

Minutes: Merivale High School Council Meeting, February 7, 2023

Administrative

Attendance: Tim Embury, Suzy Wong, Yaseera Kapadia, Mei Qiu, Premnath Chiruvella, Ryan Jaecques, Cheryl Wang, and Philip Mansfield.

Our administration team present: Jean Fulton-Hale, Megan Fox, Bruce Levine, and Lewis Harthun.

Council & Administration Regrets: None

Welcome – Tim Embury

Approval of agenda

Motioned by: Ryan Jaecques

Seconded by: Cheryl Wang

Review & Approval of Minutes from November 2022

Motioned by: Suzy Wong

Seconded by: Yaseera Kapadia

Reports

Student Council Report – Kosar Hemmati / Lauren Mortimer

- **Candy Gram Sales**
 - StudCo sold over 300 candy grams (priced at \$2 each), raising a total of \$634 for the Education Foundation's Toonie Tuesday fundraiser. This event is in celebration of Valentine's day and the candies will be distributed to students in the morning on February 14th.

- **Merivale Apparel (Spring Line)**
 - We are in the process of designing the pieces for the spring apparel launch. There are plans to include two diversity options: a pride item and a black history item. We have requested the input of both the Rainbow Nation as well as the Black Excellence club.
 - We are currently planning to release four items:
 - MHS black quarter zip
 - MHS tan bucket hat
 - Pride t-shirt- black (design TBD)
 - Black excellence item (design and style TBD)
 - Here is a link to a pdf containing our [Spring Apparel Options](#).

- **March Spirit Week - Coming soon - Details to be shared**
 - Our spirit reps have drafted a proposal for a spirit week before the March break, as a send off for students.

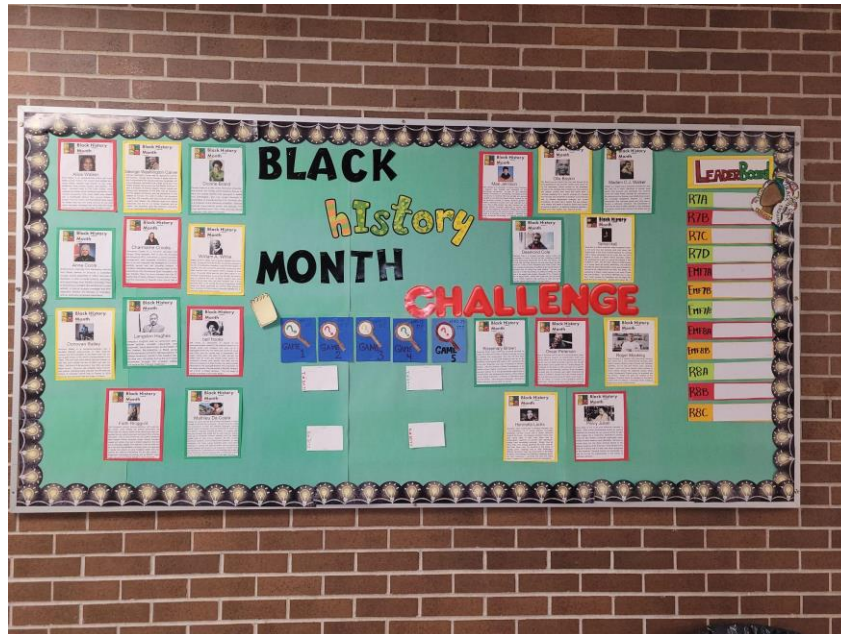
- **Morning Music**
 - The grade 10 reps have proposed that we play music in the morning from 8:05-8:10 to boost morale and bring a positive vibe to the school.
 - We proposed to trial this event in February, playing music from black artists in order to celebrate Black History Month. Administration had some suggestions, so we are working to make some adjustments to the proposal.

- **School Dance -**
 - A proposal has been drafted for a school dance that will hypothetically take place at the end of March. The proposal is currently being refined, and will be sent to the school administration in the coming weeks.
 - Parent volunteers will be requested

Intermediate Report – Bruce Levine

February 2023 MHS INTERMEDIATE (Gr 7 & 8) Educator’s Sharings

SPECIAL EVENTS	<p>- On Feb.16th, the WEB crew will be hosting the PJ CHEO walk to support Ronald MacDonald house. Students are encouraged to wear their PJs to school. Classes will have an assigned time to walk in the gym. All donations are welcome! - Ms. Hughson</p> <p>- Black History Month, class challenge, daily clues and leaderboard bulletin board. Students are getting an opportunity to learn about 21 Black trailblazers who have contributed to our society. The Black Trailblazers have contributed in a variety of fields, whether the arts, sports, music, politics, authors, activists and scientists. Through daily clues and riddles, students are using a variety of skills, and learning to collaborate with their class to solve the mystery.</p> <p>- Ms. Ghebretecte</p>
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Gr 8

- Feb. 6&7 XELLO workshops with M.Hughson regarding course selections for gr.9
- Feb. 22 & 23 - Ontario Skills Presentation - Little Theatre (gr. 7 & 8)
- Feb. 23rd & 24th - Gr.8 Tech Days @ MHS
- Feb. 24 - Course selection needs to be completed with parent consent.
- Feb. 27- XELLO closes
- BHS came to give a presentation to our gr. 8 ELL/MLs on Jan. 24th
- Before the end of the month, fingers crossed, gr. 8 ELL/MLs will go and get a tour of BHS

STUDENT
SUCCESS

- Term Two IEP's go home March 1/23
- ESL STEP docs will be updated by Mar 3, 2023

<p>ATHLETICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basketball teams are being finalized. We will have a tier one girls and tier one boys team. - The girl's tier 2 volleyball team played a friendly tournament against regional schools at LDH. Where they managed an impressive performance by going undefeated. The highlight was beating our evenly matched rivals - LDH in two nail-biting back-and-forth sets. They showed tremendous growth over the three months they played together, and we have a strong grade 8 team to look forward to next year. - Mr. Johnston <p>Tier 1 Boys and Girls both won Gold Medals at our regional tournament. They beat out 12 other teams. Both teams displayed excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and grit.</p> <p>It was our pleasure to coach this group of phenomenal student athletes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary Ellen Hughson (girls) and Jordana Polowin (boys)
<p>Extracurricular</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are on week 2 of our annual Intermediate Chess Tournament. We have a competitive grade 8 tournament with 36 students registered and a grade 7 tournament where lots of learning is going on between the 19 contestants. - Mr. Cheung - All the Intermediate classes have had the opportunity to go skating at least twice. - Mr. Derouin
<p>LIBRARY</p>	<p>New Year Displays to promote - New titles & exploring new hobbies or interests</p> <p>Current displays celebrating Black Authors and Black History Month topics</p> <p>Infographic with operational updates on the Merivale Library space designed by Kelsey deBoer our Library Technician</p> <p>MHS Library Mid Year Stats (1).pdf</p>

February 2023 MHS Secondary Educator’s Sharings

[Merivale HS](#) Announcement tab on website for clubs, tryouts and general information

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ATHLETICS	<p>Winter teams underway some seasons concluding and others ongoing Volleyball, Basketball, Nordic Skiing, Curling and more</p> <p>Great interest in Spring sports as well Rugby, Touch football, Track & Field</p> <p>Intramurals a great success with continued enthusiasm from the student population</p>
CWS	<p>Collaboration in the works with Black Excellence Club for a guest presenter with a Visual Arts background and connection to Social Science. Presentation planned for the end of the month more details to follow as specifics are confirmed</p>
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Grade 8 visits and parents’ evening at the end January - great success thanks to amazing LINK leaders.● 6-17 February - Guidance Classroom Presentations - visiting EVERY grade 9/10 science class and grade 11 English/TOK.● Monday 6 February from 6:30-8:00 VIRTUAL IB Course Selection Evening Information Session● Thursday 9 February starting at 5:30 - Course Information Night, Soup & Social and <u>Course Fair</u>● Course selection - Xello is closed for maintenance. Students will be able to submit choices as of 13 February. Course selection is due 27 February. Parent verification form will be sent to families via email AND will be available on the Student Services website.● Course selection information is available on the Student Services Website.

ENGLISH	Field trip to NAC for Reggae Roots performance and National Gallery planned for Feb 23rd for some Gr 10 students (Hollock & Gerhart)
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ART / TECH	<p>Senior Drama students are putting on their one-act festival March 2nd at 6pm at Merivale.</p> <p>Music fest is coming up Feb 24th our bands will be performing at Earl of March HS. The Jazz Band will perform on March 4th at Longfields.</p>
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Gr.8 Take Tech Day is approaching - 150 gr.8 students will have the opportunity to experience some of the awesome activities covered in Construction Tech, Transportation Tech, ComTech and Computer Science.



300+ computer science students are taking part in Virtual Reality field trips throughout the month of February.

ASD class

The ASD class got snowshoes just before Christmas and they have been using them every week in their gym class.



Feb. 14, our class has invited 3 classes from Sir Robert Borden High School to join us for some activities and lunch.

Extracurricular

The Senior/Junior Improv teams are having their first exhibition play against other high schools tomorrow (Wed) at Nepean High School at 6:30pm. (They regional competition is in March)

Principal's Report – Jean Fulton-Hale

OPH Vaccination Clinics: Between December and January OPH was at Merivale to offer 3 separate catch up clinics for students in grades 9-12. OPH is also providing vaccination clinics through their Wellness hubs which are listed on the OPH website. OPH will return to Merivale in March to provide vaccination clinics for students in grades 7&8.

February is Course Selection Month! We have welcomed Grade 8s from our two main feeder programs – Merivale Intermediate and Steve McLean in January for visits.

Welcome to HS – a successful evening event for families of students entering grade 9 in September, 2023. Thank you to the families that were able to attend!

Course Information Evening is 9 February 2023! Lots of messages have been shared with families and we look forward to welcoming returning students/families! Please note the email with the updated schedule for the evening. Soup & Socialize was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Grade 8 Tech Days are ahead! Merivale Grade 8 students will spend time with our Grade 9 Technology teachers on either 23 or 24 February exploring technology and opportunities available in grade 9 and beyond!

CHEO PJ Walk-a-Thon: Merivale students share their care! This year Merivale Intermediate was invited to host a PJ walk-a-thon for Rogers House, 167 steps from CHEO! Our students will all have the chance to walk 167+ steps for CHEO on 16 February – hosted by WEB Crew and Ms. Hughson! Donations welcome – our goal is \$500!

Intermediate Athletics: a great showing by our teams at our recent Volleyball tournaments! We are looking ahead to basketball and anticipate another terrific season!

Toonie Tuesday – 21 February: At the Education Foundation of Ottawa, we believe that “it’s about what kids deserve” and every student deserves to have the tools they need to be successful. That’s why we’re here. Our mission is to reduce barriers to ensure ALL students can learn confidently by providing the things every student requires: appropriate access to food, clothing, school supplies, healthcare supports, and opportunities for learning and recreation. Please consider a donation through SchoolCash Online. This year, Students’ Council is selling Valentine Candy-Grams to support the Education Foundation!
Secondary Report Cards (Term 1): will be distributed electronically on 10 February.

Intermediate Report Cards (Term 1): will be distributed electronically on 15 February.

Reminder – June Final Evaluations: Merivale HS will have dedicated days for final evaluations and exams in June. The schedule has not been finalized, but the dates are included in our full year calendar on the website.

As a general expectation, students are expected to be in attendance for their assessment/evaluation tasks on the designated Assessment/Evaluation tasks at the end of the year. Families are asked to avoid scheduling appointments and vacations during Student Success Days/Exam Days. We ask that families keep all of these dates available for students to complete evaluation tasks.

Good Neighbour Request: Our local Metro is seeing a lot of students visit their business at the lunch hour (10:50 – 11:30 am). While students are welcome as customers, they are expected to be polite and kind to store staff and other shoppers, many of whom are seniors and parents with young children. The students and staff at Merivale are responsible for the shared reputation of the school. Please speak to your student about this if they are at Metro during the day.

OC Transpo: parents/guardians whose students ride OC Transpo are reminded that students must carry their PRESTO pass at all times and to swipe their cards when they board the buses at Merivale. We have seen a higher than usual pattern of students without their cards. If a card is lost or stolen, please report it to the office as soon as possible.

Chair / Vice-Chair – Tim Embury

- No Report

Treasurers Report – Mei Qiu

- Treasury balance: \$3859.34
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Question and Answer

IB questions

- What are the timelines for Grade 12?
Hard deadlines March and April for Grade 12
Grade 11 anticipated exams – April deadline.
- Is it possible to arrange for a summary of topics covered and the progress every couple of months?
Can try to include this in the Merivale newsletter.
- Drivers are not asking the students to scan their bus passes and that may be another reason why the kids got in the habit of not scanning.
The principal will send a reminder, specifically for Route 688.
- Do the questions and the information in their reply during the meetings go to the relevant parties after?
The minutes get posted online.
- Do Grade 9 and 11 have exams?
We are planning what type of evaluation will be done for Grade 9 and 11
- I'm not entirely clear what information is being presented at Course information night. Is it an opportunity to find out more about specific courses from the teaching staff? Is this useful if my child already knows which courses he has to take, given the requirements for the university program he's interested in?
We talk to parents about course sequencing, department reps are available to talk about it,
- Are teachers aware of the online course options?
All the guidance counselors are equipped with all types of course options.
- Will the presentation be posted on the Student Services website for parents who aren't able to attend on Thursday?
Yes

Adjournment – 1910 Hours