



OCASC February 2019 Meeting Minutes

chair@ocasc.ca www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/ <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 21 February 2019
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (31)
- Number of school reps attending (33)
- Total schools represented (31)

Member schools attending (21): total member schools (27) quorum (33%) = 9

Bayview PS: Rosy Young
Bell HS: David McCormak
Broadview PS: Donna Owen (SEAC)
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Chapman Mills PS: Mital Kumar Patel
Farley Mowat PS: Marc Feliciano
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
John McCrae SS: Lainie Taylor-Ryan
John Young ES: Aaron Driscoll
John Young ES: Dwayne Routliffe
Katimavik ES: Ian Urbach

Lady Evelyn Atl. PS: Graig Haplic
Manor Park PS: Safina Dewshi
Maple Ridge ES: Cynthia Allen
Mary Honeywell ES: Martin Nieves
Mutchmor PS: Alexandria Sjoman
Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Stittsville PS: SirMartin Ried
Stonecrest ES: Patricia McKeage
South March PS: Christine Moulaison
(Co-Chair)
Vincent Massey PS: Cheryl Kitoury

Non-member Schools attending (12)

Adrienne Clarkson PS: John Lymer
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Emily Carr MS: Robert Hawgood
Glashan PS: Lisa Greaves
Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
Knoxdale PS: Alysse Norcross

Lisgar CI: Jennifer Reynolds
Longfields-Davidson Heights SS:
Aliaa Daleroury
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: Terri-Lynn Kennedy
Trillium ES: JP Grimes
Vimy Ridge: Amber Lavelle

Guests and non-school reps (3)

Rob Campbell
Engy Masieh OCSDB Policy Analyst
Trustee: Donna Blackburn



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1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and welcomed members and guests.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Castlefrank; Second: Stittsville

January Minutes: Approved as presented. Motion: John Young; Second: Vimy Ridge

3. From Your Executive

- Secondary Schools
 - At last month's meeting a list of topics was created for discussion at future meetings.
 - Two topics were selected last month (Tutoring and Mental Health). Secondary school council members went back and discussed these topics with their school councils.
 - The secondary school council members broke off around 8:30 pm and discussed the two topics in a free-form discussion. Everyone was welcome to join. Will pick another topic for discussion next month and repeat. Welcome to talk about other topics that are relevant.
- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update
 - Michelle Giroux advised that the three motions put forward at last month's OCASC meeting are not in PIC's mandate. Advised to take the motions directly to the Board. PIC itself didn't have an opinion.
 - Other PIC members were slightly surprised by the OCASC motions.
 - What is Michelle's Giroux role on PIC? Not sure if she is the Director's designate or if that is Brett's Reynolds role. Halcion Joseph-Clost will find out.
 - Trustee Blackburn's view is that the motions are not within PIC's mandate.

4. Discussion of the three motions from January meeting

- Motions from the January meeting:

1. Notice of Motion: Request that OCASC reps ask PIC to write to the Minister of Education and state the following:

- *a year is an excessive delay for a response to the 2018 Consultation: Education in Ontario; and*
- *the modern Health and Physical Education curriculum, as was taught in 2015, should be reinstated; or school boards should be given the option to reinstate the curriculum, for the interim period before the consultation response.*

2. Notice of Motion: Request that OCASC reps ask PIC to relay concerns, to the Board and the Ministry, about the practice of reporting teachers who answer students' questions around physical health and wellness. This practice creates a climate of distrust that is not conducive to open and equitable discussions amongst teachers, staff, and students.

3. Notice of Motion: Request that OCASC ask PIC to clarify whether School Councils can engage parents and offer programming, during school hours, on the subjects from the 2018 Consultation: Education in Ontario.



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- Motions can be changed and amended.
- PIC is the legislated committee that is responsible for parent engagement. That is why the motions are directed toward PIC. If PIC chooses not to advocate for school councils, then OCASC can choose another avenue to raise its concerns. OCASC needs respect the legislated committee.
- OCASC is anomaly in the province.
- Six school councils didn't meet because of the weather and didn't discuss or vote on the motions. Will abstain from the vote.
- Two school councils want to vote but couldn't attend (Bayview and Westwind). They provided direction via email and will be included in the vote.
- Discussion on Motion 3:
 - Some councils didn't like the wording of the motion, wanted it to more/less specific, or wanted more information. Motion could be split into thr parts – programming to students during the day, programming to students at night, and programming to parents at night.
 - At least one school council didn't think they needed to ask permission.
 - Concern that school councils may not be representative, and health curriculum is a decisive issue in the province.
 - The motion is opening the door to parents funding teaching items that are not in the curriculum.
 - The motion is way to get information to reassure principals about what is allowed and not allowed.
 - School councils exist to foster engagement between schools and parents.
 - But there is a difference between supplementing curriculum and building community / fostering engagement with parents.
 - Trustee Blackburn – School councils are advisory bodies. They are there to offer advice to the principal.
 - School councils fund many activities to enhance curriculum (Scientists in the Schools, cyber-security, arts, etc.)
- Vote
 - Motion 1: Yes: 19, No: 1, Abstentions: 8 - Passed
 - Motion 2: Yes: 21, No: 1, Abstentions: 9 - Passed
 - Motion 3: Yes: 14, No: 6, Abstentions: 10
 - Not sure if this motion passes due to abstentions. Malaka to review constitution.
- Vimy Ridge funded \$3k for an Indigenous knowledge keeper/elder to present to all classes in the school. What would happen if a school council wanted to bring in a speaker on health education topics? What is the difference?
- Of the seven Ontario provincial consultation topics referenced in motion 3, there is only contention on the Health Curriculum.
- Human Rights legislation supports teaching of topics related to the new Health Curriculum.
- Some principals are supportive of school councils funding presentations on Health curriculum topics during school time.
- Malaka is concerned that School Councils are getting different answers from administrators about what School Councils are allowed to do. Some principals don't know who to get answers from or don't want to.
- OCASC can still help councils get answers to questions. Suggest that OCASC hosts a



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school superintendent to answer questions at a future meeting.

5. SEAC Update

- Learning Support Services is looking for input from SEAC on the planned Operational Review covering the process for identification, needs assessment (including tiered intervention) and placement.

6. COW and PIC Update

- COW Budget
 - 2018-2019 Revised Estimates. \$2.8M surplus but expecting it to be higher. Accumulated surplus is projected to be \$37.7M
 - The board approved the following additional spending for 2018/2019:
 - \$.5M Classroom furniture
 - \$.5M EA Emergency Allocations - 8-10 FTE, so 16-20 for the remainder of the year
 - \$4M Wi-Fi Infrastructure improvements
 - \$1.6M Chromebooks - equivalent to 4000 Chromebooks
 - Alta Vista is requesting a full time VP. Looking for other schools that are making similar requests. Need clarity on how VPs are allocated

7. Arts Advisory Committee Update

- No Update

8. New Business

- Nothing (ran out of time)

9. Adjournment at (approximately) 9:15 pm

Next meeting: 21 March 2019