

OTTAWA-CARLETON ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Fisher Park PS Library

ATTENDANCE:

Member schools

Adrienne Clarkson ES – Sanjiva
Sondagar, Carrie Eaton
Berrigan ES – Susan Klimchuk
Bridlewood Community ES – Lynn
Paterson
Canterbury HS and SSC* – Nadine
Clarke
Castlefrank ES – Brona Little
Castor Valley ES – Heather Wilson
Elgin Street PS – John Higgins
Fallingbrook Comm. ES – Peter
Kokkovas
First Avenue PS – Kristen Underwood

Total Membership: 75

Glebe CI – Lillian Thomsen
Glen Ogilvie PS – Christina McNiven
Hilson Avenue PS – Bobby Chawla
Manordale PS – Cathy Babyak
Manotick PS – Michaela Stuart
Merivale HS – Anne Teutsch
Rideau HS – Chris Ellis
Robert Bateman PS – Leona King
Rockcliffe Park PS – Joel Berger
Sawmill Creek ES – Gennifer Stainforth
Sir Winston Churchill PS – Karen
Desjardins
South March PS – Chris Bridgen

Guests and other persons in attendance:

Beth Doubt (SEAC), Juliet Hamilton (OCASC Recording Secretary), Paula Hall (OCDSB), Loren Klimchuk, Karen Uvanile
(* SSC = OCASC Secondary Schools Committee)

CALL TO ORDER: 8:30 p.m. (following monthly meeting), Anne Teutsch in the chair.

With 75 members, quorum required 25 school representatives in attendance, and there were only 20. Decided to present reports and declare any positions filled by acclamation, but elections for any contested seats will have to wait until September. Questioned on the validity of proceeding with acclamations, the chair of the nominating committee had checked the constitution and deemed it was allowable. Further elaboration below.

AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2010 Annual General Meeting
Annual Reports
Treasurer
Membership
Chair
Election of Officers for 2011/2012

- **MINUTES** of 2010 AGM – No changes required.

TREASURER'S REPORT – John Higgins (interim treasurer)

- Took over partway through the year from Daniel Oickle.

- Balance at beginning of year: \$23,758.81 (received large PRO grant last year of \$17,600)
- Revenue this year:
 - Membership dues: \$2310
 - PRO grant: \$4400
- Expenses this year:
 - Meetings (food, photocopying, incidentals): \$556
 - PRO grant project: \$19,729
- Present balance of \$12,984.
- Have \$5153.69 of large PRO grant still to spend.
 - Anne – Have reported back on how money was spent. Extra is earmarked for a workshop.
- OCASC has a GIC which was worth \$3812.91 as of March 2011.
- Generating a small surplus – excluding PRO grants, started with \$6077.91 and now have \$7831.01.
- Please remember to get prior approval for any expenditures for OCASC.
- Rideau HS – When treasurer several years ago, investigated charitable act, and when a non-profit group reaches \$10,000 in assets some reporting issues come into play for Revenue Canada.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Babyak

- At present have 75 members.
- 50% of high schools are OCASC members.
- Attendance was high in the fall but has been dropping in 2011.
- Of the 12 zones, 7 have increased membership from two years ago but decreased since last year. Zones 5 and 6 have increased membership each of the last 3 years. Zones 2, 4 and 10 have decreased membership from two years ago.
- Sir Winston Churchill PS – Did you account for school closures and council amalgamations when looking at how numbers changed? A: No.
- Sawmill Creek ES – Are there schools that register and pay but never come? A: Yes. Can pose quorum issue.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Anne Teutsch

- Have been OCASC Chair for three years. Experience has been rewarding and enriching.
- Term started with visioning process through which current statement of purpose was established: “The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an organization for school councils and parents to share information and facilitate communication within the communities of the OCDSB in order to enhance the education of all its students. OCASC represents its membership to the OCDSB, government and the wider community.”
- Short version of OCASC's purpose statement:
 - Sharing information
 - Facilitating communication
 - Representing our membership

- Constitution limits Chair position to three consecutive terms, therefore must step down.
- Present process to redefine Parent Involvement Committee next major change. OCASC has had special role as voice for school councils and parents. A strong positive collaboration between OCASC and PIC will be win-win-win situation for OCASC, parents, and the school board.
- Very glad to have learned about Appreciative Inquiry, a strengths-based method of examining the positive aspects of a situation or organization and looking for possibilities, instead of focusing on the negatives. In October OCASC hosted an Appreciative Inquiry event called Building Relationships – Imagine the Possibilities, attended by 40 parents, teachers, superintendents, principals, vice principals and community members. It was a successful morning of conversation, sharing of ideas, and building connections.
- Very proud of our ability to work collaboratively with the OCDSB, and to model a positive approach for parents and school councils. Visioning led to the focus on Communication, Consultation and Collaboration. Important for OCASC to work with the OCDSB. As parents we want the best education for our children. As educators, OCDSB staff wants the best education for their students. As trustees, the Board wants the best education it can offer its constituents. All want the same thing. Good collaboration involves good communication, strong listening skills, respect, empathy, and trust.
- As OCASC and PIC move forward it is important to continue to build relationships with the OCDSB, both staff and trustees. Not necessary to always agree – best plans and decisions come from rich discussion with opposing views and varied opinions, carried out with respect and listening and open-mindedness.
- Hope new OCASC executive will continue to receive the same support and encouragement from the OCASC membership, and that we'll all continue to work together to build the best education we can for our children.
- Anne then showed a short slide-show created for the Building Relationships – Imagine the Possibilities event.
- Thanked outgoing Recording Secretary for continuing to do the OCASC minutes several years after her children had graduated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2011/2012 – Chris Bridgen (Chair, Nominating Committee)

- Thanks to the executive for 2010/2011, and to Anne for her service as Chair for last three years.
- Other members of nominating committee were Carrie Eaton and Bobby Chawla.
- Initial slate of nominees was presented, and nominations from the floor were accepted. Susan Klimchuk indicated she had intended to run for Vice Chair but missed the deadline, so was putting her name forward now. All parties knew this would occur. Bobby Chawla requested his name be added to the list of Liaison Officers.
- Slate of nominees:
 - Chair – Carrie Eaton (Adrienne Clarkson ES)
 - Vice Chair – Lillian Thomsen (Glebe CI), Susan Klimchuk (Berrigan ES)

- Treasurer – John Higgins (Elgin Street PS)
- Communications – Chris Bridgen (South March PS)
- Recording Secretary – Anne Teutsch (Merivale HS)
- Membership Secretary – Cathy Babyak (Manordale PS)
- Liaison Officers –
 - Enang Akan (Stephen Leacock PS)
 - Gennifer Stainforth (Sawmill Creek ES)
 - Gabe Thirlwall (Lady Evelyn Alt PS)
 - Brona Little (Castlefrank ES)
 - Joel Berger (Rockcliffe Park PS)
 - Chris Ellis (Rideau HS)
 - Bobby Chawla (Hilson Avenue PS)
- Two points of clarification:
 - No limit on the number of Liaison Officers.
 - Constitution only talks about voting for a position. There is no mention of acclaiming a position.
- All present agreed that those positions to be acclaimed could be accepted. Only the position of Vice Chair will have to wait until the fall to be voted on.
- Slate of all positions except Vice Chair was accepted. Suggestion by Rideau HS that entire slate be voted on and confirmed when quorum is achieved. Since Treasurer's Report is usually accepted by vote, that should be presented for approval as well. New executive will decide when to close out AGM.

Annual General Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Past minutes and more information about OCASC can be found at www.ocasc.ca.