

Minutes: Merivale High School Council Meeting, Wed October 3, 2023

Administrative

Attendance:

Parents:

Tim Embury, Suzy Wong, Kendra Ishibashi, Ryan Jaecques, Yi Li, Mike Atherton, Joanne McAuley, Pam Woolridge, Philip Mansfield, Wendy Mansfield, Harinder Batth, Jenn O'Reilly, Charlène Simamonika, Cheryl Wang (Minutes), Karen Kong, Anna Hoefnagels

School staff:

- Jean Fulton-Hale - Principal
- Bruce Levine - Intermediate Teacher Rep
- Megan Fox - Secondary Teacher Rep
- VP Rohan Hollingsworth

Council & Administration Regrets: N/A

Welcome – Tim Embury

Approval of agenda:

Motioned by: Tim

Seconded by: Ryan

Review & Approval of Minutes from: N/A

Agenda Item #1: Committee members self-nomination

Motioned by: Ryan Jaecques, Anna Hoefnagels, Suzy Wong, Suzy Wong, Karen Kong, Wendy Mansfield, Jenn O'Reilly, Joanne McAuley

Seconded by: All self-nominations seconded by Tim Embury

Position	Name
Co-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
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Reports

Student Council Report – Kosar Hemmati / Lauren Mortimer

- N/A

Intermediate Report – Bruce Levine:

Intermediate Update

Happenings:

- Friends Day Wednesday.
- Spelling Test Comp. - gr.7s.
- Terry Fox Run was 2 weeks ago - 1:30 - 2:30. Kids had a great time. Great school spirit.
- Orange Shirt Day was last Thursday.
- The Beaver Computing Challenge (BCC). Introduces computer science to students. It's designed to get students with little or no previous experience excited about computing.

Nov. 7th - 2:45-3:45 in the High school Tech. Wing. Administered by Waterloo U. The cost is \$3.25 on school cash online. Posted on Google Classrooms. Students sign up. The form closes on October 20th. Once they sign up they will receive a permission form.

Clubs:

- Rainbow Club - Began last week, Thursdays - 12:50-1:30.
- Chess Club began today and will run 4 days/week.
- Meditation Club starts tomorrow.
- Knitting Club once/week - Mondays - 10-10:25 - gr. 7s, and 10:25-10:50 for gr. 8s.
- Interest Academy - study whatever they like - ie - coding, robotics, art, piano, murder mystery, bake a cake, etc.
- Eco/Recycling Club.

Sports:
- XCcountry - 7AM - M, W, F = 45 kids, meet is next Thursday. - Boys and Girls Touch Football - T, W, F - 7AM. Tournaments are Oct. 26th for the girls, and Nov. 1st for the boys.

Secondary Report – Megan Fox:

October 2023 MHS Secondary Educator’s Sharings

SCIENCE & MATH	Clubs are underway for students interested in a wide variety of subject areas. Watch for announcements and postings for additional details
STUDENT SUCCESS	Students in Gr 11 needing to write the Ontario Literacy Test will complete the test on Thurs Nov 2nd. Preparation support will be offered to students in advance of the test date.
LIBRARY	<p>Gr 7 & 8 classes have completed Library orientations and learned how to use the Alexandria catalogue. https://merivalehs.goalexandria.com/ Biweekly library visits have started - Gr 7 classes this week and Gr 8 classes next week.</p> <p>Library cards are also Student ID cards and are used one year to the next and students are asked to carry their cards in order to access materials. Photo retake is Oct 17th.</p> <p>Gr 9 & 10 English classes have visited the library for book tasting and book selection to support sustained silent reading occurring in the classrooms and to promote reading for enjoyment. Students had a refresher on Library catalogue access and Google classroom content</p> <p>Co-operative education students completing their pre-placement tasks have been utilizing the library space and most have transitioned to their work placements. Congratulations to these students on some exciting experiential learning opportunities.</p>
ATHLETICS	<p>Phys-ed classes participated in Walk for Wenjack on Fri Sept 29th in recognition of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>Many sports in session - field hockey, soccer, ultimate and more and others starting - Basketball, Volleyball and others are having tryouts.</p> <p>Students should watch for announcements and join the google classroom for sports they would like to pursue. Athletic Council will have news about the Intramurals soon</p>
CWS	HSE4M Equity & Social Justice Class took the lead on MHS Orange Shirt Day. The class raised awareness through display case exhibitions, explained the purpose of the day through writing and reading school announcements, and facilitated action in each class through an 'orange shirt' activity. Provided a slideshow for the foyer display.

Extracurricular **Mean Girls: The Musical** had a very competitive audition process with over 50 students coming out to audition. The show is cast and rehearsals are underway.

Student Council: Three grade 9s were just elected to positions on council, two are sharing the role of grade 9 rep (AMANDA TSAROUHAS and SUNNY ZHANG) and one is the junior student senator (ANYA GUO). Our junior senator is being mentored by our senior student senator EMMA HONG (OCDSB Student Trustee) and they will be attending monthly OCDSB board meetings, one evening a month.

We are currently organizing school clothing (4 options available, including one Pride option). We are currently finalizing designs and are getting a quote this week. Items will be sold via SchoolCashOnline. We are also planning our first spirit week for the week of Halloween, which includes a Halloween costume contest at lunch in the caf ☎☎

Announcements **MHS Announcements (Responses)**

Lockers must be claimed by Oct 5th

Beaver Computing contest for Gr 7 - 10 - Nov 7th - 2:45 to 3:45

Due Oct 10th - Expression of interest form: <https://forms.gle/j9GszJydBezEU54f8>

Principal's Report – Jean Fulton-Hale:

Enrolment Update:

Intermediate: Stable at 13 homerooms, we are settling into the routines of school!

Secondary: staffing will be ongoing until about 17 October, up to 17 portables.

Fire Drills: Our first fire drill was 26 September. Schools are required to have 6 fire drills and two lockdown drills each calendar year.

Open Houses: Thank you to all parents/guardians for your participation at our Open Houses!
We appreciate the positive feedback from families!

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.
There is no stopping on Viewmount in either direction.

Vehicles: Crossing at the Metro is extremely dangerous and we ask families to meet their student in a spot that promotes safety. Our neighbours at the Metro kindly ask that you choose a better spot to meet your student as their parking lot is very small and for store customers.

Athletics: Secondary Athletics for fall sports has started; we have experienced some issues with shortages of team transportation. Thank you to our volunteer teacher

coaches.

Concussion Info: ALL student athletes (gr 7-12) 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.

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 22 September. It was a great afternoon!

Athletics: return to athletics with XC running, touch football. Merivale's coaches are excited to be participating with our students!

Friendsday Wednesdays: Wednesdays Intermediate Recess is on the south field until 15 November, when the field is closed for winter.

Chair / Vice-Chair – Tim Embury

- N/A

Treasurers Report – Mei Qiu

- N/A

Question and Answer

General

- How school councils work?
 - Need chair and co-chair; they will get training
 - Need secretary, treasure, and member at large
 - Each meeting need half of the council member presenting
 - Any vote needs pass half of the votes; can be through emails or in person
- AI and ChatGPT, any initiative to train teacher to find fraud
 - In English class, teachers talked about it
 - Could be beneficial if use it properly
 - ML, APA, and Citation procedure were explained in classrooms; if students use AI to generate contents, you must have citations of sources contents
- Can kids work on the generated content to avoid detection

- Yes, there is no advantage to just copy and paste the generated contents
- Students should celebrate more their authentic voice; they can load contents from AI, and modify it to ensure their ownership of their own ideas using their own brains
- New policy hosting after-school events?
 - Principle and VP plus teachers must be volunteering; in evening; it is related to emergency procedures, accessing student information if needed, cannot just be other volunteers
 - School shares the link about this policy
- How supportive is school for the LGBTQA+ community; incident noted?
 - school principals will have conversations with the parents and kids privately to look for resolutions
 - This year, school rainbow day was in July/August 2023. The paint of rainbow on school was washed off by the rain; could not be repainted due the smoke
 - School Rainbow Nation takes over the promotion of rainbow intentionally and strategically
 - School ensures that every kid walks into school feeling being part of the community
 - If things happen again, please see school VPs and the incidents will be investigated by VPs.
- What are the numbers of students this year
 - 13 rooms for intermediate; total 350 students
 - 1400 secondary students
- Question about washrooms with vandalism with intermediate students
 - School is working on it. It is a pressing issue
 - Staff will watch it
 - If washrooms are closed, students are giving the single staff washroom as backup
- A student forgot her materials in lockers and was told to return to classroom without being able to retrieve the materials
 - Please talk to VP about it; have a respectful conversation with the teacher
- About parking
 - Sports Check parking lot is okay for drop-off and pickup
 - Metro parking not is **not** okay
 - As for backside of metro, be mindful for that is used for
 - On Viewmont, there is a huge parking lot available for drop off or pickup
- No textbooks for science? Parents had to find textbooks by themselves for grade 10 student
 - Teachers decide not to use textbooks. They manage resources in Google Classroom
 - As point of reference, kids can go to OPL to check out whether textbooks are available
 - English textbooks are available for download
- About buying stuff for classrooms, can parents work with school and the teachers?
 - Tim: previously, this council asked teachers to provide a list of books to be purchased. Then the council purchased the books for the library
 - Anything used for school curriculum must be purchased by school
 - Can some lady pass a secondhand camera to the photography club

- Jean: pending item, processes to follow whether needing to get money from finance department to buy camera
 - School purchase base # of items, then board pay by per-capita (such as food program).
 - What resources allow to do fundraising events from board point of view.
 - For example: offering pizza is not allowed
 - Anything, not needing policy and processes?
 - Students ask for books and other things coming from library
 - Donate to the school library /OPL
 - Curriculum related items to be stored in library
 - For the library, is funds donation allowed?
 - Funds to support a project, for example having a certain series of books, is okay; the council will vote to allow use the donated money by library
 - Parents can work with Indigo, for fundraising purpose; manageable events, such as parents buy books and part of the Indigo profit will be donated to the library
 - Rainbow repainted?
 - Rainbow nation painted last year. Need to get permission from the board first. June 2024 will be the time. (Explore in Nov. 2023 to vote for this)
 - Council can do email voting
 - Heating in classroom, too hot
 - Ryan: bought fans for other schools where his kids attended
 - Jean: need to know what is going to be the cost following given specs. Jean will ask facility (including 17 portables, Lib, ASD classroom) climate management
 - Viewmont PS uses fans to circulate cool air
 - This year, trustees increase the school temperature threshold from 24 to 24.5 degree
 - Electricity load might be an issue if adding more cooling units (fans, air conditioning)
 - MHS has climate control; cool air is circulated at night in school
 - Next session of the council meeting on Nov 7, 2023
 - How to use the money of school council
 - Chapter fundraising is good. We need volunteers
 - how fund raised from Indigo gets to school?
 - Tim: council vote
 - Jean can ask for some books into council pockets
 - Elementary fundraising is different than secondary
 - Council has its own mechanism to fundraising, other than parents
 - Email to parents to raise funds. Donate to school council using school cash online
 - Council needs has a plan and then talk to school
 - Do it in May 2024 since there are many fundraising events. They like to do it by themselves to take responsibilities
 - Club Summit decide how money is used
 - Parents may be fatigue to give money

Intermediate

- What time is contest (University of Waterloo Beaver Computing Contest)
 - Can be found on school website *Announcement* tab
 - Teachers will send the info to students
 - Registration close at Oct 20 on online; test is on Nov 7 at 2:45pm to 3:45pm
- Why Intermediate students cannot use the field in the morning and in the afternoon
 - The school has been working hard to maximize the use of the fields; the school is over-sized. Size of Secondary students are four times of Intermediate ones; there are 14 secondary teams and 2 intermediate teams
 - National Capital Secondary School Athletic Association schedules tournament games for all secondary schools together and books the MHS fields for its Secondary tournament games; Secondary students also use the field for practices
 - Intermediate teachers choose to have work-life balance; they do not plan to let intermediate students going on field which sometimes seems risky since students run to the roads to pick up sports balls, etc. and intermediate students requires volunteer teachers to monitor them if they are on field.
- Can we use Colonnade RD Park?
 - No, there are 14 classes, and we cannot send them all there
- Can we move the Intermediate section to another school?
 - No. Only till 2025 when the new Riverside South Secondary School will be built, the Secondary section will decrease, decided by the Board
- Can grade 7&8 go out off campus for recesses
 - **School:**
 - **No:** teachers must sign all of them out and then sign all of them in, due to policy; it is not practical since school has no extra capacity to do that
 - It takes new grade 7 90 days to get used to the new settings; teachers are very busy to stabilize the new grades and the teaching resources
 - School don't want to put bars to secure the field if grade 7&8 are there, since intermediate students must be monitored by teachers; for vulnerable kids needing special attentions, school have to setup special activities for them also, otherwise school cannot have this field activity; if the kids run off the field, teachers have no capacity to go get them back
 - School tries to find balance between active playing and disruptive for learning
 - Parents:
 - Some parents said that Glashan Public School allows grade 7&8 to go out for recesses; a nice way to spend some time outside of school
 - Tim: for secondary students, they go off campus for recesses, but every year the business around the school shared their challenging experiences with school
 - Kids lost a lot from moving out Grade 6 to the current Grade 7, with regard active playing outdoor.
- Can kid bring their own skipping ropes to school
 - School:

- kids have 40-min Physed daily
 - The school teams will discuss on this and get back to parent council
 - Kids will find their way to share the spaces at a conformable level
- Can sports team have two tiers: junior and advanced, otherwise new students have less chances to get into a sports team
 - School only has one team for intermediate for each sport
- If Secondary school is closed, will intermediate student get the field?
 - If there are teachers volunteer, it is possible
 - During lunch block only, all intermediate should have the same lunch time
- About dances event
 - This is covered in last May 2023 council meeting; please check the [MHS May 2 2023 minutes](#) here:
 - For any extra curriculum, there are # of factors to affect its availability; school will not have a dance event at night; school must abide by the rules from the board with regard running a school event, regardless in school or outside school (custodies, emergency, safety, equality, and diversity, etc.)
 - Consider what is inclusive for all students, it is impossible to have a dance night given diversity of the population
 - School Link Crew student team helps new students about social and academic aspects in high school; will host a Halloween party for new grade 9 students; it is a student event, not a school event, make it more manageable
- What are the accommodations
 - Courtyard is for the green club
 - Barrier is that there is just one entrance, not comply with fire standard
 - An item is requested for student council. School will make the request to get the project done; parents do not need to talk to board
 - Will hear back in Spring 2024
- Concerns about resources are not enough for intermediate, such as not enough science book in classrooms
 - School re-invested \$900 last year; we move away from textbooks to electronic contents and digital solutions
 - Chrome Book of 30 in each classroom

Adjournment – 21:00