

## OTTAWA CARLETON ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Meeting of Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Fisher Park Public School

**ATTENDANCE :** Total Membership: 72

**Member schools:**

Adrienne Clarkson ES – Lisa Bloom,  
Carrie Eaton  
Agincourt Road PS – Norah Vollmer  
Barrhaven PS – Ellen Dickson  
Berrigan ES – Susan Klimchuk  
Briargreen PS – Suzanne VandenHeuvel  
Broadview PS – Tudor Robins  
Cairine Wilson SS – Janet Patch  
Canterbury HS – Diane Beckett, Bob  
Weist  
Cedarview MS – Donna Blackburn  
D. Roy Kennedy PS – Richard Bennett  
Devonshire Comm. PS – Christine Lloyd  
Elgin Street PS – Peter Stieda  
Elmdale PS – Stephanie Bolt  
Fallingbrook Comm. ES – Peter  
Kokkovas  
Farley Mowat PS – Michael Diric  
First Avenue PS – Kristen Underwood  
Forest Valley ES – Janet Patch  
Glebe CI – Deborah Lemkow  
Glen Ogilvie PS – Cathy Galligar, Trina  
Whitehurst  
Hilson Avenue PS – Tarin Richards  
J.H. Putman PS – Maria Di Rosa  
John Young ES – Susanne Bowen  
Katimavik ES – Nihan Kavaslar  
Knoxdale PS – Paula Shaver  
Lisgar CI – Beth Doubt  
Longfields-Davidson Hgts SS – Dwight  
Thompson

Merivale HS – Anne Teutsch  
Metcalf PS – Kevin MacPherson  
Nepean HS – Andrea Douglas  
North Gower PS – Sandra Acacia  
Ottawa Technical LC – Daniel Oickle  
Rideau Valley MS – Sandra Acacia  
Rockcliffe Park PS – Joel Berger  
South Carleton HS – Sue Carswell  
Stephen Leacock PS – Enang Akan  
Steve MacLean PS – Jen Carter  
Stonecrest ES – Christine Trudeau, Jose  
Malheiro  
Trillium ES – Erik Esselaar, Tammy  
Martin  
Viscount Alexander PS – Debby Simms  
W.O. Mitchell ES – Brenda Verch  
Woodroffe Ave. PS – Maria Di Rosa

**Non-member schools:**

Colonel By SS – Tammy Jones  
Dunning-Foubert ES – Marie Wills  
Emily Carr MS – Dan Rambo  
Fisher Park PS – Andrea Douglas  
Henry Larsen ES – Susan Heckbert  
Jockvale ES – Jamesee Winchester  
Manordale PS – Cathy Bubyak  
Mutchmore PS – Gwenda Ko  
Riverview Alt S – Gabe Thirlwall

**Guests and other persons in attendance:**

Katherine Stauble (Chair, OCDSB Advisory Committee on the Arts [ACA]); Jim Hardy (ACA member); Cheryl Watson (OCDSB); John Shea (Trustee, Zone 8); Rob Campbell (Trustee, Zone 9); Juliet Hamilton (OCASC Recording Secretary); Paula Riccio (Heart and Stroke Foundation)

CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 p.m., Anne Teutsch in the chair.

**AGENDA:** Approved with no changes:

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of Sept. 17, 2009

Chalk-It-Up

From your Exec

OCASC Constitution

2010/2011 School Year Calendar

Updates

Presentation: OCDSB Advisory Committee on the Arts – Katherine Stauble

**MINUTES** of Sept. 17, 2009: Accepted with no amendments.

Show of hands indicated that 22 people were at their first OCASC meeting.

**CHALK-IT-UP**

**Speaker**

Dan Rambo – Emily Carr MS ([danrambo@rogers.com](mailto:danrambo@rogers.com))

- Looking for a speaker on peer pressure – how to identify it, how to react to it. Would like presentation to include self-confidence and the consequences of decisions. Have had Maggie Mamen in before; would like suggestions for other possible speakers.
- Woodroffe Ave. PS – Psychologists at CHEO often speak to groups and are very good.
- Broadview PS – In their area the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre has an Early Years Centre that holds workshops on a variety of topics. A similar centre closer to Emily Carr may have resources available for schools.

**Jump Rope / Hoops for Heart**

Paula Riccio – Heart and Stroke Foundation ([priccio@hsf.on.ca](mailto:priccio@hsf.on.ca))

- The Heart and Stroke Foundation runs the programs Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart at schools.
- These programs raise funds for the Foundation, while at the same time getting kids active and teaching them about heart health.
- Schools also benefit by receiving equipment or 10% of the funds for their own use.
- Events are easy to run and many schools have parents who run their programs.
- Paula is currently visiting schools and signing up those interested in having a program run this year.
- Latest initiative is Spark Together for Healthy Kids, which was created to combat childhood obesity. Brings businesses, community groups and school boards together to create community initiatives and activities.

**Speaker on Teen Anxiety**

Bob Weist – Canterbury HS ([robert.weist@sympatico.ca](mailto:robert.weist@sympatico.ca))

- Council is hosting a presentation for parents entitled “Facing Anxiety in Teens Together”. Everyone is welcome.
- Speaker is Douglas Scoular, PhD, a clinical psychologist with CHEO.
- Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the library at Canterbury HS.

## **Resource Grants**

Janet Patch – Forest Valley ES ([patchworks@rogers.com](mailto:patchworks@rogers.com))

- Are there grants available for educational materials in French and English?
- Katherine Stauble (Advisory Committee on the Arts) – [www.scoollifefund.ca](http://www.scoollifefund.ca) provides funding for equipment and materials for arts, sports and other extra-curricular activities.

## **Insurance**

Nihan Kavasar – Katimavik ES ([nkavaslar@yahoo.com](mailto:nkavaslar@yahoo.com))

- Council is wondering if they need to get third-party insurance. What do other councils do?
- Briargreen PS – Principal wants coverage for any event she's not involved in.
- Mumbled response to quick query seemed to indicate that most councils there get insurance.
- Cheryle Watson (OCDSB) – information on extra insurance will be available late October or early November, and she will send it to councils when it arrives.

## **FROM YOUR EXEC**

**OCASC Constitution** – Anne Teutsch (Chair)

- Constitution was discussed at September meeting. Some minor amendments have been made since then based on feedback.
- Old constitution and proposed new version are both available on the OCASC website ([www.ocasc.ca](http://www.ocasc.ca)). Would like anyone interested to take a look and provide any feedback before the end of October.
- Don't want to spend a lot of meeting time discussing it, since most people aren't interested. If there are people who really want to get together and discuss it, can have a separate meeting. Contact Anne ([ocasc.chair@ocasc.ca](mailto:ocasc.chair@ocasc.ca)).
- Hope to vote on new constitution at the November meeting.

**2010/2011 School Year Calendar** – Anne Teutsch (Chair)

- School Board has a School Year Calendar Committee which meets a few times every year to set the school calendar for the next year. OCASC has a representative, Nadine Clarke, sitting on this committee.
- Most years this is a very simple process but this year's calendar was difficult to set because of a late Labour Day, and next year is going to have the same problem. The committee has already met once, and they are looking for input on what options to look at.
- The requirements are that there be 194 school days (which includes 6 Professional Development days) and that the school year begins on or after Sept. 1 (a Wednesday in 2010) and ends on or before June 30 (a Thursday in 2011).
- OCASC's proposal is to start school on Wed. Sept. 1 and finish Wed. June 29 with June 30 a PD day, which actually gives 196 days. One of these 2 extra days would be used to make Monday Jan. 3 a holiday since the 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Saturday and most parents will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> off. The second extra day could either be used Friday Feb.

11 to make the Family Day weekend a 4-day weekend, or used on a Friday or Monday in November to break up the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- Please have this discussion with your councils, encourage individuals to complete the on-line poll on the OCASC website, and send other feedback to Nadine ([calendar@ocasc.ca](mailto:calendar@ocasc.ca)).
- Woodroffe Ave. PS – Will council feedback be considered separately from individual feedback? A: No, the poll can't do that. Everyone interested is encouraged to complete the poll.
- Adrienne Clarkson ES – Why not take those 2 extra days and put them at the beginning of the year? A: That would mean the first day of school would be a Friday, and many people wouldn't bother to come.
- Canterbury HS – Some other boards put PD days at the beginning, allowing school to start after Labour Day. A: Not sure that using several PD days before school starts is the best thing for teacher training.

## Updates

- **Spec Ed Corner** – Beth Doubt (SEAC Rep)
  - Small group gathers from 6:15 to 7:00 every month before the OCASC meeting to discuss special education issues. Typically 2-4 people come. Anyone is welcome to attend (not just OCASC reps) so please inform other parents at your schools.
  - Has put together a flyer with info and tentative discussion topics. Every rep received a copy. Please post in your school (copy as many as you need).
  - Planning an evening in November (tentative date and location Nov 26 at Fisher Park library, but check [ocasc.ca](http://ocasc.ca) for updated info) to pass on information and talk about IEPs (Individual Education Plans). Guest speaker will be Lamar Mason, who has many years of experience with spec. ed. and advocating for students.
- **Liaison Officers** – Carrie Eaton (Vice-chair)
  - LO = Liaison officer
  - OCASC has historically had 12 LOs, one for each zone. It's been many years since all 12 positions have been filled.
  - This year have switched to using 'Families of Schools': each LO has taken on several high schools and the schools that feed into them:
    - Alex Ribeiro: South Carleton HS, West Carleton SS
    - Enang Akan: A.Y. Jackson SS, Earl of March SS, Bell HS
    - Susan Klimchuk: Sir Robert Borden HS, Merivale HS, Longfields-Davidson Heights SS, John McCrae SS
    - Jeff Esau: Ridgemont HS, Osgoode HS, Brookfield HS
    - Carrie Eaton: Cairine Wilson SS, Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS, Colonel By SS, Gloucester HS
    - Sarah Neville: Woodroffe HS, Nepean HS, Glebe CI
    - Dan Oickle: Lisgar CI, Rideau HS, Hillcrest HS, Canterbury HS
  - LOs are in the process of contacting every council.

- Job of an LO:
  - To keep schools aware of info at OCASC.
  - To answer any questions councils may have.
  - To make people more aware of OCASC.
- Goal is that all schools have an equal voice at OCASC, and that OCASC can reflect the views of all the schools in the Board.
- John Young ES – Sounds like the LO is doing what I’m doing as OCASC Rep. What’s the difference? A: LO will provide some info earlier, so schools can deal with urgent things sooner. They will ensure that schools without OCASC reps still get pertinent information.
- Katimavik ES – Will they contact non-member schools as well? A: Yes. Hope to go in and speak to those councils, tell them about OCASC, and hopefully spark their interest.
- Stonecrest ES – Where can we find out who our LO is? A: That information should be on the website soon, plus you should get a call.
- Barrhaven PS – LOs used to do Chalk-It-Up items for a school if their council rep couldn’t make a meeting. Is that still one of their roles? A: Yes.

Points raised while guest speaker was preparing for her presentation:

- Check out the OCASC website: [www.ocasc.ca](http://www.ocasc.ca)
- OCASC sends out a newsletter via email twice a month. All reps and chairs get signed up automatically, but anyone is welcome to sign up for it (can do so on the website).
- All council chairs should have received the OCASC package, which included a membership form. Please fill these out and return them.
- Membership to OCASC costs \$35/year, which goes towards running the organization. Councils with financial constraints can apply to have the fee waived.
- Metcalfe PS – Is there information on the website about how parents can get more involved at OCASC? A: Not really – talk to Anne ([ocasc.chair@ocasc.ca](mailto:ocasc.chair@ocasc.ca)). There is a list of committee reps on the Contacts page.

**PRESENTATION: OCDSB Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)**

**Speaker: Katherine Stauble, accompanied by Jim Hardy**

- Katherine is the Chair of ACA. Jim is a member of the committee. Both are parent reps on the committee and passionate about the arts.
- ACA is an official standing committee of the OCDSB and has been around for 20 years. Members include parents, staff, trustees, members of the art community, and representatives from major art facilities such as the NAC and the National Gallery.
- ACA meets on the fourth Monday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the staff room at Fisher Park PS. The meetings are open to everyone.
- ACA reports to Education Committee. Several years ago it convinced the Board to hire a full-time Arts consultant.
- Overall goal is to promote the arts as a vital component of learning, and to build partnerships. Besides advocating for the arts, ACA also:

- enriches Arts programs with activities, for example by collecting used musical instruments
  - has compiled a directory of arts organizations in the region that provide school programming (available on OCDSB website)
  - celebrates excellence by recognizing teachers who excel in arts education
- The committee deals with four disciplines of arts: dance, drama, music and visual arts. Literary arts are included in the language programs.
- Katherine laid out the value of arts education in leading to student success, and how the arts impact on so many levels, including: personal, creative, intellectual and social. Art can be integrated into all other disciplines including literacy and numeracy, and can work for all learning styles.
- At the OCDSB art education is provided and encouraged in many ways:
  - instructional coach – arts consultant hired by Board to help teachers integrate arts into their teaching
  - arts focus programs – a new program offered at several high schools, where students from any high school can attend for one semester and take 4 arts courses with a specific theme
  - Arts Canterbury – high school arts program offered at Canterbury HS
  - Cappies – a collaboration between the public and separate English boards and the Ottawa Citizen celebrating and supporting high school theatre
  - various showcases and festivals
  - Advisory Committee on the Arts
- Ongoing concerns:
  - consistency in arts programming across the OCDSB
  - specialized teacher training
  - need for a budget for the arts
  - support for new elementary arts curriculum – Board is holding workshops, but ACA feels that much more support will be required
  - advocating for a program review of arts education
- The handout that Katherine and Jim distributed will be available on the OCASC website. It contains a wealth of information, including:
  - sixteen things parents can do to help support good arts programs
  - arts material parents can support financially
  - websites and contact information for arts-related resources
  - checklist for organizing an arts event
  - how parents can help bring artists to schools
  - the value of arts education
  - information on arts awards
- When talking about the sixteen things parents can do to help support arts, Katherine elaborated on several points:
  - An arts representative on school council can be aware of what art-related things are happening in school and keep council informed. Woodroffe Ave. PS has an arts rep who looks for grants to bring arts programs to the school (ie MASC).

- An artist-in-residence spends 1-2 weeks in a school, running hands-on workshops around a big project such as a mural or a play. Allows more in-depth exploration of the art form.
- [www.scoollifefund.ca](http://www.scoollifefund.ca) is a source of funding. Scotiabank is very good at helping schools with funding.
- Performing arts tend to get more attention than visual arts. Exhibitions take a lot of effort, such as hanging and display work, that can be done by parents.
- Katherine or someone else from ACA would be more than happy to speak to individual school councils.
- Contact Katherine at [kstabile@sympatico.ca](mailto:kstabile@sympatico.ca) if you have any questions or comments or would like them to visit your council. Check the ACA website for other information: [ocdsb.ca/au\\_bot\\_ACA-committee.asp](http://ocdsb.ca/au_bot_ACA-committee.asp)
- John Young ES – What grades are affected by the new arts curriculum you mentioned, and what changes will it bring? A: Grades K-8. One change is separating dance from drama – few teachers feel comfortable teaching dance. Don't know other specifics, but gather it is quite demanding and that many teachers will struggle with it.
- South Carleton HS – Issue of consistency of programming across the Board is affecting their school in that the music programs at their three feeder schools are quite unequal and many students are dropping out of music in Grade 9. Is there a specific curriculum for music for students graduating from Grade 8? A: It is a problem in many schools and ACA would like to see it solved. Speak to the teacher and see if there are extra practice sessions available. Instrumental music programs are hard to support in small schools. Don't have a solution.
- Briargreen PS – Confused about the financial aspect – arts programs are part of the curriculum but there is no money provided for materials? A: Unlike the Separate Board, the OCDSB does not have a specific budget allocation for arts programming. It's up to the discretion of the principal what part of their operating budget gets spent on art program materials. Parent funding plays a big role.
- Lisgar CI – Has there been an arts curriculum being followed up till now, and will the province fund materials/training required by new arts curriculum? A: Following curriculum has always been lax in arts. There will be money for workshops, but that is grossly inadequate.
- Canterbury HS – There is a program enhancement grant that can be used for arts, phys ed, outdoor ed. Should be tracked to ensure schools/boards are spending it properly. A: Did track it once, and money was used to “maintain” arts and IB program.
- Canterbury HS – Sustainability is also an issue. It would be great to have a spot for people to upload information on arts projects their schools have done, what they're working on, best practices, etc. Lots of schools have a huge amount of knowledge. A: Sounds like a great idea.
- D. Roy Kennedy PS – Resource constraints are an issue. School had its own stock of instruments but repair costs became exorbitant and this year the principal decided to go the rental route. The program is mandatory but parents have to pay. Will the new arts curriculum create a 'tax' on parents by requiring fundraising to support it?

- Rockcliffe Park PS – Have concerns that money raised for arts materials may be used for other things. A: Funding school programs is a huge problem for schools. The Ministry puts high demands on literacy and numeracy. Can argue that arts can be integrated into literacy and numeracy programming. LiterARTcy shows teachers how to combine literacy and arts.
- Jockvale ES – How do teachers find out about things like LiterARTcy? A: All principals are sent the information. It's good to encourage your principal to send teachers to events like that.
- Adrienne Clarkson ES – In younger grades a recorder is required and has to be purchased by parents? A: Yes. Q: And then instrument rentals are required in higher grades? A: In some intermediate schools only. Help is usually available for families with financial constraints.
- John Young ES – If we want good arts programming and consistency across the board, we need to be willing to support it. Compared to paying for private lessons, which only a small percentage of students have access to, renting a basic instrument and having access to music classes in school for all students is a very good deal. Need to sell parents on the value of programs and that it is good value for the money. There is a cost to everything ie sports.
- Riverview AS – Are a low income school. Some parents can afford private lessons, but council wants music accessible for everyone. Even buying a recorder can be a problem. Have been fundraising for instruments.
- Henry Larsen ES – School is JK-8. Has a great music program. All Grade 6 students have to pick an instrument. There are choirs in intermediate school. Will try and find out how it works so well.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – NOT AT FISHER PARK
- We will meet at the School Board offices, 133 Greenbank Road (between Hunt Club and Baseline, behind Sir Robert Borden HS).
- The Board is hosting an appreciation reception for all school council members. You will have a chance to mingle with trustees, committee chairs, board staff, and parents from schools across the district.
- Appreciation reception 6:00 – 7:00 pm.
- OCASC meeting 7:00 pm in the Boardroom.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:00 pm.

Past minutes and more information about OCASC can be found at [www.ocasc.ca](http://www.ocasc.ca)