

OTTAWA CARLETON ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Meeting of Thursday October 16,2008

Place: Fisher Park PS

Paid Member Schools in Attendance: 37 Total Paid Members: 81

Total Schools in Attendance: 50

Quorum: 27

School Council Members Present/Voting Delegate

A. Lorne Cassidy- Kim Clausen

Adrienne Clarkson – Lisa Bloom

Alta Vista PS – Lillian Thomsen

Agincourt PS – Norah Vollmer

Barrhaven PS – Donna Blackburn

Bell HS – Juliet Hamilton

Berrigan ES – Susan Klimchuk

Briargreen PS – Susan Vanden Heuvel

Bridlewood Com ES-Anne Bowes

Broadview Avenue PS-Jancie Van Baaren

Brookfield -Psakagh Naidu

Canterbury HS-Diue Bedett

D. Aubrey Moodie IS-Sherri Smith

Elgin St. PS-Kaeli Naub

Emily Carr MS-Dan Rambo

Fallingbrook Com ES-Irene Lupin

Glen Ogilvie PS-Trina Whitehurst

Greenbank MS-Paula Shaver

Henry Munro MS-Francis Leblanc

Hillson Ave PS-Tarin Richards

J.H. Putman PS-Lillian Dinelle

Jack Donohue PS-Alex Ribeiro

Katimivik PS-Nihan Kavaslar

Knoxdale PS-Paula Shaver

Lisgar Collegiate-Kate Preston-Thomas

Mary Honeywell ES-John Tucker

Mutchmor PS-Jay McNicol

Rideau Valley MS-Sue Czwrell

Robert Bateman PS-Brigitte Pollock

Roch Carrier ES-Anne Bowes

Rockcliffe Park PS-Karen Strityuski

Roland Michener PS-Shelia Smellie

South Carleton HS-Sue Carswell

Stephen Leacock PS-Nadine Clarke

Steve MacLean PS-Lara Malastenko

Stonecrest ES-Cheryl Clark

Trillium ES-Erik Esselaar

Woodroffe ES-Heather Tyrie,

Maria DiRosa

OTHER PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE FROM MEMBER SCHOOL COUNCILS: Ellen Dickson (Barrhaven Public), Carol Spence (Canterbury HS), Madelaine Stewart-Onraj (Connaught PS), Terrena Bennett (D.Roy Kennedy PS) Sivas Premjeyanth (Farley Mowat PS), Mike Hickey (Glen Cairn PS). Mike McMullen (Manor Park PS), Alexandra MacLean (Nepean HS), Brenda Verch (W.O. Mitchell P.S), Joan Hill-Keast (SEAC),

GUESTS: Jessica Kamps, Lynda Hall (Canadian Organic Growers), Ginny Steele, Katherine Stauble (Advisory Committee on the Arts), John Shea (Trustee Zone 8)

NON MEMBER COUNCILS(4): Ron Merr (Castlefrank ES); Nancy Schenk (Pleasant Park); Robert Frater (Elmdale); Mike Beavington (Huntley Centennial)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by the chair

Michele Giroux (Executive Officer – Corporate services) came to do a presentation about the kind of work that is happening at the OCDSB. Significantly it was noted that parental involvement is key to student success and that both the ministry and our board actively encourage parental involvement by providing money for school councils (ministry), PIC (Parental involvement committee- OCDSB) and by providing staff to facilitate communication of information between school councils and the board (Cheryle Watson -policy analyst OCDSB).

Cheryle Watson talked about the PRO Grants (Parents Reaching Out) - Ideas included:

- a library for to help parents whose children are in French immersion and the parents are unilingual -how to help your child learn another language type books, dictionaries, early reading French books -even a series of “how to tip sheets”
- a speaker series (there are many that other school have used in the past some on communicating with children others dealing with behavioural issues, nutrition and other parenting related topics)
- one school used the money to provide direct mailings to parents of school events to ‘reach out’ to parents not on email or not receiving the backpack flyers – some of these were translated for parents who were not able to read English
- reaching out to parents who may not be literate in any language – how to engage and encourage them to participate in their children’s education – (perhaps through art, drama, drumming, oral storytelling)

Schools who wish to apply for this next year should make a motion at the September meeting to allow time for proper consultation and writing of the proposal. Contact Cheryle Watson for more information cheryle.watson@ocdsb.ca.

Chalk It Up

1. Lynda Hall and Jessica Kamps (**Canadian Organic Growers -Growing up ORGANIC**) linda@cog.ca want more info on what kinds of foods are being offered at our schools – handed out survey and want school councils to fill them out
2. Lillian Dinelle - school reorganization due to primary class size caps– **JH Putman** Wants to know what the experiences are at different schools putmancs@gmail.com
3. Walking School bus – volunteer parents walk with kids to school **Farley Mowat PS** -Sivas Premsey spremjey@cbnco.com See website: http://www.resourceconservation.mb.ca/gci/ASRTS/pdfs_asrts/WSB-booklet-e.pdf
4. Balanced day Hot lunch Cheryl Clark **Stonecrest ES** Suggestions needed on when and what schools serve on balanced day for the hot lunch? cheryl17@distributed.net
5. Parent Resource Centre-Carrie Eaton -**Castor Valley** laurelandjohn@rogers.com
They are trying to set up French immersion resource centre to help parents help their children in French Immersion.
6. Concerns about the reorganization. **Kate Preston Thomas OCASC LO zones 9 and 10** Overall numbers meant that a school had to use all the occasional teacher budget to fill in the gap and now a group of kids are about to get a new math teacher causing disruption. Kate recommends that all should ask principal directly ‘where are our numbers?’ kpt@istar.ca
7. Special Education Corner -**Beth Doubt** ocasc.seac@ocasc.ca
Special education corner will provide more discussion time about issues parents related to special education (those students identified through the IPRC process or on an IEP)
1st meeting time to be announced.
8. Schools in Bloom - **Ginny Steele**. Flowerbeds for all schools and have beds always in bloom. Schools without a flowerbed need a flowerbed! Kids can participate in the gardening –
Contact – vsteele@rogers.com 613 821-3112
9. Librarian Allocation -John Tucker -**Mary Honeywell ES** jdtucker@yahoo.com

Mary Honeywell has ½ librarian and therefore have difficulty meeting literacy program expectations because the kids in the afternoon can't access the library with out a librarian present.

10.Katherine Stauble – chair of **Advisory Committee on the Arts** kstauble@sympatico.ca Offering free presentations to school councils to help access and understand the value of arts in education.

Emergency School Closing procedures – the board is looking to update their policy.

http://www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/au_pp_main.asp#operations – currently the policy asks for parent volunteers organized (by school councils) to handle calling parents in the event of an early closing/evacuation The quick survey of the room had most schools state that they had variations on how this is handled. The board will update this policy in the next couple of years.

Our new treasurer is: Madelaine Stewart-Onraj (Connaught PS)

OCASC has a new vision:

The long version of our statement of purpose:

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.

The short version:

To enhance the education of all students in the OCDSB.

Elections for sub committees will be held at the November meeting.

The November meeting will be at the board office on Greenbank road on November 20 at 7:30 following an appreciation reception for all volunteers/ school council members.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30