



# OCASC December 2016 Meeting Minutes

[chair@ocasc.ca](mailto:chair@ocasc.ca) [www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/) <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K2H 6L3

Date: 15 December 2016  
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue  
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

## Attendance

- Total attendance (27)
- Total schools represented (27)
- **Member schools attending (20)**

Adrienne Clarkson ES: Carrie McConnachie  
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean  
Briargreen PS: Donna Owen  
Canterbury HS: Nadine Clarke  
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp  
Chapman Mills PS: Luc Poirier  
Colonel By SS: Danusia Robaszewski  
Earl of March SS: Donna Williams  
Elizabeth Park PS: Dale Childs (Co-Chair)  
Elmdale PS: Caroline Hatton  
Goulbourn MS: Kiera Delgaty

Greenbank MS: Helen Norman (Secretary)  
Huntley Centennial PS: Mark Tymowski  
Jockvale ES: Joe Allan  
John McCrae SS: Elizabeth Conabree  
Katimavik ES: Jennene Powers  
Manordale PS: Cathy Babyak (Membership)  
Mary Honeywell ES: Elizabeth Conabree (Liaison Officer)  
South Carleton HS: Kiera Delgaty  
West Carleton SS: Mark Tymowski

## Non-member Schools attending (7 schools attending; 7 representatives)

A Lorne Cassidy ES-Jill Sheppard  
Broadview PS-Holly Tarrison-Gaskin  
Elgin Street PS-Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)  
Glebe CI-Kerry Anderson

Gloucester HS-Paul Wilson  
Lisgar CI-John Higgins (SSC chair)  
Mutchmor PS-Dana Reia

## Guests and non-school reps(5)

Trustee Zone 8, Keith Penny, Orleans Cumberland

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:12 pm)

Co-chair, Dale Childs, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to meeting.

### 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Minutes: Approved as presented. Motion: Huntley Centennial; Second: Elmdale  
Agenda: (conference summary deferred) Approved as amended. Motion: Earl of March;  
Second: Katimavik

### 3. From your Executive

Co-chair, Malaka Hendela, brought up the subject of consultation; that is, how OCASC is and should be part of the consultation process for Board decisions

- What we can accept; what we won't accept



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- Checkbox for OCASC: Does listening count as being consultation?
- At the Committee of the whole, Malaka asked how the consultation and communication process should work.

Q: Could we form a subcommittee (of about four members) to examine the OCASC constitution?

A: Good idea Mary Honeywell volunteered (setting up a Facebook/Slack conversation suggested)

Communication – what's in the document?

- Do we consult with councils?
- Parents don't have input early enough in the process.
- If the Board has put the money into the decision-making, parents won't be heard.
- Technology would help.
- Presentation at OCASC doesn't count as a consultation.

Report from the Committee of the Whole (COW) (link to report to follow)

- Budget process has just started
- Parents worried about Elementary framework and school closures
- The way the Board made decisions about the Extended Day Program (EDP) and the changes to the Kindergarten programs (full day and French/English) leads parents to believe that their opinions don't count
- Discussion about the Gifted program review also caused consternation among parents

Report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) (link to report to follow) - discussion about Gifted program review

- The Board doesn't want to be committed to a timeline
- Communication – a lot of parents were unaware of the gifted review
- There has been talk about stopping the review altogether

Q: There is discussion about stakeholder involvement - SEAC or the Board?

A: SEAC

Discussion:

- Gifted form too stringent
- Child doesn't want to be retested, doesn't want to be different
- How will parents be consulted?
- Have to prove that your child cannot cope in their grade.
- Don't set the level of harm as the bar
- Couldn't the information go from the principal

Q: Can OCASC distribute this (and other) information to the parent councils?

- Timing of it can be difficult
- Post on Facebook
- On the website: minutes, reports, links to info on other websites, etc. The Recording Secretary (Helen Norman) to work on updating the website.
- Co-chair, Malaka, to talk to the Board about it's distribution of info to parents (including emails from the Director of Education; how does one get on the list?)

Attending COW meetings (info on the website, <http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/bm/Pages/default.aspx>):



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- Members of public can attend and speak; meetings usually run from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. (or later)
- Speaking at these meetings can be intimidating for parents:
  - Could we have parents come to OCASC to practice?
  - Parent and school council workshops: session on how to participate in the board process?
- Trustee Penny – If you want to make a point at the COW, sending an email with your or any trustee would be a good plan.
  - They will read the email and take it forward
  - Be succinct – three points
  - Ask for what you want, try not put trustees in a defensive position
- Navigating the process
  - Looking ahead to what is the Board planning
  - Encouraging parents to email questions to trustees and add them to the Board's website

### 4. Chalk It Up

Q: Multi year planning

- Do councils do multi-year plans or single year plans?
- How much money can be moved forward? – playgrounds, etc.

A:

- Have to keep in mind that your plan may affect councils in the future
- Every few years, the plan can be reviewed
- School Council Funds Management Guide ([http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n-p/pr/ProgRevieDoc/School Council Finance Guide-Accessible-Draft.pdf](http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n-p/pr/ProgRevieDoc/School%20Council%20Finance%20Guide-Accessible-Draft.pdf))

Q: Media Release for offsite events? If you are going offsite to a public area, what's the policy?

A:

- Principals sent media release, which covers offsite events
- Principal made a statement to say that you can't post pictures of other people's children
- Parents will be there as well
- Could a school council be held responsible for pictures? Or retweeting?

Q: Motivational speaker: School-wide presentation – Be your Best (<http://beyourbest.ca/main.php?id=26>)

A: No one had heard of the speaker

Q: School repainting with board colour: Has this happened elsewhere?

- Mural painted over
- The paint was board colours (not school colours)

A: Malaka will investigate Board policies about repainting

Q: Board policy consultation – has anyone redone constitution - Elgin

A:



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- Constitution questions
  - max # of parent members
  - 12 voting members, 9 voting members, lawyer as chair
  - 16, no cap – but must be available for all meetings
- When redoing constitution, advance notice, declare interest in voting
- Executive and committee leads – constitution
- Board will help with the constitution updates

Q: Movie Rights – showing movies at school (<http://www.acf-film.com/en/index.php>) Mary Honeywell will forward information

Q: How to increase parent involvement?

- Pro-Grant – specifically intended for reaching out to parents
- Board website – Parent/School council training (<http://www.ocdsb.ca/par/parentconference/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Event planning committee – Google survey – 50% response rate

Other discussions:

- How can OCASC participate in the budgetary process? Read the consultation policy.
- How many parent councils heard? Assuming Principal is a good communicator. Councils are small.
- How to consult parents without overwhelming them?
- List of upcoming Board meetings (<http://www.ocdsb.ca/Lists/Board Meeting Calendar/MyItems.aspx>)

### 5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59. Motion: Mary Honeywell; Second: Alta Vista Co-chair, Dale Childs, thanked everyone for attending and for the discussions.

**Next meeting: 19 January 2017**