

OCASC February 19, 2009

Met in the library at Fisher Park School

Members in Attendance:

Zone 1	Zone 7
Zone 2	Zone 8
Zone 3	Zone 9
Zone 4	Zone 10
Zone 5	Zone 11
Zone 6	

Meeting started at 7:10 with Anne Teutsch in the chair.

Approval of agenda - approved.

Approval of minutes: changes A. Lorne Cassidy is missing the A in the last minutes
Changes to board committee meetings – only SEAC and Education committee meeting dates have been changed.

Chalk it up:

School Flyer

Tammy Martin - Trillum tammy_martin@hc.sc.gc.ca

- Good news stories – keeping bums in seats? What could they do to encourage kids to come to their school – made a flyer to advertise their unique school – passed around flyers – school council paid for the flyer – real estate agents /community – 500 copies for \$435.

Funds for Library

Nihan Kavaslar - Katimivik ES nkavaslar@yahoo.com

- Need to renovate the library – how do you apply for the funds to renovate?
- Maybe combine with computer lab –suggestion - talk to Michelle Giroux.

Input support for changing grade 7 & 8 busing policy

Kim Clausen - A. Lorne Cassidy deeandlorne@rogers.com

- Kids walking farther and farther in unsafe road areas – walking 3k – what is the reason for the long walk – is this a budget issue? lack of sidewalks in this area?

No Child Left Thinking

Kate Preston - Thomas Lisgar info@lisgar.net

- March 26th Lecture 7:30-9:30: “Testing, Accountability and the Threat to Canadian Democracy”

“No parent left behind” bullying prevention

- Alex Riberio - Jack Donahue PS – alexribeiro@morriscgreenclean.com
- How to combine adults presenting to parents with youth presenting to parents – want to collect kit from resource centres to offer to parents in April/ May
- PRO grants (parents reaching out) – info going out to schools and councils to put in application – grant of up to \$1000 to help get more parents involved in your school

From OCASC Executive

SEAC update

- Proposal to move gifted French Immersion classes out of the Glebe area – moving 5/6 to Hilson instead of Fisher Park
- Learning Support Services has delivered its decisions on system class changes (ie. programs to be closed and opened for next year) – issues were that consultations were poorly done / not many people showed up
- Come to the Spec Ed Corner to talk to Beth Doubt March 12th at 6:15pm in the library at Fisher Park School before the next OCASC meeting
- Task force at SEAC delivering report at next meeting – feedback on children who are having trouble accessing spec ed programming
- Next Wednesday at SEAC, Lynn Ziraldo will come to SEAC training – open meeting
- SEAC issues are only for discussion at Education committee – SEAC makes recommendations to the Board looking at governance of SEAC going forward – looking at limited consultation role for SEAC

Calendar committee

- Input on options – lots of response – Sept 1 start date was the favourite for those who provided input

Budget committee update

- Seeking approval to collaborate with the board – reach a wide variety of parents
- Ad hoc committee – Budget task force met to determine what they want to do – need to make sure that hear as many voices as possible – discuss ways and means
- Seek OCASC approval – Rockcliffe would like to be added and Kate Preston Thomas
- Vote on terms of reference – approved

Need a new secretary for OCASC – contact Anne Teutsch

Presentation by Peter Gamwell, Superintendent of Instruction

- “Leadership and OCDSB”
- Optimistic about the school district
- Discussion group of 25 people to discuss leadership – all different aspects of the school

- Custodian may say “what have I got to do with leadership?” – reframe the whole thing – asked questions formal/informal leadership – leadership is not just about authority – make the place what it is
- 80% response rate from the district – custodian meeting set up as focus group – all treated the same – well-organized approach
- Can’t move unless we know what people are thinking – do analysis of data and move on to recommendations
- Summary document written by the Gandolf Group consultants – had never worked with educational group before – only government and business – found that there were perceptions of elitist hierarchy and inequitable professional development
- Four obvious things were missed:
 - develop a narrative of leadership core vision of narrative for district (on every wall)
 - need to take a look at professional development (1st principal/VP intern program) stood in contrast to the principals they found during the study – now have a much better process – huge amount of choice in the program – more equitable and logical
 - need to work with custodians and office administrators – had morale problem- now need to find ways to address problems – still developing ideas for future directions
 - development of advertising campaign – awareness of leadership initiative need to reflect on what they are doing as organization and look to other organizations in Ottawa
- Sir Ken Robinson – wrote book “Out of Our Minds” – his presentations are available on the web had a panel discussion (conference in Ottawa)
- Core of vision of leadership – need to reach out to all individuals to validate and to draw out their ideas
- Vehicle will be the concept of shared and distributed leadership no matter what organization you are in
- Try to identify certain key elements of organizations that work and try to bring them across to inspire other parts of the organization to be successful
- Leadership awareness campaign – with internet sites
- Piloting personal professional development to be led by the needs of the group and the creative capacity of the group
- What does this mean for kids in the classroom?
- Can we look at other industries/ companies to inform how schools work – break down barriers?
- Parent engagement – bringing people in to enrich the culture of the school – when and in what capacity?
- Children are put in boxes and labeled for the convenience of the system – need to make things better for individual children – “differentiated education”
- Include parent councils/parents/students to bring up other creative issues on the next level – support webs are important – collaboration is the way

- What can alternative schools teach us about leadership? The whole child is addressed

Roy Weirenga – manager of Ottawa Student Transportation Authority

- Is there a more efficient way to offer transportation?
- Catholic board schools are side by side with OCSDB sites
- New way to deliver transportation in Ontario mandated by the ministry
- The board of directors did not approve this – combined budget of \$56 million to get money back into the budget process could save \$1 million, but there are drawbacks
- School bus drivers are important part of the school communities – the first person the child sees in the day – can help improve student achievement

Impacts

- Put together working group – have brochure and public consultations – impact on school communities – need lead time to change bell times
- Changes to bell times disrupt the schools to make the bus system more efficient
- Can affect daycare arrangements and parent connections to OC Transpo express buses into downtown core
- When will parents know? Board approved consultations schedule – March?
- High schools start earlier, and elementary school later -- whereas studies show that teenagers learn better later in the day
- Funding – ministry may give more funding after audit in October – if you are efficient and effective you get more money
- Gaps identified in the walking distances -- could get more money to address these
- Catholic board gets more money - \$10 million – if both boards contribute and both save, it will offset costs and will be audited as one group
- Before school care – can it be provided for children who are not old enough to be left on their own? City run daycare? Get schools who do not have childcare access to provide feedback
- Make sure that kids are not getting off at the wrong school