

OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: September 22, 2011
Location: Fisher Park School, Library
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

DRAFT

Attendance:

School Councils:

Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES) - Carrie Eaton
Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES) - Sanjiva Sondagar
Alta Vista PS - Nancy Dean
Barrhaven PS - Ellen Dickson
Berrigan ES - Susan Klimchuk
Briargreen PS - Jennifer Melnikoff
Broadview PS - Angelina Munaretto
Canterbury HS - Ellen Lamarre
Castlefrank ES - Brona Little
Cedarview MS - Ellen Dickson
Earl of March SS - Donna Williams
Elgin Street PS - John Higgins
Fallingbrook Community ES - Peter Kokkovas
Glebe CI - Lillian Thomsen
Glen Cairn PS - Paul Warner
Greenbank MS - Kish Kille
Hilson Avenue PS - Mona Pare
Katimavik ES - Julie Grabowy
Lady Evelyn Alt PS - Gabe Thirlwall
Lisgar CI - Cheryl Bateman
Manordale PS - Cathy Babyak

Manotick PS - Carm Janneteau
Merivale HS - Anne Teutsch
North Gower-Marlborough PS - Aaron Daley
Rideau HS - Chris Ellis
Sawmill Creek ES - Gennifer Stainforth
Sir Winston Churchill PS - Karen Desjardins
South March PS - Chris Bridgen
Stephen Leacock PS - Donna Williams
Steve MacLean PS - Jared (not paid)
Westwind - Sharon Carruthers Joseph
WO Mitchell ES - Bev Stonehouse
Woodroffe PS - Tara Finlay

Others:

SEAC Rep - Beth Doubt
Secondary School Committee - Nadine Clarke
Guest Speaker - Dr. Jennifer Adams (Director of Education)
Guest Speaker - Walter Piovesan Associate Director of Education

37 Total Attendance

Acronyms used in notes:

- OCASC = Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils
- SSC = OCASC secondary Schools Committee
- SEAC = Special Education Advisory Committee
- PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
- IEP = Individual Education Plan
- SHSM = Specialist High Skills Major
- WELL = Wellness, Engagement, Leadership, Learning (four pillars of OCDSB Strategic Plan)

Meeting called to order: 7:09 p.m.

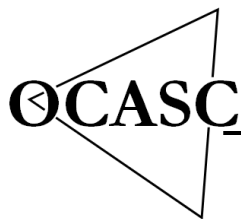
Welcome:

Carrie welcomed everyone to the new school year and the first OCASC meeting.

Chalk It Up:

IEP Information Sessions - Beth Doubt / SEAC

- IEP presentations are always very well received. Great for people who want to know more about their child's IEP.
- Lamar Mason has been the guest presenter for many years and does an excellent job.
- Forms for next sessions have gone out to all principals.
- Tuesday October 11 at Woodroffe HS and Saturday October 15 at Rideau HS.



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- Flyer was available to all. Access it at : <http://ocasc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/flyer-IEP-2011-10.pdf>

Facebook page for OCASC - Chris Bridgen / OCASC Communications Officer

- Starting a Facebook page for OCASC – not restricted to formal OCASC representative – intended to keep more people more informed.
- Link is: www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc

Air Quality in the Classroom - Chris Bridgen / OCASC Communications Officer

- Reporter wanting to do a piece on air quality in the classroom.
- anyone wanting to comment, please contact Chris at communications@ocasc.ca

Leadership Initiatives - Nadine Clarke / SSC

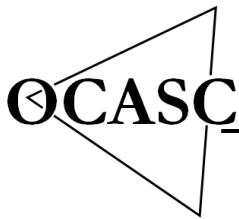
- My Pathway, Our Story
 - Topic: Why Finding Your Passion Changes Everything
 - Guest Speaker: Sir Ken Robinson
 - Date, Time: October 3, 5:00 – 8:30
 - Location: LDH HS
 - Registration: no charge, must register in advance
 - More info: <http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/LeadTheWay/li/Pages/MyPathwayOurStory.aspx>
- Connect to Creativity
 - Topic: Fostering Creative Organizations Through Imagination Inspiration, and Innovation
 - Guest Speaker: Daniel Pink
 - Date, Time: October 13, 8:30 – 4:00
 - Location: Hampton Inn
 - Registration: \$195, register in advance
 - More Info: http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/LeadTheWay/li/Pages/Connect_to_Creativity.aspx

OCASC Secondary Schools Committee - Nadine Clarke / SSC

- Separate committee from OCASC, since 25 of 140 schools are secondary schools it gives secondary school parents time to discuss topics specific to secondary schools and students.
- Meets second Thursday of each month.
- Invitation to parents of students in the junior (7/8) grades to come out and learn about the next stage in school.
- Secondary Review coming up - Subjects of discussion – access to programs, grade configuration, focus programs, SHSM, French Immersion, e-learning.
- French Immersion review was done last year – now exploring using the European Framework for testing students.
- Discussions about school improvement plans to know what different schools are doing what.
- More Info: ssc.chair@ocasc.ca

Susan Klimchuk / Berrigan – “Free” Days for the Healthy Schools Policy

- Contact info – susan.klimchuk@rogers.com
- Movie nights run by school council usually make most of their money from selling popcorn – but popcorn is not on the healthy foods list. Does anyone know if a “free” day is a day when multiple events can be run, or does each event count as one freebie?
- Alta Vista – principal thinks it is a per day thing, not per event, but to be confirmed.
- Sir Winston Churchill – can’t find out from OCDSB if popcorn from an air pop popcorn machine falls under policy.
- Cedarview – has same type of machine – distributor confirms that this type of popcorn falls within the guidelines.



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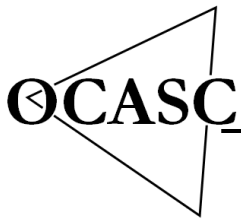
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Chair's Report – Carrie

- Welcome everyone to the first OCASC meeting of 2011/2012 school year.
- OCASC meetings are a great way to get information and learn about what is happening in the OCDSB.
- Jennifer Adams and Walter Piovesan will talk about school supplies, school fees and fundraising guidelines.
- Want to have speakers that the Assembly wants to hear –let us know if you have any suggestions.
- Vice Chair position –two names were put forward at AGM in May.
 - Lillian Thomsen has withdrawn.
 - Susan Klimchuk needs to be ratified as Vice Chair.
- **Action:** Ratification of Susan Klimchuk as Vice Chair – approved by Assembly.
- Introduction of Executive
 - Susan Klimchuk – new Vice Chair, children at LDH and Berrigan, with OCASC for 7 years, Education Committee rep for 6 years.
 - Anne Teutsch – Past Chair and Recording Secretary.
 - John Higgins – Treasurer – children at Elgin Street and Glashan.
 - Chris Ellis – Liaison Officer – community rep for Rideau and Queen Mary; with OCASC on and off for over 10 years.
 - Beth Doubt – SEAC rep for OCASC – if anyone needs help with special education issues, please contact Beth – e-mail ocasc.seac@ocasc.ca
 - Chris Bridgen – Communications Officer – starting with the new Facebook page; wanting to make sure that whether you can attend or can't you get all the information from the group.
 - Cathy Babyak – Membership Secretary – please remember to return your cards at the end of the meetings; sticker on the back of the card indicates whether your school has paid or not; fees are due in November.
 - Ellen Dickson – was Chair prior to Anne Teutsch – OCASC rep to Human Resources Committee, children at Cedarview.
 - Brona Little – third year with OCASC, Liaison Officer.
 - Lillian Thomsen – tenth year with OCASC, has been Communications Officer, Advisory Committee on the Arts rep and is now Business Services rep.
 - Gabe Thirlwall – third year at OCASC – filling in for Brona on Advisory Committee on the Arts.
 - Nadine Clarke – Secondary Schools Chair – community rep for Canterbury; OCASC rep on Calendar Committee, on OCASC Budget Committee with Peter Kokovos and Beth Doubt.
 - Peter Kokovos – working on Budget related issues with OCASC for past two years.
- Committee representatives are approved at November meeting; be sure to let us know if you are interested in getting involved in any of the school board's committees.
- OCASC partnered with teacher federations for an All Candidates meeting on Monday, September 19.
 - OCASC asked a question about before and after school care for young children; the answer was very political with no real answer about how their party would implement it; all agreed it was a good idea though.
- If you have not received OCASC News please see Cathy Babyak, Membership Secretary to have your e-mail address added to our list.

Vice Chair's Report

- Musical instrument rental for music program – are parents paying for instrument rentals?
 - Comments from unnamed schools:
 - instruments available in the classroom, but not available to take home.
 - Some instruments available at school, but quality is not good.
 - not enough instruments available for all students; they need to share, so not able to play the whole time.



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- music room has been robbed twice – instruments have gone missing; no insurance.
- Keyboard option instead of other instruments in some schools.
- Should be instruments in every school with grade 7 to 12.
- ACA has collected instruments from across the City and donated them to needy schools in past years; some instruments also sent up north to other schools.

From Your Executive

Budget Group

- One thing we should be asking candidates about in election – inequity of funding between Catholic Board and Public Board in this area – examples – transportation; what are you or your party going to do about changing that inequity.
- Steve MacLean – what would people who give Catholic Board more money say to that statement
- Benchmark funding when funding formula was introduced was different for two boards – transportation envelope has been built from that
- Peter – joined the group to learn about budget, problem with funding formula,
- Need to look at what problems are consistent across other boards so that we can build leverage
- Cedarview – although tax payers declare which board they “support” with their taxes, for municipal trustee elections, the money all goes into one pot and is redistributed
- Gennifer – while there are inconsistencies between coterminous boards, it is not always the public board that loses out over the Catholic Board; it can be the other way around
- Steve MacLean – 30% of students in Catholic Board, 70% in Public Board, so transportation should be a shorter distance for Public Board students?

Calendar Committee

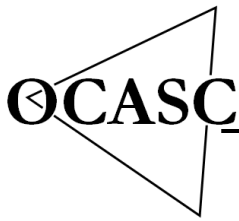
- Met this week
- Board wants to have information out to parents earlier than in past years
- Proposing a start date of September 4, 2012
- Dec 24 to Jan 4
- Last day June 28 2013
- PA Days not yet chosen
- Looking for feedback from people on how last school year went – regarding start and end dates and holidays
- Feedback prior to end of October would be appreciated
- clarkene@rogers.com

Special Education Advisory Committee

- Spec Ed policy review taking place now
- Ad Hoc Special Education Committee is working on the review
- Focus groups – October 19 – one during day, one in evening
- Looking for feedback on policy – at you like, what you don't like, are there missing elements, if there are identified problems, what do you suggest as a solution
- Notice to parents about consultation – with links to website for input
- This is a policy review; policy is about what and why; not who and where, which fall under procedure.
- Contact Beth at ocasc.seac@ocasc.ca with questions or comments

Parent Involvement Committee – Anne Teutsch

- Next meeting is Thursday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m. at OCDSB offices



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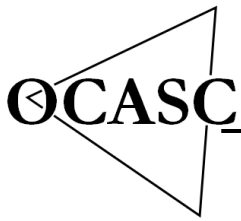
- All PIC meetings are open to the public to attend
- New regulations coming into effect for PICs across the province, new bylaws for our committee to be finalized at next meeting
- Following new bylaws, PIC and OCASC will again discuss plans to work together

Guest Speakers – Jennifer Adams and Walter Piovesan

- Jennifer Adams – Director of Education; Walter Piovesan, Associate Director

Strategic Plan

- There are a number of pieces that go together:
 - Strategic Plan – four year plan
 - District Goals – annual plan implementing of Strategic Plan
 - Board Improvement Plan – for student learning - two key priorities this year
 - ongoing assessment (how student knows how well they are doing);
 - critical thinking – straight knowledge in the 21st Century is not enough – need to be able to find info, process info, find solutions – across all grades and subject areas
 - School Improvement Plan – based on school's student achievement – what is happening in the classroom
 - Annual Learning Plan – developed by each staff member – what do I have to learn this year to help improve student learning in the school or classroom?
- Presentation went over the Strategic plan recently approved by the Board of Trustees – for details see online at http://www.ocdsb.ca/med/pub/OCDSB_Publications/OCDSB%20Strategic%20Plan%20Map%202011-2015.pdf
- Slides and talk included:
 - Vision, Objectives, Mission
 - WELL - Wellbeing, Engagement, Leadership, Learning – focusing on all areas – for students and staff
 - Interconnection between the four pillars, all objectives transcending across the four pillars
- Focus areas for this school year
 - Well being - looking at student survey data
 - Engagement - trying to get parents through the door to be connected with their student's learning – can be very intimidating depending on a parent's background
 - Leadership - governance, innovation, collaboration, leadership development, management practices, succession planning, student leadership, global competencies, celebration
 - Learning - instructional practices, creative and critical thinking, secondary review
- Glebe – article in news last week – “the key to success is failure”
 - Response - research is showing that resilience is a key indicator to success; critical thinking, problem solving, coming up with multiple solutions is important in helping to prepare students for after school years; very different students than in the past – need to engage them in their learning in different ways than 25 years ago; teaching is more complex and takes all of us together to work at it; all parts of curriculum are interconnected, trying to embed it all in the lessons.
- Fallingbrook – what was the division between staff and trustees for preparation of Strategic Plan ?
 - Response - School Board (trustees) define Strategic direction of Board; staff are tasked with implementation and making it happen; in reality, preparation of Strategic plan is a collaborative process, but is finalized and approved by trustees.
- Fallingbrook - How do you evaluate the effectiveness of a teacher ?
 - Response- research shows that number one factor in success of student is the teacher in the classroom, number two factor is the leader in the school; difference between assessment and evaluation of teachers –



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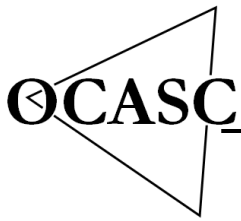
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cyclic evaluation every 5 years; assessment is ongoing - principal walking through classroom, annual learning plan; push recently to have principals ask, are students thinking when you walk into the classroom?

- Rideau High School – is equity of success still in the Strategic Plan ?
 - Response – not as such; focus on schools with extra funding and support to help where schools need it to work toward equity of outcome.
- Rideau High School – will you be trying to figure out definition of graduation for secondary graduation rates
 - Response – different districts count it differently so can't compare numbers from one to another; ministry is looking at coming up with a definition to have consistency across the province; definition does not include students who leave without the graduation diploma even though they have another certificate – needs to be changed
- SEAC - How do you determine achievement for special needs students? How do you know they are learning to their own potential?
 - Response – we know some will never graduate and there is no way of giving them a mark; we need look at things like: students who are preparing to be self sufficient; if I couldn't tie my shoes but can now; if I couldn't take the bus but can now; how do we capture these things? Ministry hasn't come up with a way yet, we haven't come up with a way, but we need to. Individual Education Plans can include benchmarks of what we want a child to accomplish, then signing off as they meet them. EQAO scores for spec ed students (excluding gifted) in OCDSB are about 10% better than average across province.
- Alta Vista – this is very structured, but critical thinking and creative thinking is not structured
 - Response – curriculum now recognizes the need for problem solving; have found out that children at lower level do better in open ended questions. Need to work with parents and teachers about passing the info on in a positive way to students.
- Canterbury – how much do you look outside to other school boards and other provinces when putting together your strategic plan?
 - Response - International assessments show Ontario does very well; yes we look outside our district; lucky to have delegations from other countries come to our district – a great opportunity to share; we may not score as high as other countries in international tests, but when one drills down there are significant differences that indicate better results for Ontario; Ontario has a very tight gap between top end and lower end scores – ties in to equity of outcome; eg. going to be sharing a board meeting with Edmonton electronically to share what each Board is doing.
- Castlefrank –shrinking the gap is great, but can't bring the top down!
 - Response – research looked at Canadian children in public school versus private school in US, and Canadian students did better; gap is diminishing but overall achievement is improving also.

School Fees

- New guidelines from Ministry; needed to update Board policy so that it is in line.
- Changes are challenging as we get into implementation, and will continue to be challenging for the first few years.
- School supplies lists – there was a high discrepancy amongst schools; instead we now have a list from the District; schools can decide to cut from it and send even shorter list home if they want; supply list is voluntary, but hope is that parents will continue to supply these items if they can afford to.
- Recognizing that not all parents will supply items, \$700,000 as been assigned to go out to schools, as needed, to help in communities that need the supplies.
- Secondary course fees – allowed to continue to ask for a fee for enhanced materials; base supplies must be provided at no charge for success in the course; a fee can be charged for enhanced supplies and for field trips.
- Barrhaven – what has been follow-up to new supplies list? At the secondary level, why were students required to pay a \$25 voluntary fee for their locker?
 - Response - We are getting data from principals about what worked and what didn't, how much money was collected. Superintendents will follow up with schools as well. It will take a few years to develop consistency across the district. There is no mandatory voluntary fee!!



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- Sawmill Creek - How did supplies get out to students who could not afford them? What about field trips?
 - Response – Supplies were provided early so that students had supplies available to them.
- Hilson – what happens to the rest of the items that used to be on the list?
 - Response – have asked principals to talk to teachers about what is happening in the classroom; if certain supplies are necessary for teaching the students then they will be supplied; what are the needs versus what are the wants – teachers need to go through principals to justify why they need extra items.
- Castlefrank – Fundraising guidelines - what is happening?
 - Response – it is a Ministry consultation – parents can go to Ministry website to respond. Deadline for feedback is November 1. Regulations will be out next spring and significant changes are expected.
- Rideau – parent and school council input for fundraising guidelines?
 - Response – Please direct parents and school councils to Ministry website.
- Chair - Thank you to Jennifer and Walter for coming!

Next OCASC Meeting:

- Thursday October 20 at 133 Greenbank (OCDSB Offices)
- Held jointly with Volunteer Appreciation Evening hosted by OCDSB
- 6:00 Appreciation Reception; 7:00 OCASC meeting.

Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.

DRAFT