

Minutes: Merivale High School Council Meeting, October 3, 2022

Administrative

Attendance: Jean Fulton-Hale, Tim Embury, Rohan Hollingsworth, Megan Fox, Gemma Nicholson, Yaseera Kapadia, Karen Kong, Amanda Lancaster, Janet Gibson, Michele Lajeunesse, Premnath Chiruvella, Asha Ali, Wendy Liu, Mei Qiu, Lee Ann Sullivan, Alina Kalyta, Janina Chandler, Suzy Wong, Jasmine Albagli, Ryan Jaecques, Fiona Warren, Winnie Nie

Council & Administration Regrets: N/A

Welcome & Introductions – Tim Embury

Approval of agenda

N/A – New school council year

Review & Approval of Minutes from June 2022

Motioned by: N/A – New school council year

Seconded by: N/A – New school council year

Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Election of School Council

- Tim explained the role of Council
- 7 Self Nominations received for members at large that were in attendance of Council Meeting
 - Those individuals that self-nominated, or were nominated by someone else, and did not attend the Council Meeting are not considered
- All 7 members were acclaimed based on the MHS School Council Constitution
- From this group of 7 Acclaimed Members at Large, the Executive was selected based on available positions and self-identified interest in the role
 - There was only one individual interested in each role, therefore all roles were acclaimed
- MHS School Council for 2022-2023 School Year

| Name | Role |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Tim Embury | Chair |
| Michelle Lajeunesse | Vice-Chair |
| Yaseera Kapadia | Secretary |
| Mei Qiu | Treasurer |
| Premnath Chiruvella | Member at Large |
| Suzy Wong | Member at Large |
| Ryan Jaecques | Member at Large |

Reports

Student Council Report – Kosar Hemmati / Lauren Mortimer

- Not in attendance due to AGM

Intermediate Report – Megan Fox for Bruce Levine

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| SPECIAL EVENTS | Terry Fox Walk was a great success and all the students were enthusiastic participants |
| Gr 7 & 8 | <p>September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning activities were completed within homeroom classes <p>Gr 7 - 45 grade 7 students from various homeroom classes will be attending the Ottawa Construction Association Symposium this Wednesday, October 5th. Students were chosen based on interest as well as from a panel consisting of the grade 7 Homeroom teachers. "Grade 7 students will explore skilled trades through hands-on activities, meeting professionals from construction trades, and learning about careers in construction. This field trip is fully funded through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program."</p> |
| LIBRARY | <p>Library orientations have been completed for the Gr 7 & 8 classes and students have learned about the Library catalogue and where materials are located in the space. How to Access Library Resources</p> <p>Biweekly library visits have started for Gr 7 classes, week of Oct 3rd and the Gr 8 classes will visit next week, week of Oct 11th.</p> |
| ATHLETICS | <p>Cross - country meet coming up - Thurs Oct 13th</p> <p>Touch Football tournament not occurring due to Board directive</p> <p>Other sports will be announced</p> |
| Extracurricular | Clubs will be getting started soon |

Secondary Report – Megan Fox

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| STUDENT SUCCESS | <p>Monday after school additional assistance program by teacher referral - ASAP in SST Rm 124</p> <p>Morning breakfast program for students in need</p> |
| LIBRARY | <p>Research and resources sessions for classes for book selection and research projects</p> <p>Many new titles added to the shelves - diverse reads, short story collections and select non fiction. Technology resources are in high demand, students are encouraged to plan ahead.</p> |
| ATHLETICS | Many fall sports are in progress - X country running, field hockey, soccer and others |


PHYS ED

On Thursday Oct 13th, Fitness and Special Interest PE classes will have the opportunity to hike Gatineau Park's Wolf Trail! This is an opt-in field trip.

During 2nd Period on Thursday Oct 27th, all PAF students will take part in the Fitness Fall Colours 5K race. They have been training since the beginning of the year for this event!

CWS

"The Social Justice and Equity Class raised awareness for **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day**. Please see the various **showcases** around the school and the **QR codes** that lead to valuable information around this initiative."



The image displays three showcases mounted on a brick wall. The top-left showcase is titled 'ORANGE SHIRT DAY' and features a yellow background with numerous small posters and QR codes. The top-right showcase is titled 'Orange Day & Shirt' and contains several larger posters, including one titled 'TRUTH & RECONCILIATION' and another titled 'SECRET PATH'. The bottom showcase is also titled 'ORANGE SHIRT DAY' and features a large orange t-shirt graphic in the center, surrounded by smaller posters and QR codes.

Guidance

CLUB FAIR - Coordinated by the new Club Summit...an amazing event. Over 30 clubs already approved, up and running!

[Grade 11 and 12 Families...\(Information to - potentially - be sent home\)](#)

The [Ontario Universities Regional Fairs](#) are happening the week of October 17th in Kanata, Nepean, and downtown Ottawa. All of the Ontario Universities will be in attendance. I encourage you to attend!

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| | <p>The Ontario Colleges Fair is happening in Toronto. The College Information Program will be making a stop at Algonquin College on October 27th at 1:00. This is an opportunity to learn more about post-secondary options at college.</p> <p><u>Grade 12 - Potential Grad Families</u></p> <p>Post Secondary Presentations - Classroom Visits</p> <p>Guidance counselors will be visiting English Classes on Tuesday, 18 October and Wednesday, 19 October.</p> <p>The same presentation will be given on Friday, 21 October during lunch in the Little Theatre for students who are not taking English at Merivale this year and students who are absent from their class presentation.</p> <p>OUAC pins (passwords for University applications) will be distributed the first week of November.</p> <p>OCAS (Ontario College applications) are now open.</p> <p>Parent Post-Secondary VIRTUAL presentation is scheduled for Thursday, 27 October at 6:30.</p> <p>Guidance visits to classes to introduce the Guidance team and contact strategies</p> |
| ENGLISH | Creative Writing Club and Debate team |
| ART / TECH | <p>Big start for Arts & Tech</p> <p>Five SHSM students spent their summer attending a co-op placement with DeSerres Art Store. During this time, they created artwork and other products to raise money for the Community Laundry Co-op, a local non profit group. This charity event was a huge success, raising funds but also raising awareness in the community. Their work on the non profit event was featured in an Ottawa Citizen article during the month of August. In September these five SHSM students were honored at the non profit groups Annual General Meeting, where they were each presented with a certificate of appreciation. The artwork they created to advertise the summer charity event has been put on display at the UniHeART Gallery at 400 McArthur Avenue. This exhibit will be open to the public for the month of October.</p> |



The shsm students attended their first field trip this year to the Ottawa International Animation festival. The OIAF is one of the world's leading animation events providing screenings, exhibits, workshops and entertainment since 1976. Students watched some amazing animated films from around the world and attended presentations by the top animation schools: Sheridan College, Vancouver Film School, Seneca College, and Algonquin College.



Drama student, Ore Adepegba is the grand prize winner of a *Dear Evan Hansen* essay contest out of over 800 applicants! (And the only one from Canada on the winners list!)

She will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship from *Dear Evan Hansen* Executive Producer Stacey Mindich, and a free Gotham Writers 10-week class

You can read her essay (and watch her read it) here:

<https://www.writingclasses.com/contest/dear-evan-hansen-college-essay-writing-challenge-winners-2022>

Many new students have joined the Merivale Music program this year! A HONK and BLOW session hosted by our music teachers was a huge success. This was an opportunity for students to try a few different instruments before committing to one. At the end of these sessions, all gr.9 students were paired up with their instruments.

Lots of clubs have been formed to allow keen arts & tech students to participate in extracurricular activities - improv club, art club, audio visual club, choir, string instruments club, dance club, and computer science club!

This year's Merivale Production will be a full scale PLAY! Auditions are being held today and tomorrow! Production will take place at the end of April.

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| | <p>Drama - The senior class are doing PSAs currently about teen issues they think are important to address. Upcoming for them will be running a One-Act Festival later this year.</p> <p>Extra-curricular - The Production of <i>Play On!</i> is in the audition process this week and excited to put on this funny comedy. AV Club is up and running and will soon be ready to help with events in the school. The Improv Team has started as well and is excited to be back.</p> |
| Extracurricular | <p>Many amazing clubs underway</p> <p>Eco Club, Muslim Student Association, Critique World Affairs Club and many more</p> |

Principal’s Report – Jean Fulton-Hale

Continuing Education: We are excited to be launching a free after school tutoring program for grade 7-12 students within our school board.

- FLYER LINK: Fall Virtual Tutoring Program
- WEBSITE LINK: https://ocdsb.ca/continuing_education/literacy_numeracy_support_programs

Enrolment Update:

- Intermediate: actual 314 students = increased to 12 Homerooms from 11 Homerooms, staffing ongoing until about 12 October
- Secondary: actual 1354, slight increase in classes, all student timetables are built; staffing will be ongoing until about 17 October

Crosswalks: Students in all grades are asked to cross Viewmount at CONTROLLED crosswalks only. Crosswalks are available at Merivale and Viewmount and Grant Carmen and Viewmount. Crossing at the Metro is extremely dangerous and we ask families to meet their student in a spot that promotes safety. There is no stopping on Viewmount in either direction. Our neighbours at the Metro kindly ask that you choose a better spot to meet your student as their parking lot is very small.

Athletics: Secondary Athletics for fall sports has started; seasons are abridged due to impacts on transportation (Varsity B-ball, Sr Boys VBall, Field Hockey, XCR, Ultimate). Thank you to our volunteer teacher coaches.

Concussion Info: student athletes and their parents/guardians must complete the Concussion Code of Conduct documentation prior to their student athlete being eligible to play. Coaches have communicated this information via Google Classroom and/or Athletic forms.

Secondary:

- Extra-Curricular Clubs are starting, the Library Commons hosts all Virtual Club links in the Google Classroom.
- A&E: Secondary progress reports will be shared in November. This is a very preliminary snapshot of student learning, and students should expect their achievement levels to change as the course progresses. Students will see a much more fulsome body of evidence of learning report card in February, which is the end of term 1, and the start of the second half of the school year.

Intermediate:

- Terry Fox: Intermediate classes participated in the Terry Fox Run on 23 September. It was a great afternoon!
- Athletics: return to athletics with XC running. Merivale's coaches are excited to be participating with our students!

All:

- Rowan's Law Day (Concussion Awareness) on 28 September 2022
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on 30 September – special learning activities organized by Social Justice classes (Secondary) and Ms. DeCaire (Intermediate) supported by Ms. Fox (Librarian)

Chair / Vice-Chair – Tim Embury & Michele Lajeunesse

- No report for tonight's meeting

Treasurers Report – Mei Qiu

- No report for tonight's meeting

School Council Meetings for 2022-2023 Year

- Discussed when to meet for the 2022-2023 school year
 - Discussion will continue at the next meeting
 - Potential Dates:
 - November 1, 2022
 - February 7, 2023
 - March 7, 2023
 - April 4, 2023
 - May 2, 2023
 - June 6, 2023
- Discussed a hybrid approach of In Person and Virtual Meetings
 - Goal is to maximize attendance and participation
 - Winter months have always been slower for participants, due to bad weather and additional travel times
 - Discussed potentially:
 - In Person for October, November, April, May, June
 - Virtual Meetings for February, March

Question and Answer

Why was touch football cancelled for intermediate students?

- This was not a school-based decision to not run intermediate touch football
- Interscholar play must also be considered (not just what MHS may or may not be able to do)
- OCDSB has a central committee responsible for which programs will come online
- Cross Country is an example of a program that was brought back online, however it takes time to get programs back up and running considering the impacts the last couple of years
- OCDSB and Schools are working together to get as much started as possible at this time
- A reminder that Intermediate programs occur during the school day (not after hours) and teacher volunteers are required to advise/run these programs, and there is an overall shortage of teachers across the board at this time
- External/Parent volunteers is something that could be looked at, but will have substantial challenges due to student safety, training requirements, liability, etc., so it cannot be entertained directly at this time

Where can I find a list of clubs?

- Available on the Library Google Classroom that all students have access to
- Each club also has their own Google Classroom in most cases

Where can I find a list of sports?

- Announcements are made and are available on the Announcements button on the main MHS website
- Posted by the new Gym
- Library Google Classroom

How can we make sure that all students have an opportunity to sign up for clubs?

- School is working on a common structure for clubs for both intermediate and secondary to ensure maximum opportunities for students
- Intermediate interest has grown
- Teachers are also sharing interests to start clubs

Do clubs only start at the beginning of the year?

- No
- Reminder that each club requires a teacher advisor/sponsor to operate

Buses are getting kids late to school on a regular basis, which is going on their records

- If more than 15 minutes late, need to sign off in office, otherwise teacher will mark late
- OC Transpo is short on drivers now, but have been more stable than OSTA
- Students are not penalized for being late if there are good reasons
 - Each late is given a specific reason as to why they were late
 - If enough lates draw attention, the administration looks at the reason, and if it was due to bus, there's no action required

Buses aren't making students tap their card to demonstrate use, and drivers should enforce that

- School has special windows where they enforce that action, just for counting purposes, otherwise it is not really necessary

Some drivers are picking up at different locations and are not doing the express route

- Admin requested specific examples and to email them to address

When will Grade 10's get lockers?

- There are two zones in the school where that can't be done yet
- Grade 10 is getting next week
- If no locker, coaches can arrange a storage area for stuff, as we enter the winter months

Students don't appear to be biking safely and are riding through intersections at an angle, and through cars waiting at the lights. There have been several situations where a car almost hit a student or a cyclist almost ran into a student.

- A message on bike safety will be shared again, in order to bring awareness
- Organizations like Parachute come and speak to students about lived experience
- OSTA may have something for bikes

Can OC Transpo move the bus stop, as the current one appears to encourage jay walking through traffic?

- Admin will ask OC Transpo the question during one of their regular meetings

What are the IB Program details?

- Two schools are aligned with an IB coordinator each
- This is the first graduating year from MHS
- 140 students per year, so 560 in the program overall each year at MHS
- This is a wide/robust program

Are Portables for Secondary Students only?

- Yes, all 17 classrooms for intermediates are in the building
- It is a large campus this year

What languages are offered?

- English, French, and Spanish (Spanish starts in Grade 10)

Shouldn't there be an IB representative as part of the School Council?

- The council needs to focus as a whole School Council
- This has been discussed in the past, but did not align with the whole school direction
- Any question can be asked by any parent of any student at School Council
- There are specific info sessions hosted by the Admin to address any program questions
- There are multiple programs and streams at MHS, so inclusivity is critical
- If there are specific concerns, they can be raised directly with the Admin or the IB coordinator, or at a regular council meeting for broader concerns

What's the Lunch program look like this year?

- Intermediate – Awareness upstairs for 7's and 8's for secondary students
- Secondary – Manage themselves and can leave campus

How is MHS keeping people out of the building for safety

- MHS is a closed campus during the day, therefore no outsiders are allowed on site
- If anyone is noticed, alert a teacher or the admin immediately
- Admin and teachers are very comfortable with recognizing who belongs and who does not, and take action immediately
- Admin is always watching, especially during the changes between classes

Did MHS lose the school resource officer?

- Yes, the OCDSB trustees made that decision, which can be found on their website in full

Who can validate credit counts?

- Guidance Counselor's are the right people

Can students eat lunch in different locations than the cafeteria?

- Yes – there are picnic tables outside, some enjoy the grass/trees, etc, as long as it is not in a construction area or a Lab/Specialized classroom or the Library. Hallways can be used as well

Adjournment – 8:05pm