

OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: February 17, 2012
Location: Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue, Library
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Carrie Eaton - Adrienne Clarkson ES	Ian Burgess – Meadowlands PS
Marti Falcone - Adrienne Clarkson ES	Anne Teutsch - Merivale HS
Ellen Dickson - Barrhaven PS, Cedarview MS	Mark Rollins – Nepean HS
Susan Klimchuk - Berrigan ES	Aaron Daley - North Gower-Marlborough PS
Andrea Haas - Bridlewood Community ES	Jocelyne Koepke – Riverview AS
Ellen Lamarre – Canterbury	Krystal Kain Gerbara - Roberta Bondar PS
Brona Little - Castlefrank ES	Joel Berger - Rockcliffe Park PS
Alka Moorjani - Castor Valley ES	Chris Bridgen - South March PS
Romaine Derhak - Clifford Bowey PS	Jared Langdon - Steve MacLean PS
Lynda Gullason – Colonel By	Tara Finlay - Woodroffe PS
Jennifer Block – Devonshire Community PS	Beth Doubt - SEAC Alt.
John Higgins - Elgin Street PS	Walter Piovesan – Associate Director of Education
Elizabeth McCudden – Forest Valley ES	Eleanor Heap – OCDSB Staff
Rob Cosh - Glen Ogilvie PS	
Louise Crawford - Hawthorne PS	Schools represented = 32
Lise Ayre - Jockvale ES	School representatives = 33
Nicola Hemstock - John McCrae SS	Member schools represented = 24
Brenda Verch - John Young ES, W.O. Mitchell ES	Total member schools = 56
Mo Tait - Lakeview PS	Guests = 3
Cathy Babyak - Manordale PS	Total in attendance = 34
Carm Janneteau – Manotick PS	

Acronyms used in notes:

- OCASC = Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils
- SSC = OCASC secondary Schools Committee
- PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
- FTE = Full Time Equivalent (for student or staff – 2 people half time = 1 person full time = 1 FTE)
- ECE = Early Childhood Educator

Meeting called to order: 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

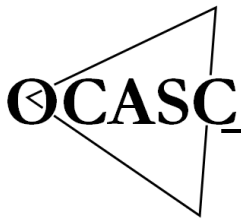
- No changes, approved as is

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved as is
- Note that minutes from previous meetings are available on website now, right back to September 2011

Chair's Report:

- Nice to see so many people out, given that it is the evening before a four day weekend for students



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- We have draw prizes tonight for person who stays closest to their two minutes and for someone who stays for full meeting
- Parent volunteers are being recruited for three new OCDSB committees
 - All committees will be daytime meetings
 - Committees are:
 - Community Hub committee – part of the Secondary School Review, looking at secondary school as a hub in the community
 - Secondary school Configuration Committee – also part of the Secondary School Review, looking at grade range options for high schools
 - Extended Day program Steering Committee – looking for one parent with, and one without children in day care programmes at schools
- Principal Selection Competition – needs two parents two be involved
 - Very interesting experience if you have the time to participate
 - Two to five days, partial or full days 8:30 – 5:30
 - Need two people by March 28
 - The selection competition takes place April 10 to 17 at Confederation Education Centre
- Student transfer applications being taken now until February 24
- Middle French Immersion registration is open now until February 27
- Kindergarten registration is now open for September 2012
- Drummond Report – Education portion
 - People for Education press release on it – “remember that education is an investment, not a cost”
 - Some effects cannot be measured purely with dollars
 - Q: where to find report?
 - A: Google I t; People for Education website, will put it on OCASC website
 - **Action Item – link to report on OCASC website**
- Full text of Chair’s Report attached as Appendix A

Chalk It Up:

Alka Moorjani, Castor Valley – Paypal payments for food programs?

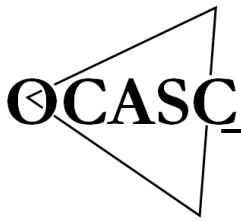
- Are other schools using Paypal?
- C: Steve MacLean – use it and will connect speaker to person in charge at Steve MacLean
- C: Rockcliffe Park – there are other options as well as Paypal

Lynda Gullason, Parent – Marking math test and teacher accountability

- Some teachers using levels of achievement related to provincial standards instead of marks
- Have spoken to school board staff, ministry staff, math professionals about it
- Math professionals are saying that students are not succeeding in math, that much remedial work is required at post-secondary level courses
- Q: is this happening in other schools
 - A: not sure
- Concern and surprise expressed by various audience members

Aaron Daley, North Gower – OCASC Representative Terms of Reference

- Looking for more than “attend OCASC meetings” as terms of reference for OCASC representatives on school council;



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- Has anyone included terms of reference in their school council constitution?
- No replies in the positive from the audience

Ellen, Barrhaven PS - Lockdowns

- If children are caught out in hallways or bathrooms a lockdown can be scary for them
- How do other people feel about this?
- Q: what is a lockdown?
 - A: This is what happens if there is an event that requires students to be safe in their classrooms
- Q: are there different levels of lockdown? Eg. missing person versus stranger in the building
 - A: It is Ministry mandated
 - Need one scheduled practice and one unscheduled practice event each year
- C: a teacher pointed out that they are very happy to know that if anything every did happen people would know what to do
- C: school does it quite regularly

Mo Tait, Lakeview – Pizza forms

- A lot of labour is involved for processing forms manually; does anyone do them online or have better methods?
- C: Jockvale and Barrhaven both have online form – will share information

Susan Klimchuk, Berrigan – Parenting Workshops

- Berrigan would like to Invite parents to the school for a workshop for parents who feel too busy
 - How to not feel anxious, depressed, burned out, etc.
 - \$10 at the door, or what you can afford
 - Feb 28 from 7 to 9 pm
 - 199 Berrigan Drive in Barrhaven
- **Action Item: Will put it on the OCASC website**

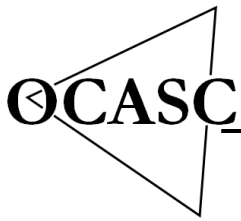
From Your Executive

PIC – Susan Klimchuk

- Need two parent reps for the new PIC
- New reps will start in June
- Role will be to represent OCASC to the PIC and represent PIC to OCASC
- Q: does the rep have to continue to be an OCASC rep next year, if position continues
 - A: OCASC rep to PIC must be a school council rep to OCASC
 - If OCASC rep to PIC ceases to be on OCASC, a replacement rep will be sought
- Q: how long are meetings?
 - Generally two hours
- Nominees – Marti Falcone from Adrienne Clarkson ES, Carrie Eaton from Adrienne Clarkson ES, Louise Crawford from Hawthorne
 - Successful nominees, by vote – Marti and Louise; Congratulations!

Human Resources Committee – Susan Klimchuk

- March 6 (Tuesday) Human Resources meeting could be an important one if people are interested in budget
 - Proposals include:
 - Increase by 3 FTEs



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- Increase by 5 FTEs
- Decrease by 1 FTEs in centrally assigned instructional coaches
- People interested in presenting to HR Committee can sign up for 4 minute delegations in advance or 2 minute questions at the meeting

SEAC – Beth Doubt

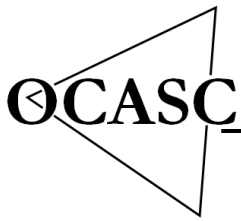
- Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee for Special Education
 - There were some consultation sessions with the public, where a wide variety of issues were brought forward
 - Discussions included
 - which students actually qualify as special education students
 - home base schools or special programs in other than home schools
 - need more information on the website, easily accessible, for parents
 - improving consultation process for special education consultations
 - transitions for spec ed students
 - staff have been very cooperative on some of these items
 - understanding that some innovative ways of communicating with parents would be beneficial
 - people will be invited to give input again once new draft policy is available to public

PIC – Anne Teutsch

- looking for parent representative on the Parent Involvement Committee
- applications need to be in by February 28
- **Action Item: link to applications will be on OCASC website**

Presentation – Extended Day Programme – Walter Piovesan and Eleanor Heap

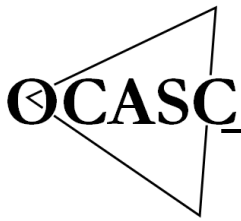
- 2 years ago the Provincial government announced a full day learning programme
 - It was to be implemented over 5 years
 - Along with this was to be an extended care programme
 - This was to be the Board's responsibility; Board can contract to third party organizations
- OCDSB has been accused of not communicating well about roll out
 - This is acknowledged to be a valid concern; staff are working at improving this
 - 23 schools first year, 4 extended day programmes
 - 7 added second year
 - Doubling it in third year
- Currently working with principals to not separate full day kindergarten from extended day programmes
- Third party providers – must be not-for profit; must have have ability to grow with programme
- For before and after care, OCDSB decided to include 4 to 12 year olds, (Ministry requirement is only 4 and 5 year olds)
- Survey will go home each year when new students register and to all existing students in the school to see if there is enough demand to run the program
- Minimum of 20 for a program to run
- Ratio of students to adults is 1:13
- Program must be run on cost recovery basis; cost is \$20 per day
- Option for parents to be only before or after school, or only certain days of the week – payment is pro-rated
- Currently 9 extended day sites – 7 run by OCDSB, 2 run by third party providers



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- A lot of negotiation is needed to set up agreement with third party providers
- Before and after school care is offered only for grades of school and only after full day kindergarten is implemented at the school
- Q: What about the day care programs that the City of Ottawa currently runs in some schools?
 - A: the City of Ottawa has no interest in becoming a third party provider, and so will not continue as a before and after school provider in those schools once the program is set up
- Q: What about programs offered by the Y at some school sites?
 - A: Third party providers need to be licensed Day Care provider; Y is not a licensed Day Care provider
- Third Party providers need to be currently in the school; otherwise the OCDSB will run the programme
- Q: Where can we find out more about the before and after school care curriculum?
 - A: Curriculum for extended day is on the OCDSB website; it is a Ministry document
- Q: Is there, or will there be an Advisory Committee or parent participation in working on the Extended Day program?
 - A: Implementation Steering Committee is working now and will have two parent representatives – one from school with Third Party Day Care and one from school without it
 - A motion was brought forward at the Board to prepare a report on what an advisory committee for Extended Day would look like
- One of the great dreams is to not have a waiting list for children in these programmes
- Looking at the possibility of zone leaders to work under Eleanor as program grows
- Q: Are before and after school programmes offered in French?
 - A: English care programmes only
- Q: Is finding space a challenge?
 - A: Yes – it is sometimes difficult for teachers to understand that the room is not theirs – after school it is taken over by the extended care program;
 - This is a huge culture shift
- Q: Will full day kindergarten in EFI still be in French completely?
 - A: Yes; it is only before and after school that will not have French
- Looking for ways to bring 4th and 5th year implementation schools into the fold earlier, to know more about it; working on communication for the future schools
- Q: what about parents coming in to system from outside the community
 - A: information should be part of the registration package that goes to families when they come to register
- Q: school has for-profit organization doing day care at school
 - A: not eligible to be third party if it is a for-profit organization
- Q: if parents say they do not want extended day program, then whatever program is already there can stay
 - A: only as long as there is space available
- Q: Why is there a higher cost for care through OCDSB and Third Party programs than for some other care programs?
 - A: Higher cost for OCDSB and Third Party programs is the requirement for higher paid staff
- OCDSB is not in the business of kicking anybody out; but there are Ministry regulations that need to be followed
- Q: When do we find out if our school will have Extended Day program next year?
 - A: Schools will know by March 19 if there is to be an Extended Day program next year
- Q: What happens if a third party provider suddenly pulls out in the middle of the year?
 - A: Ministry regulations say that the OCDSB has 7 days to step in and do it
- Q: What happens if the City of Ottawa pulls out of care at schools?



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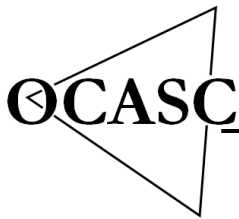
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- the school board would step in to survey parents to determine need for Extended Day program
- No new organizations will be coming in to schools; organizations already in school will be given the opportunity to stay if they qualify as third party providers
- OCDSB has the ability to offer subsidies through the City of Ottawa
- OCDSB does not touch the purpose built space connected to a school
- No waiting list is allowed – Third Party provider must grow to meet the demand for the programme
- Q: will there be enough ECEs out there for the demand
 - A: yes – there are 39,000 in Ontario; dramatic changes in child care system to match changes in school system; number of students in college programmes for ECEs has tripled
- Proviso to all this is what happens as a result of the Drummond Report
- Difficult to find supply ECEs;
 - Setting up system of “floater” ECEs who will always be employed but will go to wherever they are needed to fill in
 - First staff member for first 13 students is an ECE; second staff member for next 13 is an ECE assistant; then for next 26 students, repeat the ECE and assistant
 - OCDSB has 7 hour limit for ECEs in its collective agreement; so different ECE before and after school

Next OCASC Meeting:

- Thursday March 22, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue
- Secondary Schools – Thursday, March 8, 7:30 to 9:30, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue

Adjournment: 9:03 p.m.



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Appendix A: Complete text of Chair's Report

Hi everyone, thanks for coming tonight.... I know that many parents from my school were turning this into a four day weekend so I was unsure what to expect in terms of an audience tonight. I also decided to thank the people who did come out, we would have two prizes tonight, one a simple door prize and the other for the chalk it up item that comes in closest to two minutes.

Parent members needed: we have been requested to seek parent volunteers for three committees.

One parent rep at the Secondary level for the community hub committee looking at creating a community hub framework- February 29th:

Secondary school configuration seeking parent member in intermediate & secondary; visiting different jurisdiction-working groups:

full day kindergarten steering committee looking for two parent reps, one parent with third party daycare and one without:

timeframe: yesterday

interested parties, please contact: Walter Piovesan daytime meetings:

Principal selection:

hosting another Principal Selection Process this spring and we are in need of two (2) parent volunteers to be part of our Case Study/Interview Teams.

The parent volunteers will participate as assessors in the principal selection process. Subject to the number of candidates, we would like to proceed with two (2) Case Study/Interview team.

The Principal Case Study/Interview Team will be comprised of one (1) superintendent, two (2) principals and one (1) representative from the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Council (OCASC) which will conduct and assess each interview/case study presentation.

The case study/interviews are scheduled to take place during the week of April 10 to April 17 at the Confederation Education Centre.

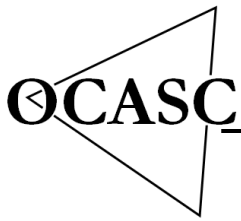
Generally the exercise runs from 8:00 am to approximately 6:00 pm in the evening and usually takes up to 3 days to complete. We recognize that this requires a major commitment of time to the process. Realistically, we may not require the entire weeks to conduct the interviews, however, until we know how many candidates will be proceeding to the next phase of the selection process, it is difficult to be more specific.

I have also done this competition three times over the last 6 years and it has never taken more than three days nor has it ever gone until 6:00 in the evening. That being said, because I have made that acknowledgement, it will of course go for the entire time. This is by far one of the most interesting things that I have had the privilege of being a parts of it with OCASC falling only behind a school tour that was a lead the way initiative a few years back. I'd recommend this to anyone who has the time to volunteer for this experience.

Also friendly reminders that both MFI registration and transfer applications are underway:

MFI February 21-27

Student transfer 13-24



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The Drummond report came out yesterday looking at Ontario's financials. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it at tonight's meeting but I did want to address a few key points and also the response from People for Education.

While some of the recommendations from the report are unlikely to be implemented – including a call for a rollback of all-day kindergarten – the overall restraint message will definitely have an impact on education in the province.

What will the Drummond report mean education and school boards?

Recommendations from Drummond, coupled with the economic downturn, mean school boards will most likely receive a funding increase of 1% or less for the coming year.

That will not cover the costs of:

- inflation – currently 2.3%,
- current commitments for wage increases (for example, teachers' salaries increases automatically according to years' served),
- increases in hydro rates – currently 3%,
- salary increases resulting from upcoming contract negotiations (teachers' four year agreements expire at the end of August),
- capital costs for new space needed for the expansion of all-day kindergarten (nearly all of the 900 schools to come on board in September require renovations or additions),
- ongoing infrastructure costs (boards are years behind in repairs and renovations to school buildings), and
- increased demand for special education programs (Ontario school boards currently spend over \$170 million more on special education than they receive from the province – money they must cut from other areas.)

People for Education sent out a press release immediately afterwards which said

“It is important that we remember that education is an investment, not just a cost,” says Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education. “And as an investment, there's no better performer. If education were the stock market, everyone would want to put their money there. We invest in education as a society through our taxes, and we reap the benefit in lower costs to health care, an increased number of tax payers, lower costs in social services and criminal justice, higher employment and a more engaged citizenry.”

“We also have to be cautious when we look only to financial advisors for recommendations on our public programs. There are some effects that cannot be measured purely with dollars.”