

# OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

*Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership*

**Date:** October 20, 2011  
**Location:** OCDSB Offices, 133 Greenbank, Board Room  
**Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

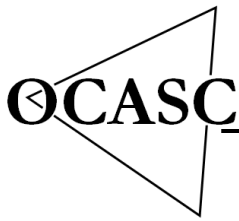
**Attendance:**

Carrie Eaton - Adrienne Clarkson ES	Julie Grabowy - Katimavik ES
Marti Falcone - Adrienne Clarkson ES	Gabe Thirlwall - Lady Evelyn Alt PS
Sarah-Lynn MacDonald - Agincourt Road PS	Mo Tait - Lakeview PS
Laura-Lee MacDonald - Alta Vista PS	Dwight Thompson - Longfields-Davidson Heights SS
Ellen Dickson - Barrhaven PS	Victoria McMullen - Manor Park PS
Susan Klimchuk - Berrigan ES	Cathy Babyak - Manordale PS
Andrea Haas - Bridlewood Community ES	Kim Glass - Maple Ridge ES
Angelina Munaretto - Broadview PS	Anne Teutsch - Merivale HS
Nadine Clarke - Canterbury HS	Kevin MacPherson - Metcalfe PS
Brona Little - Castlefrank ES	Aaron Daley - North Gower-Marlborough PS
Chrystal Brown - Castor Valley ES	Anne Striegler - Ottawa Tech SS
Ellen Dickson - Cedarview MS	Lisa Hagedorn - Pleasant Park PS
Raymonde Barbeau - Clifford Bowey PS	Alex Williams - Rideau Valley MS
Craig Tiberi - Dunlop PS	Joel Berger - Rockcliffe Park PS
John Higgins - Elgin Street PS	Gennifer Stainforth - Sawmill Creek ES
Megan Richardson - Elmdale PS	Sue Carswell - South Carleton HS
Eric Leicht - Emily Carr MS	Chris Bridgen - South March PS
Peter Kokkovas - Fallingbrook Community ES	Jared Langdon - Steve MacLean PS
Chari Marple - First Avenue Public School	Robin McLellan - White - Summit Alt PS
Paul Warner - Glen Cairn PS	Brenda Verch - WO Mitchell ES
Rob Cosh - Glen Ogilvie PS	Tara Finlay - Woodroffe PS
Dan Rambo - Gloucester HS	Beth Doubt - SEAC Rep
Louise Crawford - Hawthorne PS	Michèle Giroux - OCDSB
Bobby Chawla - Hilson Avenue PS	Paula Marble - OCDSB
Mona Pare - Hilson Avenue PS	Nadine Clarke - Secondary School Committee
Lise Ayre - Jockvale ES	Nadia Towaji-White - OCDSB
Lauren Kelly - John McCrae SS	
Brenda Verch - John Young ES	
Elaine Murkin - Kars PS	

Total Attendance = 56

**Acronyms used in notes:**

- OCASC = Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils
- SSC = OCASC secondary Schools Committee
- CCEE = Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity
- SEAC = Special Education Advisory Committee
- PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
- IEP = Individual Education Plan
- SIP = School Improvement Plan
- IPRC = Individual Placement and Review Committee
- EQAO = Education Quality Assurance Office
- CHEO = Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario



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**Meeting called to order:** 7:08 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda**

- No changes, approved as is

**Approval of Minutes**

- Typos to be passed on to secretary
- Minutes approved

**Chalk It Up:**

Beth Doubt, OCASC SEAC Rep - IPRC Presentation

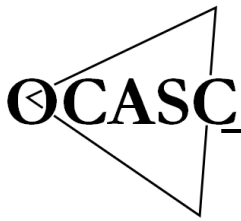
- Contact Info - Beth - [ocasc.seac@ocasc.ca](mailto:ocasc.seac@ocasc.ca)
- Identification and Placement Review Committee (IPRC) session
  - Saturday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.
  - Presentation by Lamar Mason
  - Woodroffe High School
  - IPRC is process by which students is identified to enable them to be entitled to extra services at the school
  - More information and flyer – [ocasc.ca](http://ocasc.ca) => click on Special Education
  - Please pass on the information to your school councils and school communities

Angelina – Broadview – Yard Renewal Questions

- Major renewal project happening at Broadview
- Looking for best practices, ideas, suggestions from others
- Adrienne Clarkson, Manor Park have done similar projects and can share information by e-mail
- Alta Vista – has information to share, also by e-mail
- Rockcliffe Park –difficult getting funding through grants, because of strong financial conditions of the community

Gabe – Lady Evelyn

- Is there a response from the parent community about the recent death of a student?
- Metcalfe – pairing off of grade 8s and Kindergartens, etc. to get to know each other – helps to prevent bullying
- Secondary Schools Committee – Link Crew program (also known by other names) at high schools – contact, meet and greet grade 12s for new grade 9s, mentoring, making new students feel welcoming
- Need to talk about homophobia, not just bullying
- Rideau Valley – should focus be on supporting individuality rather than on depression, homophobia?
- Elmdale - Ger's Vision
- Broadview – three issues have been brought up and have combined to cause the recent problem – bullying, mental health, sexual orientation
  - Need to address the stigmas related to mental health as well; need to combine all of these issues
- Merivale – perhaps have someone from school board in to speak to OCASC
- Hilson – CHEO presentation coming up on depression, suicide, mental health
- Manor Park – principal was not aware of how to involve parents in this issue
- Rideau Valley – Google “no arms no legs no worries”
  - Motivation lasts a day, inspiration lasts a life time
  - Speaker is a man who was born with no arms and no legs
- Rockcliffe – [mygsa.ca](http://mygsa.ca) – website for supporting Gay-Straight Alliances; also from [egale.ca](http://egale.ca)



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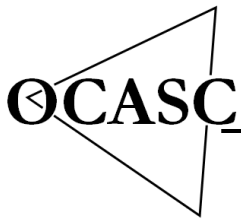
- Maggie Mamen will be speaking as part of joint OCASC / PIC / OCDSB presentation
- Michele Giroux, OCDSB – CHEO session will be an opportunity to bring the discussion forward
  - Website, Facebook – will have more information on bullying, sexual orientation, mental health, links to relevant sites,
  - Looking for resources that are more parent focused
  - May tie it to Make Change Happen initiative that is being planned
  - Will be looking for feedback and suggestions

Chris Bridgen – Communications Officer - OCASC Facebook

- Facebook.com/groups/ocasc – try it out!

## **Guest Speaker – Nadia Towaij-White**

- Growing Success – new document from the OCDSB
  - Feedback from parents included in the document
- Report cards used to be received in December – quite late to be getting feedback on achievements to date
  - If there are problems with a student's learning, December is very late to share this with parents
- Progress report will come home on November 10 to all students in all schools across the Board
  - How is your child progressing towards the goals for the term
  - No letter grades
  - "indicators" instead of letter grades; one indicator per subject area, not multiple
  - Teachers are working together to try to produce comments on how the student is progressing from a holistic viewpoint
  - Learning skills have increased to six items – this part is important to a student's progress
    - Criteria have been added in to the learning skills section and are listed on progress report and all report cards
    - Same skills for all grades – elementary and high school
- Assessment is about learning – if students are getting assessment early, it will help them get to the next level
- Teachers are taught to report in edu-babble; working as a province to use parent friendly language – won't happen overnight, but working on it
  - Needs to be parent friendly
- Ministry training for board staff this fall on progress reports
- Parents need to understand what "progressing well" means – need consistency among teachers – Ministry has done this, this year
- With changes to kindergarten in regard to full day versus half day, the report cards have not changed yet, but will after work with focus groups next year to figure how to report for full day kindergarten program
- Reporting needs to mean something to parents!
- Steve MacLean – School SIP and EQAO – how does it come together?
  - Response - EQAO is curriculum link, EQAO is only one piece of data
    - Many pieces of data and assessment in the classroom
    - Most important piece of data is in the classroom, on the desk, what the student is actually doing
    - Teachers need to work together on evaluating work and use evaluations to answer the question "what are we going to do next?"
    - Need to put more weight on qualitative, not just on quantitative
    - Need to be able to have students show their strengths in different ways



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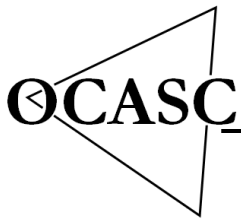
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- Manor Park - it is an assumption to think that schools are sharing the information you talk about, such as school improvement plans, with parents
  - Response – many schools where parents are involved in SIP and/or school council is involved
    - School council should tell principal that they want to be a part of the SIP
- Hawthorne - How does provincial report cards give more information?
  - Response – report card covers entire term until end of January
    - Parent will be hearing about what is needed throughout the terms
    - Strategies and interventions need to be fluid, not static
- Broadview – where parents get involved, you see results, as seen at school council meetings at Broadview
  - Response – if we focus together on SIP, then we will see results for children’s learning
    - Don’t forget that core business is student learning!
- SEAC rep – teachers need to share solutions with parents and educate parents, because parents do not always know how to deal with the issues that teachers tell them about for their child
  - Response – one thing to describe the child’s progress, but “what next?” is an important question that needs to be addressed
  - Some parent are in a better position than others to provide additional support
  - Responsibility for education is with teachers, but partnership with parents is important for parents who want to be a part of it – ultimately for the learning of the children
- Pleasant Park – Have leadership and social skills been added to the report card?
  - Response - That would probably be in the student’s IEP
- Hilson - does report card really go home on last day of school?
  - Response – learning should continue until the end of the school year
    - If report cards are sent home early, students know that the year is done
    - Need to have consistent timing on when report cards go home
- SSC – compliments on the very positive message being given to parents tonight
  - School council involvement in SIP is mentioned in provincial documents
- Nadia is willing to come in to talk about other curriculum areas if OCASC is interested

## **Chair’s Report – Carrie**

- We try not to use acronyms – if we do, please stop us and ask what they are
- Daniel Pink – 1 ½ days at conference with OCDSB in October
  - Creativity – not all about the arts, but people are creative in anything they do
  - Need to embrace creativity in everyone
- Full Day Learning presentation – it was obvious that there are many question in the community still
  - Presentation helped to answer some questions for people,
  - Confed 7pm – Oct 27 – Full Day learning – public consultation
    - Need to submit questions to board by October 26, 12 noon – Natasha Knight 613-596-8211 ext. 8379
    - [Natasha.knight@ocdsb.ca](mailto:Natasha.knight@ocdsb.ca)
    - There may also be an open mic if time permits
    - Paula Marble will be sending out information with her weekly e-mail
- OCDSB e-mail list through Paula Marble
  - Each school has received an e-mail requesting chair, vice chair, secretary, etc. for Paula to add to mailing list
  - Give Paula your e-mail if you want to be added to the e-mail list



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- “Free food days” – answer to “is it 10 days or 10 events?” – the answer is 10 days, so can be multiple events in one day
  - Woodroffe – does it apply to school day or after school events also?
    - Response – if it is a school or school council event it falls into this regulation; location and timing away from school or school day do not make it acceptable
  - Metcalfe – if it is sold not for consumption on school property or during event it does not fall into regulations
  - Lakeview – school council uses interpretation that if parents are there with students and making the decision the regulations does not apply
- People for Education Conference – November 5 and 6 at York University in Toronto
  - Google [peopleforeducation.com](http://peopleforeducation.com) for information about the conference
  - A few OCASC executive members are going and will bring back information to OCASC from it
- E-learning website - [www.resources.elearningontario.ca](http://www.resources.elearningontario.ca)
  - contains over 25,000 electronic resources for parents and students
  - username and password for OCDSB students is needed to access it.
  - [elo@ontario.ca](mailto:elo@ontario.ca) can answer your questions
  - This is a Ministry of Education website
- School Council updates need to go to Paula by October 24
- Insurance applications need to be in by October 28
  - North Gower - Looking for clarity on the extra insurance- when do we need it?
    - Response – Paula – the extra insurance is not required
    - If it is a school activity and there is staff representation and it is school sanctioned, then no extra insurance is required
    - If school council organizes something that has no affiliation with school – no staff, no supervision by staff, then it is not covered by OCDSB insurance
    - If school council wants to do things beyond what is sanctioned by the principal, then they will not be covered by OCDSB insurance
    - The supervisory officer can be a “representative of the principal”
  - Alta Vista – ski club run by parents – no teachers or school officials, so school council has extra insurance
  - There are other people on OCDSB with expertise on insurance if people are looking for more information
- Next OCASC meeting is November 17, at Fisher Park
  - Committee representatives will be chosen at the November meeting
    - It is good to have an alternate for each committee as well
  - Committees on which OCASC has a representative include: Education, Special Education Advisory, Human Resources, Calendar, Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity (CCEE), Business Services, Arts Advisory, PIC, Trades and Technology

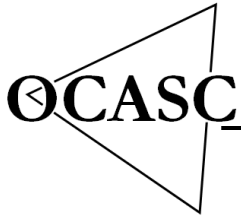
## **From Your Executive**

### PIC – Anne Teutsch

- Had a meeting on October 6
- Progress towards finalizing new bylaws; next meeting is November 3
- All PIC meeting are open to the public

### SEAC – Beth Doubt

- Consultation session on revisions to Special Education Policy
  - 20 people at daytime session, 40 people at evening session



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- The discussions were captured for a blog, for people to access
- Comments still welcome, but only until tomorrow (Oct 21)
- <http://policyonspecialeducation.wordpress.com> - parents are welcome to post to this site with comments
- parents welcome to send e-mail with comments to ocdsb.ca => special education policy review => link to e-mail input

## Human Resources Committee – Ellen Dickson

- Meeting was cancelled

## Advisory Committee on the Arts – Nadine Clarke

- Will visit school councils with presentations if anyone is interested
- Contact [Judy.kirsh@sympatico.ca](mailto:Judy.kirsh@sympatico.ca)
- OCDSB is only school board in Ontario that has two arts instructional coaches
- October 25 – Arts Recognition Awards prior to Board meeting

## **Next OCASC Meeting:**

- Thursday November 17, 7:00 – 9:00, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland
- Secondary Schools – Thursday, November 10, 7:30 to 9:30, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue

**Adjournment:** 9:05 p.m.