

Minutes of the OCASC Secondary School Committee
Thursday, September 11, 2008
7:30 to 9:30 pm
Fisher Park PS

The objectives of the Secondary Schools Committee are to:

- (a) Increase parent knowledge of and involvement in secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton;
- (b) Promote the development of school councils and parent associations to represent parents of students in each Ottawa-Carleton secondary school;
- (c) Sponsor and encourage research into and study of educational issues and concerns in Ottawa-Carleton secondary schools;
- (d) Formulate recommendations regarding secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton, and to assist in implementing such recommendations.

Participants

John Perkin (Bell), Anne Teutsch (Merivale), Bob Weist (Canterbury), Judy Smith (Sir Guy Carleton, Sir Robert Borden), Lorna Rankin Worley (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), Farzi Khazai (Earl of March), Pam Coculuzzi (Lisgar), Maria Di Rosa (Woodroffe ES), Beth Doubt (Lisgar), Susan Klimchuk (OCASC Education Committee Rep), Nadine Clarke (Canterbury), Juliet Hamilton (Bell)

Agenda covered at meeting

- Introductions
- Agenda and Minutes
- Action Register Follow-up
- Chalk-It-Up
- Reports
 - Education Committee Reports: June Board Meetings Considering Topics Affecting Secondary Schools
 - Secondary School Program Review Committee
 - Trades and Technology
- Forward Planning
 - Survey Results: SSC expectations
 - The Year Ahead: Issues and Opportunities for 2008-2009
 - Presentation Suggestions
 - Meeting Locations and Dates
- Update: Motion re Grade 9 & 10 Math and Science textbooks
- Other Business

Chalk-It-Up

- Judy – Sir Robert Borden is planning a presentation in early November which will be open to all parents. Last year they did a survey amongst the students on drugs and alcohol. Public Health Department will present the results of the survey. A police officer will attend as well.
- SRO's (School Resource Officers – police officers assigned to work with schools) have doubled up this year. Advantages are that is one is busy the one can come if called, and individual students may relate better to one than the other.
- Schools that have already had council meetings report a good turnout.

Education Committee Reports: June Board Meetings Considering Topics affecting Secondary Schools

- Education Committee met June 9 and 18, Board met June 23 and 24
- minutes of Board meeting not available yet
- proposed consultation on secondary gifted centres and IB was reduced to only gifted
- decision to change Secondary School Program Review Ad Hoc Committee to a Steering Committee was not made yet

Note: Since the meeting, I have received the unofficial notes from the June 23 and 24th Board meeting.

Secondary Gifted Centre and Advanced Placement courses

- Staff will begin consultation and prepare a report on secondary gifted centres by November 2009. By June 2009, staff will also report on and recommend proposed site locations of secondary gifted centres. A report on additional Advanced Placement (AP) courses will be presented by February 2009.

Secondary School Program Review Ad Hoc Committee and Steering Committee

- The existing Secondary School Program Review Ad Hoc Committee will stand down and a Steering Committee will be established with the following mandate:
 - i) to monitor, i.e., provide feedback and recommendations regarding secondary school program delivery in the OCDSB as described in the Secondary School Program Framework and to modify the Secondary School Program Framework, as required:
 - ii) to focus on secondary school program planning at the district level by providing input to proposed program reviews and initiatives; and
 - iii) inform the annual budget process in regards to supporting key initiatives identified by the Secondary School Program Review Steering Committee.

Secondary Phase of the French as a Second Language (FSL) Review

- The Board approved a plan for data collection and the consultation plan for secondary school FSL Review. Information will be collected on program delivery and instruction, accessibility of FSL, enrolment viability, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Secondary School Program Review Committee Report – Anne

- Anne passed out a Year End Report on the work of the SSPR Ad Hoc Committee for 2007-2008. Highlights and some of the ensuing discussion follows:
- waiting for Board approval for Ad Hoc Committee to become a permanent Steering Committee
- review of gifted centres will be held this fall, with recommendations to be implemented next year
- was suggested to include consideration of a second International Baccalaureate (IB) program, but this was removed by Education Committee
- reductions in gifted centres has been on table for several years, and is definitely needed
- AP is on a school-by-school basis, therefore not affected by all this
- parents would like AP looked at by the Board

- at some schools it's strongly supported, at others it's more extra-curricular
- students may choose a school based on the AP courses offered and then find they are not formal courses
- AP is very dependent on specific teachers, and if that teacher leaves the course may not be offered
- schools use it as a marketing tool
- if a school has a large enough enrolment it had the flexibility to offer these extra courses
- discussion about how different schools run AP courses
- Anne will take this info back to SSPR
- 5 new Arts Focus programs this year – World Music, Musical Theatre, Visual Arts, and 2 Dance
- Arts focus programs are not equivalent to what students get at Canterbury, but were never designed to be
- Policy P.105.CUR, which includes the Secondary School Program Framework, was approved

Trades and Technology Committee Report – Anne

- Anne passed out a Year End Report on the work of the Trades and Tech Committee for 2007-2008. Highlights and some of the ensuing discussion follows:
- teachers have had workshops on how to incorporate Trades and Tech into the grade 7/8 science curriculum
- manufacturing has been added to the T&T focus programs offered by the Board this year
- waiting for enrolment numbers for the T&T focus programs for this year

Forward Planning – Nadine

- Discussed getting meeting information from the Board in a more timely manner, so that things can be discussed beforehand.
- Reviewed the results from last year's SSC reps survey – educational issues at the Board, information sharing, district wide view, influencing Board – and agreed to continue along those lines.
- Opportunities this year:
 - French as a Second Language Review – secondary level
 - going to be similar to that conducted at the elementary level
 - includes a review of Core French teaching as well as French Immersion (FI)
 - drop out rate higher for EFI (Early FI) and MFI (Middle FI) because parents choose to enrol the student. Higher retention for LFI (Late FI) because the students choose to enter the program
 - interesting example given: Take 100 kids. If all enrol in EFI and 50% drop out, 50 graduate with an FI certificate. If instead none do EFI and at grade 7 50% enter LFI, 100% retention means 50 graduate with an FI certificate.

- want to find ways to support students with special needs in French programs
 - review will look at the various FI certificates
 - some schools have no French Immersion options at all
 - Gifted consultation
- Presentation suggestions:
 - E-Learning
 - LINK
 - FSL overview
 - Info session for parents, geared to different grades in high school
 - some schools are better than others at this
 - Board should consider putting out an “Idiot’s Guide to High School”
 - topics of interest:
 - transition programs
 - different approaches to Pathways to Success
 - which exams are Board-wide
 - different schools have different attitudes towards students coming back for another year after graduating
 - years ago school councils ran university info nights and opened them up to parents from other schools
 - would like an opportunity to talk to teachers after receiving the final report card, to find out where students could have improved
- Meeting dates
 - no one had a problem with the October 9 meeting, which falls on the Hindu Dassehra
 - Anne asked if SSC would consider moving the Dec 11 meeting forward a week so that the OCASC meeting could be held on the 11th instead of the 18th, which is just before the Christmas break. Nadine will look into that.
ACTION??
 - Discussed holding SSC meetings at other schools. Response was very positive, and Canterbury was one suggestion. Anyone interested in hosting should get in touch with Nadine.

Update – Textbook motion

- At May OCASC meeting Glebe brought forward a motion regarding funding for new Grade 9 and 10 Math and Science textbooks, needed because of changes made to the curriculum. There was insufficient time to resolve the issue at OCASC, and it was suggested they bring it to SSC in June. SSC did not have a June meeting, but Nadine did email the SSC contact list to see if other schools had similar concerns. She only received 3 responses, and none had concerns.
- Asked reps present whether they knew of concerns. Seems to be some confusion that the grade 9 and 10 books were bought several years ago and that the present books needed are for grades 11 and 12.
- Unless reps wish the issue to be revisited, it will not go any further.

Other Business

- If any issues come up between meetings that a rep would like addressed, it would be useful to let Nadine know as soon as possible, so that she can try and get some information on it before the meeting.

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 9

Subsequent Meetings for 2008-2009
(at Fisher Park unless otherwise noted)

November 13
December 11
January 8, 2009
February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11

Action Item Summary

ID	Actions	Assigned to	Date Raised mm.dd.yy	Target Date mm.dd.yy	Status
ITEMS OPENED as a result of this meeting					
A1	Record locations and numbers of students enrolled in focus programs	Nadine/Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
A2	Record those exams which are board wide exams	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
A3	What are schools doing to help students transition to post-secondary education. Consider school councils hosting sessions in which guidance counselors present options. Check and ask Board to consider preparing a booklet or web based outline for transitioning help	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
A4	What is the Board position on students taking a 5 th year. What are the schools authority to allow or limit	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
A5	What options are there for students and parents to follow up the evaluation and final report for students (after the school year ends and summer starts). What options to close the feedback loop for students at the end of the school year. Is there a Board process, policy or protocol?	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
A6	What is the credit recovery option?	Nadine and Anne	09.11.08	10.09.08	
CARRY-FORWARD actions					
A11 of 2007-2008	Check at the end of the SSC term to see if any change to Action # 6 on consultation	All SSC Reps	2007.10.11	2008.06.12	OUTSTANDING
A24 of 2007-2008	Action items 12 and 13 : update SSC on gifted centres and mandate at SSPR. Define issues and decisions	Juliet	2008.03.06		uncertain
A06 of 2007-2008	Check whether consultation on program changes occur with their school council	SSC reps	2007.09.13	2007.10.11	Responses that the consultation varies across the board. Some councils are asked for input, some consultation and some no request.
A12 of 2007-2008	Form discussion group to focus on Secondary Gifted Centres issue.	Chairs	2007.12.13	asap	Revised

ID	Actions	Assigned to	Date Raised mm.dd.yy	Target Date mm.dd.yy	Status
A13 of 2007- 2008	Write, get email okays and send feedback on Secondary Gifted under SSPPR mandate to Education Committee	Juliet?	2007.10.11	2008.01.22	Revised
A31 pf 2007- 2008	Invite principal(?) from Gloucester HS to speak about LINK pilot project	Chair	2008.05.08	2008-2009	
CLOSED ITEMS as a result of this meeting					
A					
A					
A					
A					