



OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: March 20, 2014
Location: Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue, Library
Time: 7:00pm – 9pm

Member Schools (38/65 member schools)

Adrienne Clarkson ES- Carrie Eaton (Past-Chair), Marti Falcone (Co-Chair)
Agincourt Road PS-Trish Rossiter
Berrigan ES-Susan Klimchuk (Co-Chair)
Briargreen PS-Patti Grover
Castlefrank ES-Sara Fitzgerald
Castor Valley ES-Alka Moorjani
Cedarview MS-Ellen Dickson (Treasurer)
D Roy Kennedy-Kathy Laffin
Dunlop PS-Craig Tiberi
Earl of March SS-Donna Garnons-Williams
Emily Carr MS-Robert Hawgood
Fallingbrook Community ES-Bev and Dan Naylor
Farley Mowat PS-Mostafizur Khan
First Avenue Public School-Gerry Nera
Forest Valley ES-Danielle Samuel
Hopewell Avenue PS-Karen Goodrich
Huntley Centennial PS-Mark Tymowski
John McCrae SS-Nicola Hemstock
John Young ES-Mike Hickey, Susanne Bowen
Lakeview PS-Tracy Neufeld (Secretary)
Longfields-Davidson Heights SS-Susan Klimchuk
Manor Park PS-Nancy Grinberg
Manordale PS-Cathy Babyak (Membership)
Maple Ridge ES-Cynthia Allen
Mutchmor PS-Milana Karaganis
North Gower-Marlborough PS-Aaron Daley
Queen Mary PS-Chris Ellis
Rideau HS-Chris Ellis
Stephen Leacock PS-Donna Garnons-Williams
Stonecrest ES-Jen Muisse
Westwind-Kiera Delgaty-Pak

Non-Member schools (2)

Knoxdale PS - JP Larochette
Robert Bateman PS - Kate Teeple

Guests (4)

Anne Teutsch (presenter), Laura Hurst (Connaught, parent), Al Sutherland (Connaught, parent), Pino Buffone (Superintendent, OCDSB), Paula Marble (Policy Analyst, OCDSB)

Meeting called to order: 7:04pm

1. Welcome

Susan Klimchuk welcomed all those in attendance.



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2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented. (First Avenue, Westwind)

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of February 20, 2014 were approved as presented. (Fallingbrook, Rideau)

4. Ratification of Nominating Committee and Representative on Extended Day Committee

Extended Day Committee

Marti Falcone described the new OCDSB Extended Day Committee and the request for an OCASC representative on the committee. The member from Robert Bateman expressed interested in participating and described some local parent council concerns and lessons learned identified during the implementation of EDP at Robert Bateman. Upon confirmation that the OCASC rep would represent the views of OCASC and be a liaison for information sharing between the two, Kate Teeple agreed to participate.

Nominating Committee

Susan Klimchuk called for three volunteers to participate on the 2014 Nominating Committee. Members from Fallingbrook, Huntley Centennial and Lakeview PS came forward and were accepted unanimously by the Assembly.

5. Formation of Committee for Website Refurbishment

Ellen Dickson described the process being undertaken for OCASC website refurbishment and called for volunteers to join a committee to work on the project, with a first meeting to occur in early April. Members interested were asked to see Ellen immediately after the meeting or contact her by email at ellenian@rogers.com Susan Klimchuk will also put a notice on the OCASC website.

6. Chalk it Up

- a) **LDH** – Announced a free seminar called *Teaching Your Kids About Money* – Tues March 25, 7:15-8:15 149 Berrigan Drive in Barrhaven; chair@ocasc.ca
- b) **Maple Ridge** – Announced a free presentation entitled *Supporting Math Success* by Marian Small in Orleans, 7:00-8:30pm; RSVP via Eventbrite.
- c) **Farley Mowat** – Call for volunteers (high school students) and participants at May Fair event – all are welcome: May 31 10am-2pm; community education, games, for info contact: fmps.schoolcouncil@gmail.com
- d) **Robert Bateman** – Interested in hearing experiences of Extended Day Program implementation. RB parents have identified concerns regarding training and safety and have sent letters of concern to the Board.

Adrienne Clarkson – Marti has been sitting on Advisory Committee and has been pleased how things have rolled out. Many concerns have been brought forward and there has been an openness to resolving issues. Marti offered to speak to Kate after the meeting.



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- e) **Connaught** – Interested in hearing experiences and best practices of moving to dual track school from single track school; intend to collect lessons learned into a short report for sharing.

Westwind - School opened 3 years ago; challenge was in getting suitable library, graded level readers in French, French fiction and non-Fiction. Received \$50,000 for whole transition; grossly low for what is needed; Council has been fundraising to stock up the library.

Mapleridge – School is dual track; a lot of fundraising went to getting materials; suggest have meetings with Principals of dual track schools and partnering with City libraries; have librarians come in to the school and get kids signed up with a library card and access to French materials.

Fallingbrook – Will pass on contact info on to staff; combined; in Orleans, in a bilingual community

Castlefrank – Suggest contacting Terry McDonald, past chair of Katimivak School Council.

North Gower – Suggest contacting the Richmond Public School principal, similar experience recently.

John McCrae – Have noticed that in transition from Fielding Drive, EFI to dual track school, some dilution of French; “it’s in the details”; some factors: do you have a bilingual principal? Students noticed French was less apparent after announcements and school assemblies.

Paula Marble (OCDSB) – No board level policy exists however curriculum-based best practices exist; dealt with on-site/principal.

7. Budget 101 with District CFO, Mike Carson

Mike Carson shared the OCDSB 2014-15 Budget Guide as well as Committee of the Whole Budget presentation on 2014-2015 Budget (February 11, 2014) and described approach and timelines for budget process (see attached).

Some highlights:

- Overall pressures to reduce dollars spent on public services.
- OCDSB has \$800 million budget and has been able to come under budget for the last 8 years. One of the few boards in the province that has operating reserves (\$40 M at the end of August).
- The Education Act requires a balanced budget; can exceed revenues by 1% of your spending.
- Recommending a budget with a deficit similar to what was approved last year.
- Staff recommended budget will be distributed around May 1st and presented to Committee of the Whole in mid-May; two opportunities for public delegations and trustees debate budget on June 9 and 16, looking to have approval by end of June.
- 80% of costs are salaries and benefits; many fixed because of ratio requirements.
- Do not anticipate a significant number of cuts or increases; don’t anticipate changing the way the Board provides service now.
- There is an OCASC rep on the Budget Committee (Chris Bridgen), any budget concerns could come through Chris. Will share draft budget with OCASC budget when it’s ready in May.



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Questions & Answers:

Emily Carr – Presentation explains that Board can spend 1%, do you have to ask permission to go beyond that? A: Yes, Last year 2% was spent. Can you accelerate spending of reserves? e.g. if provincial shock? A: Yes, but important to note very few Boards have reserves and never good practice to spend one-time money on continuing programs.

Queen Mary – With differentiated funding, what will be looked at going forward?

A: We have a gross district budget and then use formulas to distribute funds to schools; every school gets a certain amount per student. Last year a motion was passed to look at differentiation of funds to schools based on socio-economic status and need. A new formula was developed with 9 or 10 criteria – 3 or 4 were tied to socio-economic status of community. Impact decisions such as number of elementary VPs. Last year board allocated an additional 400,000 for differentiation. There is a possibility of some schools seeing a budget reduction going forward – this will be debated.

Stonecrest - How much funding do you obtain from sources other than the province?

A: Very little. Non-Ministry revenues are \$11-13M; are limited in what we can do mostly related to legislation.

How much does province provide extra for special needs students?

A: In total about \$90 M – flat amount for every student, then a separate situation based on schools and needs.

John Young - Is there an awareness of funds that School Councils are contributing to occasional teachers, levelled readers etc. at the Board level?

A: Yes there is an awareness and it's a hot topic. Ministry has provided clear direction. School councils were never intended to fundraise – never intended to pay for learning elements. Clarify that will not be penalizing schools that raise money through fund raising; with new accountability processes, next year we'll have a better picture of how Councils are contributing.

8. Numeracy with Superintendent of Curriculum, Pino Buffone and Anne Teutsch, Volunteer

Marti Falcone welcomed Pino and Anne to share the Boards' approach to Balanced Mathematics Instruction, K-12 ("the new, new math").

Anne is a past Chair of OCASC and parent member of Numeracy Committee – where issue of connecting with parents was raised and discussed at length. Parents feel they can't help their kids if they were not good with math. Created brochure: A Numeracy Guide for Parents/Guardians.

Pino described facts and myths about the balanced approach and the understandable concerns of parents.

Some highlights:

- Resilience, self-regulation, early numeracy – understanding of basic number sense are keys to learning; early numeracy may be even more important than early literacy in terms of a child's future success.
- A lot of discussion and desire to "return to the basics" – we wish to build on the foundation.
- Right now in society we have: good at math or bad at math; love or hate – fixed mindset.



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- Math the way it was taught in the past was algorithmic – either “got” the formula or algorithm or NOT – some students never understood conceptually.... or the formula.
- Math of now is a growth mindset – want all learners to work at math.
- A key factor in the development of a growth mindset vs. fixed mindset is parents – parents are with their kids all the time where there is math around us. If parents don’t get it – hard to say to the kids – “come on, you can get it”. Need a growth mindset as parents, too. Important for parents to believe in this growth mindset – believing that what you do can help your child.
- Earliest exposure to math with your child – stacking coloured blocks – they are curious about it and can learn and do it at age 1. Kids have an innate ability to do math in their heads – sometimes have hard time putting to paper. Have to draw it out of kids.
- Similar experience with numeracy as had 10 years ago with literacy. Upon introduction of framework for balanced literacy, there was a huge debate between emphasis on comprehension vs. grammar, but ultimately agreed on balanced approach; result is we have progressed in student achievement over 10 years; established a culture that all teachers are a literacy teacher.
- Balanced Mathematics Instruction balances operational skills and problem solving – not one over the other. Happening hand in hand; learning through the problem-solving – multiple ways to get to one solution.
- How do I know as a parent if my child is doing well in math? In gr 4 or 5 – should be able to explain parts of a whole. If you have a pizza with 8 slices – 2 slices gone – $\frac{1}{4}$ gone (proportional reasoning). In gr 7 or 8 – need to know algebraic reasoning if $2x = 10$ then what is x ; the rest of math is based on these concepts. Danger at primary level; some numeracy can be learned rote without conceptualization; starts to show up around grade 4 or 5; rote piece cannot be sustained.

Questions & Answers:

Stonecrest: Over the years have experienced “throw out everything you’ve ever learned and start new” with introduction of new curriculum/approach children – causes frustration and struggles; has this been addressed in the numeracy plan?

A: Agree we have to do a better job of looking at scope and sequence of curriculum; this framework will help us; for instance, cross-grade collaboration is happening between junior and intermediate and high school.

Emily Carr: How are communications going? To describe curriculum and plan?

A: Best way to reach parents is not an easy question. Brochure was distributed to all parents via school. Communication at School Board level with parents is important. Huge urban myths amongst teachers and administrators as well; need to a better job with own staff on this too.

Huntley Centennial: What are guidelines on devices – calculators, computers etc. in the classroom for mathematics?

A: It remains important to have the mental math down. In the classroom, teachers work with students that don’t have the skills strength and that may include use of calculators as a tool. Also introduce calculator (as efficiency tool) when know that a student gets the concepts – calculators can create errors too, need to grasp that sense, for example, 7×8 is not 4 million.



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Farley Mowat – described folded fingers technique – takes time for the kids – many interesting ways to learn math available on YouTube.

Queen Mary: is brochure being translated and have you considered holding seminars for parents?

A: Numeracy Committee is still working on communications and outreach – brochure and presentation is just the beginning; do intend to translate and look at reaching out.

First Avenue – Why is Math taught in English only in French Immersion centres?

A: There is no research to show math in French vs English makes a difference in learning, however, as a Board, had to find consistency – system-wide decision; was more harmful for students to be switching back and forth – need to ensure conceptual understanding – even the vocabulary.

Suggest holding a 1 day seminar for parents e.g. reps of each council who could then in turn teach parents (train the trainer model); put it on line.

Maple Ridge – Comment: feels clarity of direction for educators is needed e.g. in grade 4 - no text books and basic math is being made more complicated.

7.0 Chair's Report and From Your Executive

The Chair's Report and From Your Executive items were tabled to the next meeting. Tracy Neufeld reminded Assembly members that the topic of focus at the April meeting will be Technology and asked for questions to be brought forward from Councils in advance via email to tracyneufeld@gmail.com. Alternatively, members could speak to Tracy after the meeting to discuss.

8.0 Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.