
SECONDARY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE ~ OCASC
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 7, 2013

Meeting Location: Fisher Heights School Library
250 Holland Avenue, Ottawa

Recorded By: April Boomer, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Name	School	Role (SSC Rep, Council Member, Parent, etc.)
Ainslie Wiggs	Earl of March	OCASC and SSC Rep
April Boomer	AY Jackson	SSC Secretary, SSC Rep, School Council Co-Chair/Secretary
Bessie Giovanopoulos	Sir Robert Borden	SSC Communication Officer
Elaine Vininsky	Glebe	SSC Rep
Joanna Gracek	Colonel By	SSC Rep
Joanne Payne	Sir Wilfred Laurier	SSC Rep
Mark Rollins	Nepean	OCASC and SSC Rep
Mark	West Carlton	OCASC and SSC Rep
Mike Beavington	Bell High School	OCASC and SSC Rep
Nadine Clarke	Canterbury	SSC Past Chair, SSC Rep
Nicola Hemstock	John McCrae	SSC Rep on OCASC
Rong Sun	Lisgar	SSC Chair
Taz Mawji	Longfields Davidson	School Council Co-Chair
OCDSB Presenters		
Pino	Buffone	Superintendent, Curriculum, OCDSB
Jeff Firth	OCDSB	System Principal, Curriculum (School Effectiveness Lead)
Steve Massey	OCDSB	System Principal, Student Success
Regrets		
Sue Carswell	South Carleton	SSC Vice-Chair, SSC Rep.on OCASC

MEETING LOCATION

Fisher Park School Library

MEETING START

Meeting Commenced: 7:07pm by Chair, Rong Sun of Lisgar Collegiate
 Bessie and April passed minutes of last meeting.

SPEAKER SUMMARY

OCDSB, Jeff Firth - System Principal, Curriculum Services (School Effectiveness Lead)

OCDSB, Steve Massey - System Principal, Student Success

- Mr. Firth and Mr. Massey opened the meeting speaking on school effectiveness framework. Grades K-12 under revision (2nd revision).

The School effectiveness framework is a school self-assessment tool developed through research and professional input to promote school improvement and student success. The Framework supports the core priorities of the Ministry of Education,

- High levels of student achievement
- Reduced gaps in student achievement
- Increased public confidence in publicly funded education

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- There are changes because of demographics between generations. More diverse communities = teams needed because one teacher cannot meet or be expected to meet the need of every student thus the move toward teacher teams.
- Teacher professional development training is now often done in small groups in the school and sometimes within the classroom examining teacher student interactions.
- EQAO and practices capture rich evidence on student performance and how they could be enhanced.
- When OCDSB examine interactions in the classroom they are looking for examples of the student voice and the listening voice.
- Teacher circulation in the classroom is effective as they are able to give immediate feedback and help. Teachers that have the power of observation are in a much better position to respond immediately to struggling students.
- Teachers “rain” kids how to talk and Teachers model what to say.
- Ontario is on a steady climb on standard achievement with marks.
- Students need to practice strategies.
- Effective practices in place and while some are still relevant and used, they still need to be examined for best methods, much of learning is trying things out.
- School District Review Strategy Improvement Plan – only ½ of secondary schools reviewed now and everything should take up to 5 years for completion.
 - Universal Components of School Improvement
 - Plan
 - Needs Assessment, Inquiry, SMART Goals
 - What steps are taken to ensure the plan is owned, shared, and understood by all members? (If ownership is not shared by all members then it will get spotty implementation).
 - Act
 - Implement the planned changes
 - Observe
 - How has student learning improved in response to the implemented practices (signs of improvement should be evident in 6 - 8 weeks).
 - Reflect
 - What has been learned through the process which can be used to further planning and actions?
 - Direct relationship to teaching and learning.
- The Pathways program is in place for all students to achieve success.
- 2003 graduation rate in Ontario is 63% - in 2011 the graduation rate was at 82%
- Teachers were assigned to contact students who left/dropped out of school to offer them support and programs to help them graduate.

OCDSB - Pino Buffone, Superintendent of Curriculum Services

- There are 6 elements of the Review
- Asked to come back in May and bring us the draft of the exit outcomes.
- In the 2010/11 School year, changes and diversification, e-learning, etc.
- Examined how core programs are delivered for all students and how a full range of programs can be delivered to the student population.
- Cannot offer all special programs due to staffing and capital issues.
- Ad Hoc committee advisory body shaping the review to provide feedback for direction.
- Taskforce coordinating 6 working groups
 1. Schools configuration by lead Superintendent, staff, stakeholders, etc.
 2. Community hubs - school is hub of community
 3. Specialist High School Major - growing range of programs - specialize careers through Pathways.
 4. International Baccalaureate Diploma where presented seal to post secondary.
 5. French as a 2nd language
 6. Digital Learning - Blending learning not just online.
- Trying to focus on their future takes strategic planning.
- Competency list = skill development
- Consistency teaching = needs R&D. Do what we know worked very well.
- Discussion – Semester vs. Non-Semester, pros and cons
- How is Pathways being communicated to our public elementary schools?
- Ask Pino on his return in May for Board policy on test returning

BESSIE'S REPORT

- 8 schools completed the survey.
- 100% of the grads held off site
- Average price of grad tickets is \$160
- Dinner and dance and 2nd location was at 80%
- 62% was through fundraising
- No fundraising through parents - 100% student-led fundraising of the 62% that actually did fundraisers.
- Grad wear sales usually held an alternate location

OTHER BUSINESS

- The SSC members had a round table report on the status after OSSTF removed its ban on teachers' involvement in extracurricular activities. It was found that while teachers' attitudes and reactions differed from school to school, in general, many secondary schools have seen increased extracurricular activities supervised by teachers, and parents' involvements remained active.
- Due to time constraints of this meeting, all other business postponed until next meeting to be held in April.

NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER MEETING CANCELED

Thursday April 11, 2013 in the school library

MEETING AJOURNED

9:33pm