

Minutes: Merivale High School Council Meeting, May 2nd, 2023

Administrative

Attendance: Tim Embury, Ryan Jaecques, Suzy Wong, Cheryl Wang, Jean Fulton-Hale, Megan Fox, Suzanne Belzile, Karen Kong, Sandra Ross-Nguyen, Fiona Warren, Janira Chandler, Jasmine Albagli, Alanna MacDonald, Robin McCabe, Corina Clouthier

Council & Administration Regrets: Mei Qiu, Yaseera Kapadia, Premnath Chiruvella, Philip Mansfield, Bruce Levine

Welcome – Tim Embury

Approval of agenda

Motioned by: Ryan Jaecques

Seconded by: Tim Embury

Review & Approval of Minutes from April 2023

Motioned by: Ryan Jaecques

Seconded by: Tim Embury

Reports

Student Council Report – Kosar Hemmati / Lauren Mortimer (via Megan Fox)

- Spring Apparel Line
 - The order has not yet arrived, but when it does we will communicate with those who have ordered.
- Kindness Spirit Month
 - The school has purchased t-shirts for club leaders and teacher supervisors to wear on the Mondays in May.
 - The Student Council collaborated with the craft club to create a "Kindness Tree" out of construction paper. Each Tuesday, we will have students fill out flower templates with kind acts that they have given or received. It will be displayed in the school and we will watch as the tree grows throughout the month.
- 2023-24 StudCo Elections - Coming Soon
 - Plans are in motion to release an interest form in late May.
- June Spirit Week - Coming Soon
 - The Student Council plans to organise an end-of-year spirit week. Details to follow

Intermediate Report – Bruce Levine (via Megan Fox)

Gr 7	- Gr. 7 MacSkimming Education Centre field trips for all gr. 7 homerooms continued. Students spent the day away from technology and actually enjoyed walking in nature, looking at and studying different types of trees, listening and identifying different types of birds, looking for and finding salamanders and even a friendly garter snake.
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Gr 8	- Stock Market challenge will run at the beginning of June and students will begin their financial literacy units the week before - Grade 8 end of year field trip is in the works and information will be shared with parents as soon as everything is confirmed
STUDENT SUCCESS	- Gr. 7 Open House - May 4th - ISST: Feeder schools come to visit - CHPS, MPS. - Pathways of Exploration - May 1-5 at UofO and Carleton. - Rideauwood Presentations continue in May. - Coding Workshops for every class. - Stock Market Unit... - Summer School Reg is open - questions to Ms. Hughson or School Board website; ESL Reg is Mr. Levine.
LIBRARY	
ATHLETICS	- Basketball news...great season for the teams! - Badminton Intramural Tournament is ongoing, heading into round 3! - The Intermediate Track and Field Day is scheduled for May 19 with the Regionals set for Mooney's Bay in June. - Boys and Girls soccer teams are under way, practicing for their respective upcoming Regional Tournaments. Mr D buys a lunch nhl playoff pool is underway. We have over 100 entries and winner gets lunch bought for them!
Extracurricular	- Chess club continues. - Rainbow Club continues. - 75 students are writing the University of Waterloo Gauss Contest in Mathematics on May 17th. -Grade 7 & 8 Band and Jazz Band - Spring Concert May 25th @ 7:00 pm

Secondary Report – Megan Fox

- Relay for Life will be June 2nd this year
 - Volunteers are needed to serve dinner (5:30-6:30pm)
 - Volunteers are needed to provide baked goods for dessert
 - Anticipate 250 participants (after 1 week are already more than halfway there)
 - All monetary donations are welcome to support the cause

Relay for Life June 2nd	Merivale's grade 9-12 students will be holding their first in-person Relay for Life event in several years this coming June. Relay for Life is a fundraising event held at schools across the country to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. This year's event will be held on June 2nd from 11-9 and will include up to 250 grade 9-12 student participants. On April 25th, we had our Virtual Relay Launch to let students know about the event. Our bake sale on that day was our first fundraising event and it was a successful way to start our campaign.
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	<p>We would be grateful if members of parents' council might consider making or donating baked goods or dessert items for our Relay participants. We would also be happy to have parent volunteers from 5:30-6:30 on June 2nd to help serve food. If you are able to do either of these, please fill in your information on the following document. Any questions can be directed to Suzanne Belzile (suzanne.belzile@ocdsb.ca).</p> <p>If you would like to follow our progress or donate to our event, please see our website</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Molecular Biology: DNA Lab field trip for Gr 11/12 students - May 3rd & 4th</p> <p>Chemistry and Physics competitions coming up for interested students</p>
MATH	<p>250 participants in Math competitions and Merivale was well represented and several amazing individual results</p>
STUDENT SUCCESS	<p>Skilled Trades Technology Trailer field trip in April - students had the opportunity to get a taste of trades training opportunities</p>
LIBRARY	<p>May 1 to 7th is Mental Health Week Mental Health Week: May 1-7, 2023 - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board</p> <p>Forest of Reading titles for Red Maple (Intermediate), Tamarac (French) and White Pine (Secondary) are on display in the Library and ready to be checked out.</p> <p>New graphic novels have arrived - previously enjoyed titles now in graphic format - The Giver, A Wrinkle in Time, Long Way Down and other graphic titles such as White Bird by the author of Wonder ...</p>
ATHLETICS	<p>JGVB had a great season and earned silver at the City Championships!</p>



Badminton results:

Girls Doubles - Gold medal - Yiyan Huang, Diana Zhao. (qualified for OFSAA)

Girls Doubles (Jr team) - 6th place - Emily Zhang (10), Helen Zhang (9)

Mixed Doubles (Jr team) - Bronze medal - Claire Qiu (10), Michael Qu (9)

Mixed Doubles - Jason Tang, Olivia Fan - 7th place

Boys Doubles - Silver Medal - Methira Herath, Josh Wang. (Qualified for OFSAA)

Overall - West division junior champions, west division senior champion, west conference overall team aggregate champions.



Spring sports start this week with Touch football playing their first game tomorrow
All other sports begin by the end of the week.

Athletic Awards Ceremony is scheduled for June 7 at 3 pm in the cafeteria.

CWS

Field study Field trip for Geography students - analyzing urban environments - Gr 11 students





War Museum trip for Gr 10

Guidance

MADD

April Grades sent home.

Summer School Registration - Ongoing

Universities and Colleges are starting to book visits for the fall. Grade 10s and 11s are welcome. Many schools have spring Open House opportunities.

USA University presentation schedule at lunch on Friday, 5 April in Little Theatre.

ENGLISH

Poetry Slam event

Merivale's first poetry slam was a huge success! We had a great turnout, and heard some great readings from poets in all grades.



The drama production Play On was a success.

Next up - Spring Music concerts are taking play May 24 and 25th



SHSM & gr.11 Graphic Design students completed an experiential learning project in collaboration with DeSerres art store for the Bereaved Families of Ontario. Students designed tote bags for the BFO that will be sold to raise money towards a Butterfly Release Memorial event.



Art Show takes place June 1st - features artwork from all grades 9-12 in all the various art courses visual arts, graphic design, photography, comtech and SHSM programs.

LANGUAGE S

Over 60 students completed their DELF certificate at the B1 and B2 levels.

ASD class



The ASD class has had several outings in the month of April. We had a trip to the mall, where we visited the pet store, the food court and several other stores. We went to the public library and got library cards. And we

went to see the Super Mario Bros. Movie at the cineplex. We have also resumed our



weekly swimming times.

IB

Extracurricular

Student Council - May is Kindness Month - students and staff wearing pink every Monday in May to promote kindness

Debate Club had 2 debaters come in 14th out of 45 teams from across Canada this past weekend in the Nationals championship in Calgary, Alberta.

Drama Club

This year's production *Play On!* had a great run last week! We had a really impressive outpouring of support from student's families, Merivale students and teachers. The students in the cast and crew did an amazing job. We had a lot of incredibly talented students in the cast this year, many of whom are juniors, so we are very excited about the talent that we're seeing in this growing program.



Principal's Report – Jean Fulton-Hale

Intermediate

- Grade 7 Open House is Wednesday 4 May @ 6:00 PM. Information and the link will be shared with prospective families by their home OCDSB schools. Students will visit with teachers/field trip volunteers during the day on 4 May (11:45 AM – 1:15 PM) – WEB Crew will be ready!
- Intermediate Track & Field Day is on 19 May – the LINK class will help to organize the day!
- Dance Workshops (variety of styles /genres) will be offered to all grade 7 & 8 classes on 10 May, 11 May and 9 June. Each class will have a designated date / time. We are excited to learn new moves!
- Stock Market Day for Grade 8s is 8 June (all day) in the Cafeteria! Thanks to Ms. Polowin for organizing!
- We are beginning to plan for Celebr8 – more information will be shared mid-May.
- Spring soccer has started – teams are practicing mornings and after school.

Secondary

- **Commencement:** We have booked the Auditorium at Adult HS for **26 June 2023**. This is a DATE and VENUE change. We are delighted to share that ALL graduates and their families will attend one ceremony.
- Merivale will add a second ASD class to our high school complement in September, 2023. We have had a wonderful first year and look forward to more successes!
- ASD students look forward to a field trip to the Tulip Festival next week!
- GRAD SUMMARIES with April Term 3 marks were sent home on 25 April. Please ask your student if you haven't seen it yet.
- Exam / Final Evaluation schedule (14-27 June) will be shared again with families next week (10 May) as we have made a few amendments. Students who do not have a final exam scheduled at school should plan to study / prepare at home. Students should plan to make their way home following a completed evaluation.
- Exams & Buses: Please note that the bus schedule will not be adjusted. Please check OC Transpo Route Planner for the most efficient times. Students who stay at school to travel at regular times will be directed to the CAFETERIA for quiet study.
- Athletics continue to be active and it's great to see our fields in use. We have 8 Spring teams.
- IB Exams are underway at Carleton University. Thank you to all volunteers who are supporting the process! Exams are complete on 19 May and we look forward to our IB Reflection Dates (29-30 May) and our IB Celebration Reception, 30 May from 5:00 – 7:00 PM at Merivale to recognize our students accomplishments (parents welcome!).
- Athletic Awards – planning is underway for an after school (afternoon) event in mid-June
- Art Show – Our Art Department is preparing for our school-wide Art Show on 1 June
- Relay4Life – Suzanne Belzile to share more – 2 June.

Chair / Vice-Chair – Tim Embury

- Was going to introduce motion to purchase treats for MHS staff, however did not have enough council members to vote; will send email to council members to vote

Treasurers Report – Mei Qiu (via Tim Embury)

- \$4,359.34 in account

Question and Answer

Intermediate

- What does Intermediate graduation celebration look like for G8's?
 - Committee has not met yet
 - Trying to get update for next council meeting
- What type of ceremony is it?
 - Celebr8 will occur during school hours and will have student awards and reception
 - Will also have a field trip
- Are parent volunteers needed for Celebr8?
 - Not usually
- Is there a yearbook for G8?
 - No, as no teacher volunteered this year to make it happen
 - Students will get a Grade 8 class photo
- Can the G8's get an opportunity to photograph other students photos?
 - Jean F-H will look into it

Secondary

- What are the team sizes for Relay for Life
 - 6-10 students per team
- Which grades participate in Relay for Life
 - Grades 9-12
- Are there any conflicting events?
 - Regional Track and Field
 - Band Trip
- Will the library allow for book donations?
 - The library will allow for limited donations of certain books; right now Graphic Novels are the most popular
- How were parents supposed to receive the email with mid semester grade marks?
 - Students were provided a paper copy only, which also contains next years schedule (as applicable)
- When will exams occur this year?
 - Grade 11-12's are writing exams right now for IB at Carleton, which is why this is just an interim idea of marks
 - For the remainder of the population, the morning will be for exams, with the afternoon for success; schedule published
- Is there anything being done to help with Exam anxiety?
 - High School teachers are really focused on practice days, behaviours, etc.
- When will university visits occur?
 - Depends on the university and their accommodated timeframes, however they are usually at first lunch
 - Grade 9/10's are encouraged to use the October meeting if they are interested (info available on MHS website.)
- How many people can the Grade 12 graduation venue hold?
 - 1,000 people

Can we have a Grade 8 Celebr8 Dance – Robin McCabe

- Goal is to bring people together, socialize, and have fun
- How can we bring something like that back?
- There was a parent that organized an offsite one in the past
- The admin at that time did assist to support it, but it was not sanctioned by the school
- Not all cultures support this activity
- This could be a fundraising opportunity to cover the cost
- Students can get out of the classroom, have fun, and build relationship
- Student opinions from young learners that Robin knows
 - Parents said they had fun when they had it as a kid
 - Social, fun, connect with peers, happened in the past
 - Past 2 ceremonies were during Covid, so not fun
- Could put in multiple sections to the venue, such as a modesty section, group section, etc.
- At a different school, grade 7 & 8's had it so that the 7's fed the 8's, knowing that the 7's would get to be fed the following year
- There are Halloween dances where there are low entry fees, all run by council, at other schools
- Key Considerations from Principal:
 - If this were to occur during the school day, alternate programming for those that don't participate is required, which means additional support from teachers
 - Supervision and behaviours may not be what you expect
 - Must be safe and inclusive, which is an MHS expectation
 - School events must be approved by the principal (whether before, during, or after school)
 - Up to 6pm, the principal is responsible of the school, and then it's the Board (who call the principal anyway to find out it is not sanctioned, and they will likely decline)
 - There has not been a dance at MHS for a very long time, due to the many considerations raised
 - If the event is offsite and non-school sanctioned, what about Insurance?
 - Insurance is a huge consideration, as you are responsible for anything that happens, and with teenagers, there are many, many scenarios to consider
 - Is this the best idea for mental health?
 - Do parents want to organize offsite, considering this discussion
 - Sometimes the offsite community centres will actually call the school to find out if the event is sanctioned or not, and if not, then will usually cancel or not take the booking
- Jean F-H will take back to the VP to see what might be possible
 - Right now, the effort is going into the field trip that the G8's are getting for this, which is also a healthy, more inclusive approach for their mental and social wellbeing
- Concluding thoughts:
 - Critical that this is inclusive
 - If offsite, then it is a separate event and not school sanctioned
 - There are some that want, and some that don't want this type of event; many forget the challenges of inclusivity
 - Those learners struggling with isolation can also turn to the school for support

- Outdoor events are extremely challenging, with increased liability and chances of inclement weather (not recommended)
- Liability and Insurance – You will need to find your own insurance and it can be very expensive
- Will council pay for a photobooth for Celebr8?
 - Tim E. to look into what school council funds can be used for

Adjournment – 20:15