottawa.org</p>
------------------------------	--

d) Principal’s Report

Principal’s Report to School Council

2 February 2021

We are delighted to welcome our students and staff back to the school. Overall, our students have done a great job remembering the rules: wearing masks, keeping distance, hand-washing, using hand-sanitizer stations. Together we can keep Merivale healthy.

Report Cards:

- Intermediate will be printed and uploaded to Compass for 11 February
- Secondary will be uploaded to Compass for 12 February

Intermediate

- Begin Term 2 on 5 February
- Encourage families to send students dressed for weather and ready for outdoor activities
- Send a second mask if possible

- Remember to remind your student to keep their distance from others at recess/transitions
- High School Course Information sessions will be provided to Grade 8 students via Google Meet during class time (usual practice). Dates to be determined between teachers/Guidance based on the new platform, Xello, and its readiness for student use.
- 12 February is a PA Day with no school for students.
- Balancing days: Thursday 11 February is a Friday schedule; Wednesday 17 February is a Monday schedule.
- Family Day is 15 February (Monday)

Secondary

- Quadmester 3 / Octomester 5
- Textbooks/resources from past Quad/Octo classes should be returned as students enter their designated doors
- Course Information Sessions for returning students will be held in mid-February pending the readiness of new platform, Xello. "Save the Date" notices were sent to families on 1 February
- Parent-Teacher interviews for grades 9 & 10 (Octomester classes) will be 25 February via Google Meet/Virtual. Information on how to sign up will be shared by 12 February.
- OCDSB is working on a process to support Grad Photos (Gr 12s) based on guidance from OPH.
- OCDSB will give direction to Principals with regard to Commencement planning and OPH restrictions. Much depends on our overall community and the decisions made by OPH on gatherings.

General

- A reminder for all families that students must wear masks and use their assigned seat when travelling to/from school on OSTA vehicles/school buses
-

Q: Outdoor time and body breaks for grade 7-8 students.

- Grade 7 have 30 min recess and 20 for nutrition
- Losing an hour a week between 7-8 and grade 8. With week on week off. Why?
- Answer: Need to balance the students being supervised at each break. This change happened after change in staffing and supervision schedule being built. Will look into this next year.
- Supervision is done in even blocks.
- Work hard to make sure kids do have DPA, dance, music or outdoors. Doing the best they can
- Comment - The split is not equitable. Please look at the timetable and extra staff. Not fair on the students who miss an hour a week

Q: Will there be any school photos this year?

- No answer on that
- Priority is to offer grad photos for grade 12 based on protocols

Q- What is the plan for bike rack security and cameras?

- Steps taken in the fall to mitigate and cameras has been repositioned already
-

e) Treasurers Report – Mei

- \$3266.89
- No outstanding payments right now
- Expect a parent involvement grant - \$500.
- Talk to Tim and Jean if you have ideas for how to spend the money

f) Reports from Chair/Vice Chair

- No report from Tim or Jackie

g) OCASC Report

- None

Items for Discussion;

- a) Graduation Ceremony and Grad Pictures – Kateri Beauregard
- Discussed above

- b) Parent Involvement Funding

- In the past there was a PRO grant, Guest speakers on a wide range of topics
- Received a notice from Board - that each school council will get \$500 to spend at our discretion
- Has the money been received? Jean to follow up
- Can teachers provide a wish list? Jean to take back to the staff
- **Suggestion:** Mental health seminar to help support students
- Notes: the board has a speaker series
Dr Michael Chang

Question & Answer Period

Grade 12 Grad discussion continuation – At the next council meeting more info should be available

- Get an idea district wide what we can accomplish at the school

Q: So impressed with what some schools pulled off for virtual grad - is there a way we can do a survey on what the kids want and what parents want and what are parents willing to do?

- City wide car caravan where they picked up students, drove up to a stage, get the diplomas and go. Encourage everyone to come together with possibilities

Q: Are we restricted to what the district says?

Commencement is the school. School belongs to the District. Not able to leverage US style events. Need to be anchored in what is approved by the District and safe for the protocols

Italy Trip: Trip was cancelled a few weeks before departure. Still not reimbursed. School provided a lawyer. Could Jean please raise this at the Principal's meeting? No communication from the lawyer etc Please email Jean on Thursday so she can give an update.

Adjournment: 7:33 pm