

**Minutes of the OCASC Secondary School Committee  
Thursday, September 10, 2009  
Fisher Park PS**

The objectives of the Secondary School Committee are to:

1. Increase parent knowledge of and involvement in secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton;
2. Promote the development of school councils and parent associations to represent parents of students in each Ottawa-Carleton secondary school;
3. Sponsor and encourage research into and study of education issues and concerns in Ottawa-Carleton secondary schools;
4. Formulate recommendations regarding secondary school education in Ottawa-Carleton, and to assist in implementing such recommendations.

**Participants:**

(Nadine Clarke (Canterbury, Chair), Elizabeth Melanson (Lisgar), Jean MacIsaac (Glebe), Anne Teutsch, (Merivale), Robert Weist, (Canterbury), Ellen Jessop, (Colonel By), Maria Di Rosa, (Woodroffe ES and J.H Putman), Daniel Oickle, (OCASC Treasurer), Susan Klimchuk, (OCASC Education Committee Representative), Lorna Rankin Worley (Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

Guests: Lee-Ann Scott, OCRI

**Agenda covered at meeting:**

Introductions

Agenda and Minutes/Action items

Chalk It Up

Discussion: "What will our schools look like?"

Education Committee

Forward Planning

Meeting Locations and Dates

Other Business

2009-2010 Meetings

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 12, 2010

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 3

**Chalk It Up**

Lee-Ann Scott from OCRI talked about volunteers from the community who help students, one-on-one as part of the credit recovery program and student success. She would like to get this

## Secondary School Committee Meeting Minutes September 09

information to parents. Each school has a designated contact to liaise with OCRI and the school board. She would like parents to ask for this help.

At Lisgar there is Math Mensa each Friday and volunteers come in and work with the students. Other programs include music and theatre. With the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, there are many opportunities for downtown schools. There are 80 – 100 university students who volunteer as part of the University of Ottawa's experiential learning course. OCRI provides a volunteer coordinator workshop for teachers to prepare them as school volunteer coordinators.

Volunteer Ottawa and the School Board's Family Reception Centre also benefit from volunteers. Stats Canada allows their employees 3 hours a week which they often use at the Family Reception Centre. The Family Reception Centre provides assessment to new immigrant students to aid in defining support for them before starting school.

### **“What will our Schools Look Like?”**

In preparation for this discussion, a summary of the People for Education Web Forum on “Schools at the Centre” was created and sent to the SSC. The ideas of parents across the province helped in igniting ideas.

It was suggested that members take a look at a video featuring Sir Ken Robinson, an internationally recognized leader in the development of innovation and human resources. In the video he speaks about creativity and the education system.

[http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html).

Maria Di Rosa told us about “Fischbowl”, a staff development blog for the Arapahoe High School teachers exploring constructivism and 21st century learning skills @ <http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/> and a summary of presentations @ <http://www.lps.k12.co.us/schools/arapahoe/fisch/fischbowlpresentations.htm>.

In addition Bob Weist summarized a TVO Agenda segment on “Growing Minds” which asked the question: what is the purpose of a K-12 education. The panel included an Environics pollster, the Dean of Community Services at Ryerson, a C.D. Howe economist, and Joel Westmeimer (Uof O), Mark Federmen (OISE), Veronica Lacey (former TDSB Director of Education and former Deputy Minister of Education). They all agreed that socialization was the most important goal (Also identified by the Environic's poll on parent attitudes) but also identified career training, critical thinking and citizenship should be outcomes of public education in addition to literacy, numeracy, arts and sports. Other ideas were:

- producing citizens who are privately happy and publicly useful
- preparing students to be publicly engaged in a democratic society
- biggest challenge is integrating immigrants and aboriginals
- Values: Westheimer distinguishes between universal values and democratic values
- Testing: again Westheimer is critical of “tests” because they force out free-thinking teachers in order to prepare students for tests
- rethinking Secondary school education
- Lack of technology
- Diversity: the polls say parents do not think diversity in the classroom is a problem

With this overview, each one of the SSC contributed to a list of what they thought “our schools should look like”:

- teach skills such as teamwork, how to research and organization

## Secondary School Committee Meeting Minutes September 09

- non-exclusive, diverse environment – socialization
- excitement and energy
- students feel ownership of their school community
- students feel safe – emotionally and physically
- welcoming schools
- use the diversity of our public schools to highlight what other schools don't have
- equip students with resources, create climate for learning with current technology to support learning
- recognize differentiated learning – flexible, respond to the student needs
- teachers capable of delivering differentiated learning and with continued support so that delivery is sustained
- literacy and numeracy are the “basics”
- principals and teachers are flexible in addressing student needs – not just a “follow the policy”. Flexible boards
- focus on wellness; for example treadmill exercises before classes start to prepare the students to learn, breakfast programs, incorporate physical activities
- opportunity to learn and do things “with their hands”

### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee public long range calendar reports and topics at the June Committee meetings were reviewed. Susan gave an overview of Alternative Programming review: the committee is asking questions why have alternative programming K-8, what it looks like now and will there be differences once regular programs change. There is a trustee motion to reopen the Evaluation and Assessment policy. Links to the Board Website for the policies under discussion were provided to the committee.

### **Future Planning**

A list of potential topics was distributed in advance of the meeting:

- EQAO testing
- Declining Enrolment report
- Provincial Interest Regulation Consultation Paper (as summary of the consultation paper issued by the ministry was provided to the group). This is part of Bill 177, the Student Achievement and School Board Governance Act
- Community Hubs, a report to the June 16<sup>th</sup> Education Committee
- School Effectiveness Framework: a K-12 Board Improvement Plan with SMART goals
- Number and Location of Secondary Gifted Centres
- Assessment and Evaluation and reporting of Student Achievement
- French as a Second Language Review: Secondary School Phase
- School transfers

Suggestions for other meeting locations:

The new Longfields- Davidson Heights Secondary School (Barrhaven and the first grade 7 -12 school) and Principal Patsy Agard, former principal at Sir Wilfrid Laurier which hosted us in May of 2008.

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday, October 8, 2009 7:30 p.m.**

**Fisher Park PS**

**Action Item Summary**

| ID  | Actions  | Assigned to     | Date Raised mm.dd.yy | Target Date mm.dd.yy | Status         |
|---|--|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>ITEMS OPENED as a result of this meeting 2009-2010</b> |  |                 |                      |                      |                |
| A1  | Request/Ask for information or for volunteers from OCRI for one on one tutoring. Contact Lee-Ann Scott at <a href="mailto:lscott@ocri.ca">lscott@ocri.ca</a> or 613-828-6274 X247      | All             | 09.10.09             |                      |                |
| A2  | Place OCRI information on the OCASC website  | Anne            | 09.10.09             | 10.08.09             |                |
| A3  | Check out Fischbowl site for information on creativity generation  | All             | 09.10.09             | 10.08.09             |                |
| <b>ITEMS Closed as a result of this meeting</b>           |  |                 |                      |                      |                |
| A21   | Input to Education Committee to coordinate certification requirements for French Second Language with the Federal Government   | Susan Klimchuk  | 05.14.09             |                      | Done           |
| A14   | Further discussion with Continuing Education about funded parent programs to help improve student learning   | Anne/<br>Nadine | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             |                |
| A15   | Secondary School feedback to Board staff about why students transfer to other than their home schools. The action item arose from a chalk it up question on the transfer policy review | Anne/<br>Nadine | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | Bring to OCASC |
| A16   | May meeting agenda topic "Why are students transferring out?" Discussion about school choice   | Nadine          | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | Bring to OCASC |
| A17   | Once Judith provides links to the organic food options sites, to send to Secondary School members for their council discussions.   | Nadine          | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | Done           |
| A18   | Send "on-line" survey to Judith Haney and Nadine so that Judith may determine whether this is the  | Liz             | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | Done           |

Secondary School Committee Meeting Minutes September 09

| ID                           | Actions  | Assigned to     | Date Raised mm.dd.yy | Target Date mm.dd.yy | Status   |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
|                              | consultation the Board agreed to conduct   |                 |                      |                      |  |
| A19                          | If SS Councils provide feedback, send to Board   | Nadine          | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | No feedback  |
| A20                          | Send to Nadine comments on “what do parents want/look for in their schools” “What do they value in their school communities” “What information do school councils and parents want on public websites  | SSC members     | 04.09. 09            | 05.14.09             | Conducted September 10, 2009   |
| <b>CARRY-FORWARD actions</b> |  |                 |                      |                      |  |
| A1                           | Record locations and numbers of students enrolled in focus programs for secondary school (T&T completed)   | Anne            | 09.11.08             | 11.13.08             | Anne reported on the Trades and Technology. Will update after the SS Steering Team meeting   |
| A3                           | What are schools doing to help students transition to post-secondary education. Consider school councils hosting sessions in which guidance counsellors present options. Check and ask Board to consider preparing a booklet or web based outline for transitioning help | Nadine and Anne | 09.11.08             | 11.13.08             | Anne updated that the staff is interested but overloaded now. Follow up with timing later  |
| A4                           | What is the Board position on students taking a 5 <sup>th</sup> year. What are the schools authority to allow or limit   | Nadine and Anne | 09.11.08             | 11.13.08             | Answered than additional questions asked for clarification   |
| 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  |

Secondary School Committee Meeting Minutes September 09

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|---|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| A13 of 2007-2008                                | Write, get email okays and send feedback on Secondary Gifted under SSPR 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            |  |
| <b>CLOSED ITEMS as a result of this meeting</b> |   |                 |                      |                      |  |
| A2  | Record those exams which are board wide exams   | Nadine and Anne | 09.11.08             | 11.13.08             | Sent 10.16.08 and again 11.13.08                       |
| 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             | No policy or protocol                                  |
| A6  | What is the credit recovery option?   | Nadine and Anne | 09.11.08             | 10.09.08             | Credit recovery, credit rescue and upgrading explained |
| A7  | Send link to the elementary phase of the FSL Review   | Nadine          | 10.09.08             | 11.13.08             | Sent 10.16.08  |
| A8 from A4                                      | Can you be on school teams of you are in the 5 <sup>th</sup> year of secondary school? If you graduate after 4 years, how does your average calculated with the additional courses?   | Nadine          | 10.09.08             | 11.13.08             | Reported 11.13.08                                      |
| A9  | What new curriculum is expected next year which will require new textbooks? Who's going to pay; province or board?  | Nadine          | 10.09.08             | 11.13.08             | Reported 11.13.08                                      |
| A10   | What is the Sir Robert Borden presentation date?  | Nadine          | 10.09.08             | 11.13.08             | Sent 10.16.08  |
| A11   | What is the school policy on parents' choice of class timetable for siblings of the same age?   | Nadine          | 10.09.08             | 11.13.08             | Reported 11.13.08                                      |
| A11 from NOV 08                                 | Send link for student University Choices and S. Carleton Newsletter   | Nadine          | 11.13.08             | ASAP                 | Sent 11.14.08  |
| A12 from Nov 08                                 | Send link to Board website for FSL and Gifted Review  | Nadine          | 11.13.08             | ASAP                 | Sent 11.14.08  |
|   |   |                 |                      |                      |  |