



Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils

@ocasc_ca

ocasc.ca

www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

chair@ocasc.ca

September 2016

**Dear school council chair,
Dear OCASC representative,**

Welcome back!

First, we are excited for the 2016-2017 school year and we want to thank our returning members and also welcome new members.

The **Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC)** is an umbrella organization for school councils within the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). To help us best represent district-wide issues, we encourage all councils to join.

Why join? The benefits of OCASC include:

- Sharing great ideas with other school councils
- Getting insight into how education works here in our board
- Learning the ways to maximize the value of your council to your kids' school

See the attached OCASC information package to learn more about us. It has the details, contact information, and meeting dates you need.

Please complete the attached membership form and send it to us via OCDSB mail (drop it off in your school's office) or bring it to an OCASC meeting. Don't have the funds to cover membership fees? Simply request a waiver by ticking the appropriate box.

Thanks and have a great year!

Dale Childs, OCASC vice chair

chair@ocasc.ca

c.c.: school principal



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OCASC INFORMATION PACKAGE

What is OCASC?

The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an umbrella organization for school councils of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). In a nutshell, OCASC is about:

- Sharing Information
- Facilitating Communication
- Representing its Membership

Our statement of purpose reads:

The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an organization for school councils and parents to share information and facilitate communication within the communities of the OCDSB in order to enhance the education of all its students. OCASC represents its membership to the OCDSB, government and the wider community.

When and where does OCASC meet?

OCASC generally meets on the third Thursday of each month. However, the first meeting of this school year will be held the evening of **29 September 2016**. Meetings are held in the library (second floor) of Fisher Park Public School, 250 Holland Avenue, just north of the Queensway, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to arrive at 6:45 to register and sign in. Please check ocasc.ca to confirm dates, locations and times. The Secondary Schools Committee (SSC) meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month. We generally offer refreshments and snacks at all meetings.

Who should come to OCASC meetings?

OCASC meetings are open to the public and any parent or other interested person is welcome to attend meetings. School councils are encouraged to elect an OCASC representative and an alternate. They attend the OCASC meeting and report the shared information back to their councils.

Why should your school council become a member of OCASC?

We share best practices and share solutions to problems. We foster a sense of community and foster the notion that councils are key to well-run, welcoming schools. We work with the OCDSB to build more effective consultation, stronger communications and collaboration.

How does a school council become a member of OCASC?

The school council of any elementary or secondary school in the OCDSB can join OCASC. The annual membership fee of \$35.00 entitles a council to participate in votes taken at OCASC meetings. Fees may be waived if requested.



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What are your priorities?

Helping councils work together and be efficient and effective. Making sure your kids get the most out of their schooling. What we do and how we do it can be found on our website: <http://ocasc.ca/about-ocasc/>

What does my membership get me?

- Advance notice of speakers at future OCASC meetings via our newsletter. E-mail chair@ocasc.ca to be added to the newsletter recipients list.
- Participate in discussions to represent your school council and take back new information to your school council.
- Invite OCASC to your school council meeting to talk about the interesting things happening across the board: to have someone from OCASC speak to your school council, contact chair@ocasc.ca
- Participate in “Chalk-It-Up”: this is a favourite part of the monthly OCASC meeting. It is an opportunity for you to take a couple of minutes to talk to the assembled representatives - to share best practices, find out if other schools are struggling with the same issues, ask for suggestions on how to handle situations, and to exchange contact information for further communication.
- Meetings provide an opportunity for school councils to stay informed about current board activities through guest speakers and group discussion.
- Advertise an event at upcoming any school council organized activities of interest to parents via Facebook, Twitter, or the OCASC website. Email your event details to chair@ocasc.ca

OCASC Committees . . . what are they?

Secondary School Committee

The OCASC Secondary Schools Committee (SSC) is a sub-committee of OCASC which meets once per month throughout the school year, generally on the second Thursday of the month, to discuss issues that are specific to the secondary schools within the OCDSB.

We encourage secondary schools to participate in both the regular OCASC Assembly meetings and the SSC meetings. We also encourage schools with grade 7 and 8 students to participate in the SSC by sending a representative to the monthly meetings, as we have learned from experience that parents of grade 7 and 8 students find it valuable to start hearing about what is happening in the high schools prior to the start of grade 9. Please feel free to contact the chair of the Secondary Schools Committee at ssc.chair@ocasc.ca

OCDSB Committees

OCASC is fortunate to have representation on many of the committees in the OCDSB. Each year in November, OCASC selects individuals to represent the organization on these committees. Information from committee will be posted at www.ocasc.ca or the board site at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/bm/com/Pages/default.aspx>



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OCDSB Committees (continued)

- The Committee of the Whole (COW)
- Trades and Technology Steering Committee
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)
- Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE)
- Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)
- Committee of the Whole (Budget)
- School Year Calendar Committee
- Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Child Care Programs
- Alternative Schools Advisory Committee

Want to know more?

We value your input. We welcome your comments, suggestions, feedback and questions throughout the year. There are many ways to reach us:

- At our website ocasc.ca
- Via email at chair@ocasc.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at [@OCASC_ca](https://twitter.com/OCASC_ca)
- Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc



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2016-2017 OCASC Membership Form

The Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an umbrella organization for school councils within the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). OCASC works together with school councils and the OCDSB to enhance the education of all students.

All school councils in the OCDSB are entitled to OCASC membership and are encouraged to join and to participate. The annual membership fee is \$35.00 which supports the running of the organization, gives your school the right to vote at OCASC meetings and access to members-only info. Fees may be waived for councils unable to pay.

For additional information on OCASC or if you have any suggestions future meetings, comments, or questions, please visit our website at <http://ocasc.ca/> or contact the Chair at chair@ocasc.ca. Follow us on Twitter at @OCASC_ca. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc

School Name:

Position	Name	Email*	Tel
Chair (or Co-Chair)			
Vice Chair (or Co-Chair)			
OCASC Representative			
OCASC Alternate			
Secondary Schools Committee Rep. (if applicable)			

* Your e-mail address will be added to our contact list for meeting information and newsletter, unless otherwise indicated.

Membership Fee: \$35.00 cheque (payable to OCASC) \$35.00 cash waiver requested

Please bring this completed form and membership fee to the next OCASC meeting or return it to OCASC through the Board mail at your school to OCASC, 133 Greenbank Road. Membership fees are due prior to the November OCASC meeting.

Personal information requested in this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be protected under that Act. It will be used for the purpose of the OCASC membership subscription and enabling communication between OCASC and the member, as required. Direct any questions about this collection to: OCASC Chair, 133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON or chair@ocasc.ca . Thank you!