

## Minutes: Merivale High School Council Meeting, Tuesday November 7, 2023

### Administrative

#### Attendance

##### *Parent*

Mike Atherton, Anna Hoefnagels, Kendra Ishibashi, Ryan Jaecques, Karen Kong, Wendy Mansfield, Joanne McAuley, Jenn O'Reilly, Suzy Wong, Linda Gu, Sandra Ross-Nguyen, Jasmine Albagli, Luara Newton Miller, Sarah Gorber, Cheryl Wang (Minutes)

##### *Staff*

- Jean Fulton-Hale - Principal
- Bruce Levine - Intermediate Teacher Rep
- Megan Fox - Secondary Teacher Rep
- Lewis Harthun – IB coordinator

**Council & Administration Regrets:** N/A

### Welcome

#### *Approval of agenda:*

Motioned by: Ryan

Seconded by: Cheryl

#### *Review & Approval of Minutes from Tuesday October 3, 2023*

Motioned by: Ryan

Seconded by: Cheryl

### **Agenda Item #1: School Council Overview for 2023-2024**

#### *Introduction of new School Council members:*

| Position      | Name              |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Chair         | Ryan Jaecques     |
| Co-Chair      | Anna Hoefnagels   |
| Treasurer     | Suzy Wong         |
| Secretary     | Cheryl Xiyun Wang |
| Voting Member | Karen Kong        |
| Voting Member | Wendy Mansfield   |
| Voting Member | Jenn O'Reilly     |
| Voting Member | Joanne McAuley    |

*Motion:* self-nomination of Sarah Gorber as Member at Large

- Second by Ryan
- 6 votes to YES; motion carried

*Motion:* have a check-up informal meeting in December 2023 and no meeting in January 2024

- By Ryan; Cheryl second.
- 3 votes to YES; motion carried

*Motion:* have a virtual meeting in February 2024 and an in-person meeting in March 2024

- By Ryan; Cheryl second.
- 4 votes to YES; motion carried

*Point of Info:*

- People should ask questions within the context of school council (SC)
- For big topics: please email to the school council ahead of time at [sc-merivalehs@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-merivalehs@ocdsb.ca). Resolutions may be found through emails discussions, so topics can be addressed earlier, instead of waiting till next meeting (once a month, first Tuesday); for example, in last October meeting, Indigo fundraising event can be discussed through emails to finalize it
- Emails are sent through BCC, so parents' emails are not made public to everyone; for special cases, emails may be CCed to participants regarding a group activity, so participants can discuss among themselves
- About SC fundraising events
  - MHS SC does not want to step on Student Council who also run fundraising events
  - Better be complimentary to support events which had been done before, instead of creating new events; an example: the CAPIS event, endorsed by Ottawa Citizen to publish student written articles; reward and winner nominations were judged by students themselves; school participated and contributed in the past, but no program for this school year
  - School can organize a show; parents can do some sale to raise fund
- About bookstore fundraising program
  - A SC member talked to Pinecrest Indigo, and found there is no longer school fundraising program
  - In the past, Indigo selected schools, rather than talking to parents directly
  - Megan reached out Vanier Tales; they offer fundraising program for MHS; parents purchase books there and the raised funds by Vanier Tales be sent to school. Mega will share the information
  - **Note:** If fundraising money for school events, always communicate with the school first to ensure its policy followed
- About School Trustee for MHS SC meetings
  - Invite School Trustee to future council meetings
- About Teacher Appreciation Day
  - Council fund cannot be used for Teacher's Appreciation Day
  - Note that Feb 16 is PD Day and Feb 19 is Family Day; avoid these days
  - In past years, an email was drafted by Council for the principal to send to parents, including links to pre-created Google Form for collecting items from parents
  - The Council accepted the donated items and set up them in staff room; donated items should be clearly marked with their ingredients, so teachers can choose suitable ones
  - Suzy and Sarah will volunteer in organizing the event, setup coffee and baked goods in the staff room in early morning
  - In this year' school email to parents, ask parents to donate money for the appreciate day, specifying not for SC (SC fund can only be used for benefitting students)
- About dance club

- October 2023 dance club for welcoming new grade 9 student was well done, proposed by student council

### *Agenda Item #2: IB program - IBO review*

About IBO 5-year review on OCDSB IB program at MHS (Mr. Lewis Harthun)

- MHS IB inception was chosen by School Trustees. The program is at its 5-year anniversary
- The IBO review is done virtually every 5 years, through school self-evaluation, guided by IBO, including looking at how the program operates in the school, what courses accessible for student, etc.
- IBO will focus on Gr11 and Gr12's perspective. non-IB and IB Gr9 and Gr10 will not be engaged in the review
- Two IBO representatives will conduct the virtual visits for 3 days to navigate different IB learning spaces in the school: For example. Science Lab and the library
- IBO will also have conversations with different stakeholders. Students and parents will be engaged during the visit by IBO.
- First graduation class in June 2023 had 97 students successfully obtaining IB diploma. Given the impact of Covid and the novelty of the program, it was a big accomplishment for students, school, staff, and parents
- **Note:** on Nov 14, 2023, MHS Intermediate students will learn what the IB program is about

### *Reports*

#### *Student Council Report – Kosar Hemmati / Lauren Mortimer:*

- The student council is doing school clothing push on the website. Nov 16 ends, open to all students
- success spirit week by student demonstrated a lot of good spirit
- Student Council will let Megan know its report in the future

#### *Intermediate Report – Bruce Levine*

#### **November 7, 2023, MHS INTERMEDIATE (Gr 7 & 8)**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| SPECIAL EVENTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skating at Howard Darwin for gym classes is getting organized. Hopefully starting in December 2023 or the new year of 2024.</li> <li>• Remembrance Day ceremonies taking place this week.</li> <li>• November 23rd and 24th - Parent/Teacher interviews - PA Day on Friday, November 24th for all Elementary students.</li> <li>• November 20th and 21st - gr. 7 and 8 Tour for Humanity – gr. 7s will be geared towards Residential Schools, while the gr. 8s will have a focus on the Holocaust.</li> <li>• Rideauwood Presentations for gr. 7s and 8s are underway - gr. 7 has a focus on internet, social media, gaming addiction, while the gr. 8s begins to focus on alcohol, drugs, substances, and gambling.</li> </ul> |
| Gr 7           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stress Lessons will begin soon by our Youth Worker for all gr. 7 classes.</li> </ul>  |
| Gr 8           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tomorrow November 8th - Canterbury Arts for the gr. 8s - All Grade 8s are invited to the Little Theatre on November 8 to hear the presentation from Canterbury Arts.</li> </ul>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| STUDENT SUCCESS   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermediate Progress Reports going home soon.</li> </ul>  |
| ATHLETICS   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The girls touch football team played at the Board Finals today. They finished second in our Southwest Region. Huge accomplishment making it to Boards.</li> <li>• The boys touch football finished their season last Wednesday (November 1<sup>st</sup>) at the Regionals and went 3-0 in the Round Robin. They lost in the semis in the final play of the game, unfortunately.</li> <li>• XCountry had their Regionals a couple of weeks ago. Four of our athletes qualified for the Boards and finished in the top 20. One of boys placed 3rd in the city.</li> <li>• These three teams have been practicing since mid-September. Lots of early morning practices and dedication - 7AM, three times/week.</li> <li>• Volleyball tryout will start soon for the boys and girls.</li> <li>• The Dig Pink Volleyball Tournament, organized by Ms. Hughson, will be hosted again here this year. Funds go towards breast cancer research.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade 7 &amp; 8 Knitting Club is off to a great start. Mondays during first break. Grateful to a community member who donated enough material for all club members to have knitting needles and plenty of yarn.</li> <li>• Grade 7½ band has started. We have a concert on December 14th with the high school. Tickets will be sold on Cash online starting November 27th.</li> <li>• Meditation Club started. Two members, plus me! Wednesdays at 12:50 - 1:30.</li> </ul>  |

*Secondary Report – Megan Fox*

TBA

*Principal's Report – Jean Fulton-Hale*

**Principal's Report to School Council – November 7, 2023**

All

**OC:** We are very fortunate to have OC drivers routinely select the Merivale routes. To support this consistency, please help us to reinforce the expectations for good citizenship on the bus - respecting the driver and their instructions, ensuring that others who need to disembark can access the doors in a timely manner, sitting in seats or standing safely, not climbing over seats or engaging in unsafe behavior.

**Student Safety on Viewmount Dr:** We continue to ask for your support to reinforce the use of crosswalks for students to safely access the north side of Viewmount Drive. There are two controlled intersections – Merivale and Viewmount, and Grant Carmen and Viewmount. Winter conditions are ahead, and we continue to be concerned for students who do not access these safety features.

**Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony** – 10:30 AM Secondary / 11:00 AM Intermediate Showcasing students - material and music

#### Secondary

Very well attended post-Secondary info night last week - thanks to our Guidance team for hosting and to our grade 11/12 families for participating! OUAC PIN #s was shared on November 1.

**TOKTW** day – November 2 - all grade 9s are encouraged to participate!

**Academic Awards** from 2021-22 will be distributed to students currently in grades 10-11-12 via their 2B teacher on 2 November. Merivale Honour Roll (80% or better) OCDSB Silver Medal Certificate (90% or better).

**Launch Days** – Gr 11/12 Virtual – all students received information through the Guidance Google classrooms – Ms. Dynie is coordinating this experience for Merivale. More information is available via the Student Services page.

**Parent-teacher Interviews** - November 24 (3:30 - 7:30 PM)

- Progress reports distributed electronically on November 30; the next reporting period is for Term 1 in February 2023.

**PA Day** for Secondary students is November 25

**OSSLT** for gr 11/12 students will be held on November 30 for those students who have yet to meet this graduation requirement. Grade 10 students will write in April 2023.

Staff are engaged in curriculum learning for the updated grade 9 core courses (Math, Science, French, English, Geography) and to build capacity within and across our teams! Teachers are engaged in 8 professional development sessions from September - May.

There is a steady return to Athletics, and we start a new season in two weeks. A reminder for students / families who come to cheer to also help to keep our bleachers clean – our care staff appreciate this support! We have two groups of athletes on their way to OFSAA - XC Running and Varsity Field Hockey!

**Music Nights** are back – 2 in December! The team is happy to see so many students participating in Band and Choir.

**Field trips** are returning – Civics, History, and our ASD class is in our community regularly for walks.

#### Intermediate:

**PA Day** this Friday November 4, only for Intermediate students.

**Progress reports** will be sent home the week of November 17.

**PTIs** will be the afternoon of November 24 (3:30 - 6:00 PM) and morning of November 25 (8:30 - 11:00 AM). A letter will be sent home soon.

**Band students** rehearse each week by grade with Ms. Case, the goal is for the band to be a part of Winter Music night in December!

**Athletics** – Merivale has two teams in the OCDSB Intermediate Touch Football Tournament Nov 8-9, and a third will participate in a tri-meet this week; Ms. Hughson is organizing the Merivale Dig Pink Volleyball tournament for the end of November.

**Pumpkin Decorating Contest** – what an incredible competition this year! Classes worked hard on their concepts, and it was a challenge for the judges to select the top three!

**Clubs and Intramurals** are starting up – teachers will be looking to integrate opportunities to include as many students as possible following the models we explored last spring.

**Skating:** Our PHE team would like to take their classes to the Howard Darwin Arena for skating over the winter. Forms will be sent home to families, including the concussion awareness forms. All students and parents/guardians must complete the concussion awareness forms and the field trip form for a student to participate in this activity. Helmets must be worn.

#### *Chair / Vice-Chair – Ryan Jacques*

- Items from last council meeting
  - SC will fund the request from library for buying some books
  - No expenses and no wish list from teachers to utilize the SC fund
  - The SC fund came from the board funding; remaining fund carries forward
  - Keep the tradition to continue to fund the library and intermediate classes activities; if some students have financial situation, SC can pay for them to participate in school activities
- Planning for next couple of school council meetings
  - In previous school years, no meeting for December and January; February and March meetings are virtual online; For December, usually there are attendance issues.
  - Cannot host hybrid meetings (virtual and in-person) due to technical issues. In the past, there were high attendance rate from parents in virtual meetings, especially for parents having younger kids
  - For current school year, there could be a December online checkup informal meet-up, instead of having a formal meeting; the council will collect the reports from school; invitation will be extended to school staff and all parents
  - For current school year, some parents prefer more in-person meetings since we all just recovered from Covid lockdown and need more in-person communications
  - However, the school will host a course information evening. It is set for Wed. February 7. So, the February meeting should not be on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- MHS Cafeteria
  - Cafeteria is no longer open since Chartwells Canada did not make money out of it; kids can get healthy packed lunches from Metro, other food stores, or from home
- MHS OCASC representative (Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils).

- OCASC is the assembly for all school councils. If anyone is interested in being a rep for MHS, send an email to MHS SC email at [sc-merivalehs@ocdsb.ca](mailto:sc-merivalehs@ocdsb.ca)

*Treasurer's Report – Suzy Wong: \$4162.09*

### **Question and Answer**

- Back in Sept 2023, some students said their lockers were too far away from classrooms, can school help?
  - They can talk to VPs to possibly get a locker closer to classrooms
- Can there be event sale to fundraise for school?
  - Music program runs its own fundraising, such as Jazz Café; fund is used for music programs only
  - Drama sale goes to drama show program
  - SC can donate time to support the event; okay for SC to give money to one group; but SC would stand for all kids, other than a specific group, and try to avoid giving money to a specific group
- Can boy play on the big Field on Wed?
  - The big Field will be closed in winter; school will use side fields for recess
- About participating in tournaments, why not support by SC?
  - School does provide support, depending on its access to funding. Athletes' parents pay for portion of fees. Any athletes cannot pay, will attend paid by school fund
- Can student fundraise?
  - Usually, Field Hockey team fundraise for its tournaments. This year, teachers have no time.
  - All parents are part of the parent school council, even they do not show up in meetings or discussions
  - Athletes are recruited by parent for the tournament, so SC can gather parent volunteers to host fundraising activities, such as selling chips for cost recovery; extra MONEY goes to team, after deducting the cost of buying things
  - Kids can do fundraising for their community teams but cannot fundraise for school teams in communities. We must follow school board guides for fundraising
  - If kid is in hockey team, reach the coach to help fundraising; from teachers' perspectives, they need to do more for fundraising (time and organize). If teachers support fundraising, so do parents
- Last year, band could not travel to Niagara Falls for performance; can SC create a pool of money (slush fund) to fund the band trip?
  - Last year, we cannot get a bus to go there, not because of lacking money
  - SC can choose variety ways to raise money, but need to ensure how to use the money fairly for all students
  - SC can use School Cash online, to ask parent to pay voluntary fee also for raising money for events
- Can there be a separate appreciation for the teacher volunteers?
  - Not yet
  - It is the athletes to recognize their volunteer teachers
- No assembly to celebrate student reward winners?
  - There was poor attendance
  - Would take two days to do the reward if during the school (large populations)
  - Rewards are received by students in the class – midground
- Cold temperature is coming, how quickly the bus door will be closed? Intermediate kids must leave in 5 minutes after school dismissed?
  - Bus door can be opened at any time; just ask in case doors are closed
  - Bus # 600 dismisses at 2:30pm; remaining buses leave every 2 minutes

- Gr7&Gr8 dismissed at 2:30pm. Their buses leave at 2:33pm/2:35pm. Teachers make sure kids come out the door and onboard the buses on time
- Then others are picked up by /680/688/180/111
- 2:38pm for 111. If all students are loaded, then school will let the bus leave
- Teachers check students are on the bus. The bus does not move without the VP and Principal's signaling the bus to leave.
- If Principal and VP are not available, there are duty teachers, 6 in lines. Mr. Levine is 7th in line. Buses do not leave, without students' getting on their buses. The school coordinates with drivers closely
- In the coming months, the buses may arrive later too. School will navigate pressure points. School teams and OCTranspo drivers will coordinate to ensure all student onboarding buses safely
- Business Club (DECA) application got refused for two years consecutively; which clubs school choose to support and which ones to reject?
  - DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) asks for \$90 annual membership fee. School will not support clubs needing partnership/membership in foreign currencies
  - Another club needs USA club membership fee also got refused by school
  - The student leaders can talk to school by navigating other options for creating business clubs accessible for all interesting students (non-DECA)
- A grade 10 student had difficulty to access his locker since the shortcut pathway has a door locked, and had to go around taking longer time; can school help?
  - The door should be unlocked. It might be locked by new staff members. The school will ensure the door be unlocked during school hours

**Adjournment** – 8:45pm.

**Next meeting:** 6:30pm on Tuesday February 6, 2023