

# OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

*Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership*

**Date:** October 18, 2012  
**Location:** Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue, Library  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

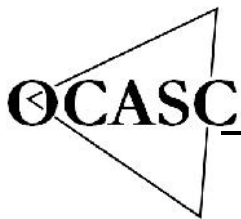
## **Attendance:**

A Lorne Cassidy ES	Debi Matthew	Katimavik ES	Marcia Goodfellow
A Lorne Cassidy ES	Karyn Larsen	Knoxdale PS	Geoff Pearce
Alta Vista PS	Adair Crosby	Lady Evelyn Alt PS	Kim Petersen
Bell HS	Mike Beavington	Lakeview PS	Tracy Neufeld
Berrigan ES	Susan Klimchuk	Manordale PS	Cathy Babyak
Bridlewood Community ES	Andrea Haas	Manotick PS	Sandra Maxwell
Broadview PS	Angelina Munaretto	Maple Ridge ES	Kim Glass
Broadview PS	Bobby Chawla	Mary Honeywell ES	Elizabeth Conabree
Canterbury HS	Osnat Fellus	Mutchmor PS	Milano Karaganis
Canterbury HS	Nadine Clarke	Nepean HS	Mark Rollins
Castlefrank ES	Josh Kemp	North Gower-Marlborough PS	Aaron Daley
Cedarview MS	Elizabeth Conabree	Pleasant park PS	Cecilia Lee
Chapman Mills PS	Stephanie Poulton	Rideau HS	Chris Ellis
Connaught PS	Viki Holan	Riverview AS	Jocelyne Koepke
D Roy Kennedy	Kathy Laffin	Robert Bateman PS	Karin Pullin
Devonshire Com PS	Jennifer Block	Roberta Bondar	Kelly Dubinsky
Dunlop PS	Craig Tiberi	Roch Carrier ES	Shannon Walker
Elmdale PS	Megan Richardson	Roch Carrier ES	Shelley MacLean
Emily Carr MS	Robert Hawgood	Sawmill Creek ES	Lindsay Emmerson
Fallingbrook Community ES	Bev Naylor	Sir Winston Churchill PS	Nicholas Miller
Farley Mowat PS	Tarek Gergawi	South Carleton HS	Sue Carswell
Glebe CI	New member	South March PS	Chris Bridgen
Glen Cairn PS	Paul Warner	Stittsville PS	Coreen Tyers
Glen Ogilvie PS	Kate Unrau	Stonecrest ES	Jen Muise
Hawthorne PS	Sandy Cahey	Trillium ES	JP Grimes
Hillcrest HS	Lorna Clark	Westwind	Sharon Carruthers Joseph
Hilson Avenue PS	Mona Pare	Woodroffe PS	Tara Finlay
Jockvale ES	Christina Mennic		
John Young ES	Susanne Bowen		
Kars PS	Sandra Maxwell		

## **Guests:**

Peter Gamwell, OCDSB  
Peter Giuliani, OCETF President  
Heidi Petersen Parent Hilson/Hawthorne  
Vickie Mastroguiseppe, parent Hawthorne

Total Schools Represented: 55  
Total School Representatives: 59  
Total Guests: 4  
Total attendance: 63



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**Meeting called to order:** 7:11 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved with modification to ask for item 6 b) - Audio recording of minutes - to be placed before Chalk it up in order to record the meeting as of the first item. Passed.

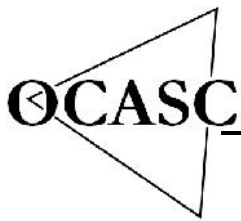
**Approval of Minutes:** Approved.

## **Request from Secretary for audio recording of meetings**

A request was made to audio record meetings to enable the secretary to better capture a summary of the meeting. A number of issues were raised including how the recorded information would be used, kept and disposed of, privacy concerns and use of recording during presentations which may make presenters uncomfortable. The option to stop audio recording for certain items came up as an option. There will be an opportunity for review of minutes to ensure accuracy before each council meeting. Important to have good contact information in the minutes. A number of people were against recording minutes. Motion passed by majority.

## **Chalk It Up:**

- Glen Cairn, Paul Warner
  - Introduction to councils whose students will be attending Glen Cairn next year. Would like to offer a tour around the school and questions about what you want for Gr. 7 and 8s who will be arriving. Principal has a budget for certain items. Please contact if you would like more information.
  
- Hilson Avenue School – Mona Pare
  - Q – Wondered if whistles are being used in other schools. We have concerns about hearing safety.
    - A - Sir Winston Churchill – A number of autism classes and sound sensory issues high on the list. Have been working on getting attention without using loud noises.
    - A - North Gower – Some of our teachers have refused to stop using them. There are no board or ministry policies regarding use of whistles inside or outside the class. Teachers are using them in the lunch room at Hawthorn. Concerns include:
      - Noise-induced hearing loss
      - Needs to be a question to the board etc.
  
- Maple Ridge, Kim Glass
  - Q – Wants to survey parents on a bunch of questions with survey monkey. Is there a Board account or do you need to purchase independently.
    - A - Trillium – Board currently reviewing internet usage. If Board is finished policy, then they should be able to give direction. Evaluation of that site (SurveyMonkey) to see if privacy concerns are being met by the site.
  
- Maple Ridge, Kim Glass
  - Q - Council e-mail account – to engage parents. Synervoice and Syner – e-mail. Wasn't often successful ... has anyone else tried Syner-email?
    - A - Honeywell – don't use Synervoice have own web site and someone resp. for e-mail list for opt-in e-mail + web site.
    - A - Nepean – We use Synervoice and Syner-mail. Both successful.
    - A – Broadview – Our principal sends out an e-mail blast to all parents on a weekly basis. Works well.



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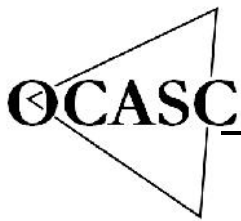
- Knoxdale, Geoff Pierce
  - Q – How do other councils present monthly financial reports/ are there any examples that could be shared?
    - When you share, if you copy [Webmaster@ocasc.ca](mailto:Webmaster@ocasc.ca) I we will include them on the website for information.
    - A – Trillium – they present at monthly meetings – is a recurring item on their agenda.
- Rideau HS / SEAC Representative, Chris Ellis
  - IEP information evening October 29 at Woodroffe High School. If you have a child with an IEP – good presentation on how to be part of that process and how to follow-up to ensure the plan is being implemented for your child. Also found on OCASC web site.
- Emily Carr MS, Robert Hawgood.
  - There will be a Parent evening on November 27<sup>th</sup> at Emily Carr MS as a result of funding received through the PRO grants. The session entitled Communicate, Collaborate and Connect with your youth, will feature Dr. Phil Ritchie, child psychologist with CHEO. There will also be a second speaker who is a Police school resource officer. The officer will discuss what parents need to know about their children using the internet and social media.

## **Presentation: Peter Giuliani – Ottawa Carleton Elementary Teachers**

- There has been a lot of labour peace over the last eight to nine years in education. When the Ontario Government was elected they signed long term contracts and negotiated in good faith. Minister was at the table. The second round of negotiations was less smooth but pretty good.
- In this round, the framework for negotiations was presented and an offer presented that indicated if Teachers did not accept, the government would legislate them back to work.
- As you know, legislation went through. This is unconstitutional. We are filing a Charter complaint and the civil liberties union also wants to be present.
- Reiterated that this is not just about money, not just that labour laws have been run over, that the employment standards act has been abrogated. This is about the fact that the Government has taken the authority to rewrite every contract which has not been signed by December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.
- Members are extremely upset but cannot legally do anything to strike because we are not in a legal strike position.
- Understands that parents are upset about sports. Extra-curricular stuff important – including drama music etc.
- What you should know is that teachers are giving up their personal time during lunch hours and after school and that they are not paid for extracurricular activities.
- We will move along the formal negotiation route.

## **Comments from the floor**

- Seems to be a political issue – School Boards don't know what to do with this.
- Q – How can parents support teachers and bargaining?
  - Ask teachers how you can help.
  - Phone your MPP to tell them this is a problem/undemocratic way of making decisions.
- School Board seems focused on how to get volunteers to support extra-curricular activities, Can we get more community members to come and volunteer – we could get better engagement. Does this contribute to reducing the power that teachers have in taking away extra-curricular activities.



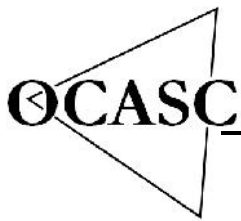
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- Q – Any conditions where would encourage your members to continue extra-curricular activities?
  - A – We haven't 'told' the teachers to do this. We indicated to them that as part of the situation we believed that it would be beneficial to take a pause. This is why there is a great difference in how teachers are doing this in different schools.
- Q – Why can't the union tell teachers to keep doing what they do while you fight the legal battle?
  - A – Not prepared to take the chance that this will go in favour of members.
  - A – Not in legal strike position, but can ask that teachers evaluate how much they do.
  - A – It is just the voluntary activities that teachers are not doing.
- Q – Is there any action that teachers could take other than extra-curricular activities?
  - A – We haven't done anything as a union yet. We have McGuinty Mondays and Tim Hudak Tuesdays. We have asked that teachers reduce workload on report cards. We have asked for their help in stepping up pressure on the Government. It will take a long time to get 66 locals organized.
- Q – Is extra-curricular outside of formal obligations? Are some teachers not doing other work?
  - A – Teachers dedicate their lunch hours and breaks to lead choir, sports etc. This is unpaid work.

## **From Your Executive**

- A) Notice of motion for electronic voting in Constitution, Bobby Chawla
  - Proposing an amendment to the constitution to allow for proxy votes. To allow it to be easier for any changes to the constitution. Current constitution indicates that it be presented as an information item at one meeting then vote on it at the following meeting.
  - Vote by e-mail should be from the registered vote sent to more than one person. When vote happens all e-mails are printed and brought to the meeting. There should be a minimum number of people who vote by proxy.
  - Each school would get 1 vote. When you vote by proxy still one school one vote.
  - Great software available to vote on the web using one code per school. North Gower to look into getting information.
  - Could be a disadvantage for proxy voting as well if amendments were made to the motion at the meeting following the proxy votes. Do proxy votes still stand?
- B) Treasurers report – Chris Ellis
  - Generally we try to pass a budget at the Annual General Meeting. This year we couldn't do it. OCASC fiscal is September 1 to August 31. Presented financial documents for passing the budget. In the report is a request for spending on various items – need pre-approval of amounts. Will come to the November meeting for ratification.
- C) Motion for allocation of funds to attend the People for Education (P4E) Conference
  - Since budget is not passed yet, we require approval for funding P4E conference
  - OCASC has consistently sent members to P4E conferences to attend workshops and learning sessions on education. The conference is coming up and 3 members of the Executive would like to attend.
  - The amount we are requesting approval for is up to \$1,200.00 to cover transportation, hotel room and money for food and conference fees.
  - Recommend that the Assembly approve up to \$1,200.00 for 3 people from executive to go to the conference.



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- Carried unanimously.
- E) Introduction of Secondary Schools Committee representative Sue Carswell.
  - Wants to let us know this is a subcommittee of OCASC with 25 high schools represented. Would like to see more connection between the two groups and have a report at OCASC on the Secondary Schools Committee. If you are here representing a high school, please send a representative.
  - Update: Walter Piovesan came to present the process for involving parent volunteers in the schools.

## **Chair's Report**

- Principals competition – We have two people who have volunteered - Jenn Lee from Stonecrest and Catherine Roberts from Earl of March.
  - ACA (Arts Advisory Committee) Meet once per month and extend the invitation for parents and OCASC to attend. Next meeting is Monday Oct. 29 at Fisher Park in the library from 7-8 p.m.
- OCASC's next meeting is also the OCDSB's November appreciation at 133 Greenbank. The reception is for all parents to thank them for their work at the school from 6-7pm to be followed by our OCASC meeting from 7-9pm.

## **Recap of Council Workshop**

- Moved to next OCASC meeting.

## **Nomination and election of:**

- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) representatives were elected last spring. Marti Falcone and Louise Crawford were elected. Unfortunately Louise has had to resign due to conflicting meeting times.
- SEAC representative is also required as Beth Doubt has moved on. Needs to be a person who attends the OCASC meeting.
- This will be put on the agenda for next month to consider.

## **Next OCASC Meeting:**

- Thursday, Nov. 15, 7-9pm, OCDSB Office (133 Greenbank Road)
- Secondary School Committee – Thursday, Nov. 8, 7-9pm, Fisher Park School (250 Holland Avenue)

**Adjournment:** 9:10 p.m.

## **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