

OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: March 22, 2012
Location: Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue, Library
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attendance:

| | |
|--|--|
| Carrie Eaton - Adrienne Clarkson ES | Carm Janneteau – Manotick PS |
| Marti Falcone - Adrienne Clarkson ES | Bonnie Milne – Meadowlands PS |
| Sarah-Lynn MacDonald - Agincourt Road PS | Anne Teutsch - Merivale HS |
| Angelina Munaretto - Broadview PS | Mark Rollins – Nepean HS |
| Ellen Lamarre – Canterbury HS | Aaron Daley - North Gower-Marlborough PS |
| Brona Little - Castlefrank ES | Simone Kortstee - Pleasant Park PS |
| Romaine Derhak - Clifford Bowey PS | Chris Ellis – Rideau HS |
| Craig Tiberi - Dunlop PS | David Benes – Riverview AS |
| Donna Williams – Earl of March SS | Joel Berger - Rockcliffe Park PS |
| John Higgins - Elgin Street PS | Chris Bridgen - South March PS |
| Megan Richardson - Elmdale PS | Donna Williams – Stephen Leacock |
| Peter Kokkovas - Fallingbrook Community ES | Jared Langdon - Steve MacLean PS |
| Chari Marple - First Avenue Public School | Jen Muise – Stonecrest ES |
| Elizabeth McCudden – Forest Valley ES | Beth Doubt - Woodroffe PS |
| Lillian Thomsen – Glebe CI | Beth Doubt - SEAC Alt |
| Paul Warner – Glen Cairne PS | Nadine Clarke – Secondary School Committee |
| Louise Crawford - Hawthorne PS | Paula Marble - OCDSB |
| Nicola Hemstock - John McCrae SS | Peter Gamwell – OCDSB |
| Susanne Bowen - John Young ES | Melanie Buchanan - OCDSB |
| Dwight Thompson - Longfields-Davidson Heights SS | |
| Cathy Babyak - Manordale PS | |

Total Attendance = 39

Acronyms used in notes:

- OCASC = Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils
- SSC = OCASC secondary Schools Committee
- OCDSB = Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- CCEE = Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity
- SEAC = Special Education Advisory Committee
- PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
- IPRC = Individual Placement and Review Committee
- CHEO = Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- WELL – Wellness, Engagement, Leadership, Learning

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

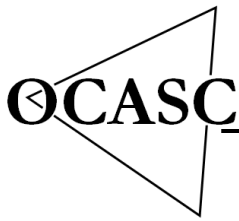
Approval of Agenda

- No changes, approved as is

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes approved as is

Chalk It Up:



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Chari, First Avenue PS – Charitable Activities

- Contact Info – shmarple@sympatico.ca
- Looking for other schools that have philanthropic activities – what do you do with the money?
- Responses:
 - Broadview – some fundraising for other schools - goes through Education Foundation
 - Rockcliffe Park – some goes to book grants for schools that need help – list is provided by school board
 - Hawthorne – Social Action Committee run by students – international causes such as digging a well
 - Adrienne Clarkson – Holiday Bazaar – new and used items donated to be purchased by students
 - Money from it is donated to different charities
 - Stonecrest – similar to Adrienne Clarkson – project for grade 5 and 6 students research which charities to support
 - Castlefrank – clean drinking water for Kenya
 - Rockcliffe – sister school overseas

Aaron, North Gower – Self Esteem Seminar and Workshops

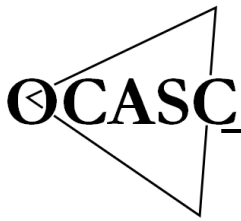
- Looking for seminars or workshops on self esteem for students
- If anyone has information on who can do it, please let us know
- Broadview – CCEE may have some resources
- Pleasant Park – CHEO Connects – has some names
- Stonecrest – West Carleton Community Resource Centre has information

Beth, SEAC – Presentations for Parents of Special Education Students

- Contact Info – beth_doubt@bde.doubt.ca
- IPRC meeting, presented by Lamar Mason, former OCASC Chair and Spec Ed expert
 - Hosted by OCASC
 - Date – Thursday, April 5, Rideau High School, 7:00 to 9:00
 - Worthwhile event for anyone with student in special education
- Right to Learn, the Power to Achieve
 - For parents of children with learning disabilities
 - Organized by the Learning Disabilities Association, Ottawa Chapter
 - More info at LDAOttawa.com
 - April 14, Rideau High School

Chair's Report

- Went to People for Education meeting in Toronto
 - Discussion about Drummond Report – Annie Kidder's comments:
 - Annie Kidder and many others do not like the idea of a cap of 32 credits at high school
 - The author is looking at it from business point of view, not from educational point of view
 - Author did not seem to understand the full extent of special education
 - Question came up of going to one board instead of four to save money
 - In the north, some school boards are sharing space
 - Reminder to everyone to complete the People for Education school council survey
 - Deadline for submission is March 30
- Facebook – new link to submission by OCDSB to Ministry on budget requirements



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- Director's Annual Report has been published – some hard copies available, also available on website
- Show of hands on interest in workshops on running of school councils – a lot of interest
 - Need a sharing of information about what different schools are doing - in written format
 - Need volunteers from the group to do this
 - Open up workshops to all school council members, not just executive members
 - Would do it in June which would be good for people who might want to join a council executive in September

Business Services Committee – Lillian Thomsen

- Strong delegation from Broadview – would like to see the school torn down and rebuilt rather than just patchwork fixes
- Delegation from Viscount Alexander
- Delegation from Riverside South Community Association – need for new secondary school in Riverside South
 - Board is losing market share as students go to Catholic school in the neighbourhood
- Board needs to structure meetings so that items of most public interest are early in the meeting
 - Perhaps OCASC should be pursuing this idea
- Next month – Full Day Kindergarten discussion
- Broadview – watching parents and schools fighting for the funding is not good – need to act together
 - Can OCASC play a role in getting schools working together ?

Full Day Learning Steering Committee - Marti

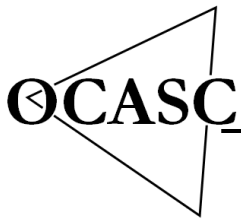
- First meeting was on February 29 – discussion notes:
 - Facilities update discussion
 - Capital expenditures will be required
 - No hard and fast standard for the classrooms
 - Surveys sent home asking parents about need for daycare were due February 29
 - There may have been misunderstandings that would affect people's responses in survey
 - They will re-survey areas where there may have been misunderstandings
 - If it turns out that care through school board is not needed, third party organizations may be permitted to stay
 - Curriculum was discussed and is available on board website
 - There will be tools provided to teachers of junior kindergarten to aid with their intake interviews

Special Education Advisory Committee – Beth Doubt

- Review in place on OCDSB Special Education Policy
- Ad Hoc committee has a report that will be brought to SEAC at the March meeting and possibly April meeting
 - Report is available on OCDSB website
- Report goes from SEAC to Education Committee to Board – likely May by the time it gets to Board
- There is no designated way to give feedback at this point, but that will be addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee at their next meeting

OCDSB Budget Questions

- We want people to talk about these questions at their schools
- Notes from discussion will be submitted on behalf of OCASC
- Fallingbrook – questions are strategic, so thought should go into response, deadline is March 31, so not much time left



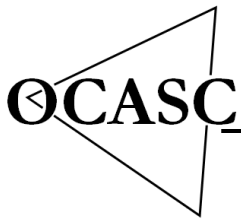
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- Broadview – who can give feedback? – just OCASC?
 - A – anyone and everyone
- Steve MacLean - Need to share between boards – transportation and others
- Fallingbrook – of W.E.L.L., learning required the most investment – learning is what is happening every day
 - If you are going to focus on education, then learning is the focus
- Steve MacLean – if learning is basic – why does it need the money ?
- Hawthorne – wellbeing – would include facilities – so important; leadership – eg. engaging province to get more funding – learning may be key, but don't want the other ones to stall
- Stonecrest – wait for testing for special education is too long – takes time away from all kids because child doesn't have support, so teachers need to spend more time with that individual
- Rockcliffe Park – short term savings in exchange for long term greater expenses
- Canterbury – when faced with financial restrictions, then learning is necessary, others are desirables and so learning takes priority
- Broadview – need to do a better job lobbying as a group of parents
- Questions will be put on Facebook – please send in a response

Presentation – Creative Initiatives – Peter Gamwell and Melanie Buchanan

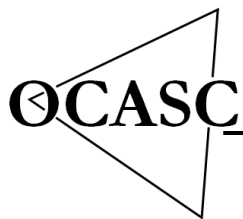
- Seven years ago OCDSB conducted a study – what is people's understanding of leadership?
 - Custodian spoke up and indicated that he was not part of the leadership team
 - Leadership versus learning – they are inseparable
 - Brought forward idea of informal leadership rather than formal leadership
 - What did people see in informal leaders? –
 - answer: soft skills
 - Published report with results of study – acknowledged problems in the organization – eg. people who felt alienated
 - Health = delicate balance of all the sub-systems within the system
- Concept of mind-set
 - Children fall into 2 categories
 - those who don't deal well with problems – a fixed mindset
 - those who deal with problems well – with a growth mindset – can do anything, go anywhere
- We need to challenge ourselves in society generally but especially in education
 - Need to switch from deficit model to a strength based model of thinking
 - Budget processes are deficit thinking – what can we afford to cut?
 - Strength based question is: What is the magical outcome we want for our organization, for education for our family? How are we going to get there?
- Approach to special education
 - Should be looking at the future we want for a child rather than deficits of the child
 - Every person has gifts and capacities – in education we need to recognize these talents and value them
- The Progress Principle by Theresa Amabilia
 - Had people complete daily journal at work
 - Results – the small stuff matters!
 - We need to have strategies to bring in a more positive approach
- Education is based on a model of the mind that is over 100 years old
 - We need to prepare our children for their futures, not our past



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- Research examples
 - Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi – positive psychology – concept of flow – fits you so well you don't see time passing
- Intelligence is multi faceted, has many parts
- We know more about motivations – should be providing autonomy, rather than stifling them
 - With autonomy comes personal responsibility
- OCDSB has come a long way and is recognized for its creativity and leadership initiatives
- OCDSB currently has an action research project ongoing
 - The question: What are the conditions under which healthy and creative individuals and organizations flourish?
 - Have recently put out a call for creative initiative examples
 - Have gone beyond OCDSB to organizations outside the board – police, hospitals, etc.
- Flow occurs with everyone – different things for different people, changes throughout people's lives
 - More likely to occur when two or more people get together – imperative in education
 - When you walk into a classroom sometimes, it is there – the conditions have been set by the adults in the classroom
 - Works in departments when managers work with it
 - Associate it with personal contentment, happiness and wellbeing
 - Need to set conditions under which learning can happen
- We educate children out of their creativity; all children arrive at school with creativity
- Design company - Playful building, playful exploration, and role play
- Need to trust people around us
- How are we going to re-imagine the future – need to stop thinking about intelligence as a hierarchical model – need to flip the equation – everyone has creativity, imagination, capacities
- Need an inquiry based approach to learning
- Have the opportunity to brand ourselves as the organization of creativity and imagination
- Need to make the future hopeful and optimistic for our children
- Carl Sagan - the pathway to the future lies through the corpus colossus – the connection between the two hemispheres of the brain
- We need to get kids and learners to vary the way they look at things
 - Playful exploration, role playing, playful building
 - In the OCDSB we need to vary the way we look at things
 - Will produce more questions than answers
- Question and answer session:
 - Q – Steve MacLean – what should our board be doing differently?
 - A – eg. bring in ideas that people are using and let others see them and take them back to their places
 - Connection between creativity and critical learning
 - Clifford Bowie – have developed methods for non-verbal children to get their message across
 - Woodroffe PS – telling what you are doing allows others to take it back and replicate or adapt it for their circumstances
- Looking for feedback from parents on creativity – complete form handed out or go online to give input
- Need to help our children be able to solve problems
- Mental health is a huge issue – if we don't have wellbeing then we don't have learning
- Survey on creative initiatives – need feedback from parents



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Next OCASC Meeting:

- Thursday April 19, 7:00 – 9:00, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland
- Secondary Schools – Thursday, April 12, 7:30 to 9:30, Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue

Adjournment: 9:13 p.m.