

OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: November 17, 2011
Location: Fisher Park, 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Carrie Eaton - Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES)	Susan Harvey - Katimavik ES
Marti Falcone - Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES)	Gabe Thirlwall - Lady Evelyn Alt PS
Susan Klimchuk - Berrigan ES	Cathy Babyak - Manordale PS
Jennifer Melnikoff - Briargreen PS	Carm Janneteau - Manotick PS
Angelina Munaretto - Broadview PS	Bonnie Milne - Meadowlands PS
Ellen Lamarre - Canterbury HS	Anne Teutsch - Merivale HS
Nadine Clarke - Canterbury HS	Aaron Daley - North Gower-Marlborough PS
Jennifer Block - Devonshire Com PS	Chris Ellis - Ottawa Tech SS
Donna Williams - Earl of March SS	Simone Kortstee - Pleasant Park PS
John Higgins - Elgin Street PS	Chris Ellis - Queen Mary PS
Megan Richardson - Elmdale PS	Alex Williams - Rideau Valley MS
Peter Kokkovas - Fallingbrook Community ES	Jocelyne Koepke - Riverview AS
Sharon von Schoenberg - Fielding Drive PS	Krystal Kain Gerbara - Roberta Bondar PS
Chari Marple - First Avenue Public School	Joel Berger - Rockcliffe Park PS
Elisabeth McCudden - Forest Valley ES	Gennifer Stainforth - Sawmill Creek ES
Lillian Thomsen - Glebe C1	Karen Desjardins - Sir Winston Churchill PS
Paul Warner - Glen Cairn PS	Donna Williams - Stephen Leacock PS
Louise Crawford - Hawthorne PS	Jared Langdon - Steve MacLean PS
Mona Pare - Hilson Avenue PS	Bev Stonehouse - WO Mitchell ES
Cindy Frazer - Jockvale ES	
Susanne Bowen - John Young ES	

Total Attendance = 44

Acronyms used in notes:

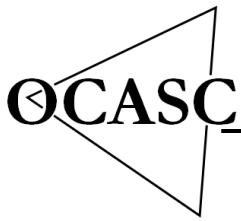
- OCASC = Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils
- SSC = OCASC secondary Schools Committee
- CCEE = *Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity*
- SEAC = *Special Education Advisory Committee*
- PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
- IEP = *Individual Education Plan*
- SIP = School Improvement Plan (old term)
- SIPSA = School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (new term)
- BIP = Board Improvement Plan
- IPRC = *Individual Placement and Review Committee*
- EQAO = *Education Quality Assurance Office*
- CHEO = *Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*
- ACA = Advisory Committee on the Arts
- PRO Grants – Parents Reaching Out Grants – from the Ministry of Education

Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

- No changes, minutes approved as is

Approval of Minutes



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- Typos to be passed on to secretary
- Minutes approved

Chalk It Up

Marti, Adrienne Clarkson – Sens Raffle

- Looking for comments and past experiences with school councils doing raffles
- Lawyer is telling school council that they cannot sell tickets to children, only to adults
- Fielding – all the sports teams sell them, but by keeping it to under \$1.00 it is okay, without special license
- Rideau Valley – sports venues are licensed for raffles; this is what makes it okay for sports teams to do it

Paul, Glen Cairn – Informal Survey

- Wanting to find out about school council involvement in School Improvement Plans
- Survey was passed around to Assembly with yes/no questions for everyone to answer
- Results will be made available on OCASC website
- PIC – School Improvements Plans are supposed to include School Council involvement but it is still a process in development
- SIP (School Improvement Plan) is now SIPSA (SIP for Student Achievement)
- Queen Mary – suggest that there is a workshop for parents, school councils on SIP involvement
- BIP and SIP are annual, OCDSB strategic plan is 4 years
- Action Item** – Carrie to look into workshop or information session for school councils on SIPs

Carolyn Seburn – Macoun Field Club

- The Macoun Field Club is a nature and outdoors club for youth and is trying to reach more children
- Meet on Saturday mornings – alternating weekends between 4 to 6 hour hike and indoor session with guest speaker about nature
- 6 to 20 children, aged 8 to 18 at each session
- Children also do research
- No cost to be a member
- Membership has varied in past years from 5 to 100
- Mandate is to introduce kids to nature
- Hilson – What commitment is expected from parents?
 - Response – to get kids to events; parents are also welcome to join hikes
- Kids can be as involved in it as they want

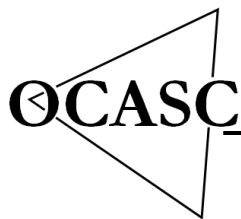
Gabe, Lady Evelyn - Book Sale

- Looking for ideas, suggestions for organizing a book sale
- Comments from Assembly:
 - Lots of work to organize
 - Creates great school spirit, lots of fun
 - Think about where to store books as they arrive and left over books afterwards

Bev, W.O. Mitchell - Book Sale and Craft Fair

- School improvement involvement by school council:
 - Support student achievement by optimizing use of Smart boards – school council will be hosting training sessions for teachers on Smart Boards
- Will report back on how well it goes
- Looking outside the box about parent involvement and student achievement
- Fallingbrook – how far along are you in planning sessions?
 - Response – just getting started on it; have talked to staff about it; have found people to run the sessions
- Jockvale – would love to hear how it goes and maybe have bigger sessions

Guest Speaker – Kathryn Stauble - Advisory Council on the Arts



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- The Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA) is an official committee to the Board – it includes parents, community, representatives from arts organizations across the city
- Talks about arts education across the board
- Look at board's programs and ministry curriculum to advise board
- Offer presentations to school councils about the importance of Arts Education, how to support arts in your school
 - 20 minute slide show, plus questions and answers after
 - Happy to go back to same schools again, especially when new parents get involved in school council
- New members are always welcome to show up at monthly meetings
 - Suggest school councils elect an arts representative to their council
- Website is acaottawa.ca – take a look at it!
 - Invite arts success stories to put up on the website
- Broadview – has artist in residence representative on council
 - Parents asked about other subject areas, and so that has been adopted as well – great success story

Chair's Report – Carrie Eaton

- Will cover People for Education Conference and Parent Involvement Committee in "From Your Executive" updates
- PRO \$500 per school should have been received by all school councils in Board mail
- School council handbooks should also have been received at the same time
- PRO grants that were applied for and approved were included with the \$500
- Apply for PRO grants in May-June for following school year
 - Queen Mary - Good idea to think about ideas for applications in advance
 - There is a website that has successful ideas
 - Sample ideas for PRO grants – parent resource library, speakers, translations, newsletters, websites, math programme
- Minutes were out late this month – apologies for that; we will fix it for next month
- Cedarview will be hosting an internet safety night for parents – November 23,
 - Elgin – had same presentation – it was excellent – highly recommended for all parents

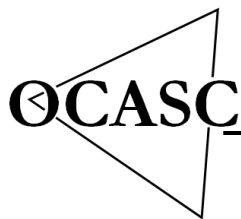
From Your Executive

People for Education Conference – Carrie Eaton

- Four OCASC representatives attended
- Kevin McPherson sis unable to be here tonight but will present a "Nutrition in the School" session at the next OCASC meeting
- Carrie was at a "How to make your school council better" presentation
 - Interesting piece on collecting e-mail addresses for school council e-newsletters
- Nadine went to a "face-off" between former ministers of education
- Anne attended a session on School of Choice
- There was a group workshop session on the second day to develop a definition of student success
- Keynote speaker was Pasi Sahlberg from Finland
 - In Finland children start school at 7 years old
 - In grade 9 students decide whether to head in trades or university direction
 - Parents are not involved in the education system because they trust the system
 - Educators understand the need for parents to be involved and are trying to increase parent involvement
 - No word for accountability in Finnish – "Accountability is what is left when responsibility is taken away. Trust is what is used to replace accountability."
 - Instead of standardized testing, one can test a small percentage of students to see how the system is doing
 - One major formal test at end of high school

PIC – Anne Teutsch

- Bylaws passed
- Looking for feedback over next month



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- Will revisit the bylaws in January if necessary, but definitely in a year
- Next step in the process of reinventing the PIC is to create rubric for appointing diverse selection of parents; also to finalize system to advertise and have parents submit application forms for participation

Calendar Committee – Nadine Clarke

- For 2012/2013 – main dates are set, PA days were set at recent meeting
 - Last instructional day – June 25 for secondary schools
 - Last instructional day for elementary – June 27
- Summary will be posted on OCASC website
- Elgin Street – one year school started before Labour Day – is there a year when we know this will happen again?
 - Response – this is not anticipated for the next 2 or 3 years, and we don't know further down the road
- Action Item – post calendar information to OCASC website

Business Services Committee – Lillian Thomsen

- Discussion on full day kindergarten and pre- and post-school care
- In January, there will be a report from OSTA on transportation

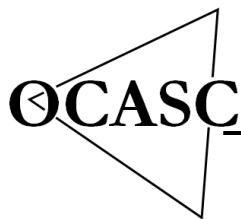
OCASC Budget Group – Peter Kokkovas

- Putting information together on a website has been much more work than anticipated
- There are three versions of a prototype for the website
- Peter gave presentation of each of these versions; and took a straw poll of best choice
- There will be a mechanism to allow people to send a letter to politicians about the issues regarding funding
- Adrienne Clarkson – what is the end purpose of the letters and e-mails? What are the issues?
 - Response – want to get the message out to Members of Parliament and other politicians;
 - The low hanging fruit issues are different funding between public and catholic board (eg. transportation), special education funding, salary gap for teachers
- This is a project that the OCASC Budget group has taken on to help inform people about budget issues
- OCASC Budget Group is completely separate from the OCDSB Budget Committee
- Glebe – need to engage Members of Provincial Parliament, because issues are outside the Board
- Adrienne Clarkson – approach looks too negative; positivity helps in gaining buy in

Election of OCASC Representatives to OCDSB Standing and Advisory Committees

- OCASC is fortunate to have a member of our Assembly on Board advisory and standing committees
- In the table below are the committees, some information about each, the 2010-2011 OCASC representative to the committee and the 2011-2012 OCASC representative as approved by the Assembly at the meeting

Committee	Synopsis	Meeting Times and Frequency	2010-2011 Rep	2011-2012 Rep
Business Services Committee	Covers issues such as child care, bussing	Evenings, often go late	Lillian Thomsen	Lillian Thomsen, Brona Little (alt.)
Education Committee	What happens in your child's classroom; well attended by trustees	Evenings, third Tuesday of every month	Susan Klimchuk	Chris Ellis, Chari Marple (alt.)
Human Resources Committee	Meetings can be short because much of the business can be in camera	Evenings, meets up to six times per year		Cathy Babyak, Susan Klimchuk (alt.)
Budget Committee	Decision making	Meetings from	Nadine Clarke	Peter Kokkovas,



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	on budget for the following year; much of budget is pre-determined, only about 15% with discretionary spending	January to May, evenings		Chris Ellis (alt.)
Advisory Committee to the Arts	Lots of fun, very enthusiastic, energetic group; it's about getting good arts programming into the schools	Fourth Monday of each month	Gabe Thirlwall	Alexis Williams, Enang Akan (alt.)
Trades and Technology Committee	Planning, safety, for trades in schools	Daytime meetings 3 to 4 times per year	Nadine Clarke	Kevin McPherson, Nadine Clarke (alt.)
Calendar Committee	Sets school year calendar, when holidays, PA days are	Daytime, up to 4 times per year	Nadine Clarke	Susanne, Nadine Clarke (alt.)
Special Education Advisory Committee	Mandated by Ministry; to advise the board on delivery of special education services and programming for students identified with exceptionalities	Evening monthly meetings, fourth Wednesday of the month	Beth Doubt	Kevin McPherson
Parent Involvement Committee	E	Evenings, 6 to 8 times per year	Anne Teutsch, Carrie Eaton	Anne Teutsch and Carrie Eaton
Strategic Planning and Priorities Committee		Evenings, monthly	Anne and Carrie	Carrie Eaton, Susan Klimchuk (alt.)
Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity		Monthly		Angelina Munaretto, Mona Pare (alt.)

Next OCASC Meeting:

- Meeting and Potluck ! Thursday December 15, 7:00 – 9:00, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland
- Secondary Schools Committee – Thursday, December 8, 7:30 to 9:30, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue

Adjournment: 9:05 p.m.