



OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: October 17, 2013
Location: Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue, Library
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Member School (Total schools = 53)

A Y Jackson SS-April Boomer (Secretary)	Lisgar CI-Rong Sun (SSC Chair)
Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES)-Carrie Eaton (Past-Chair), Marti Falcone (Co-Chair, PIC, SEAC)	Longfields-Davidson Heights SS-Susan Klimchuk
Berrigan ES-Susan Klimchuk (Co-Chair)	Manordale PS-Cathy Babyak (Membership)
Briargreen PS-Jennifer Melnikoff, JP Larochette	Manotick PS-Sheri Edwards
Bridlewood Community ES-Susanne Bowen	Maple Ridge ES-Cynthia Allen
Broadview PS-Bobby Chawla (Liaison Officer)	Mary Honeywell ES-Elizabeth Conabree
Canterbury HS-Alison Shaker	Meadowlands PS-Lorna Moharam
Castlefrank ES-Sara Fitzgerald	Mutchmor PS-Milana Karaganis
Castor Valley ES-Lesley Chen	Nepean HS-Mark Rollins
Cedarview MS-Ellen Dickson (Treasurer)	North Gower-Marlborough PS-Aaron Daley
D Roy Kennedy-Kathy Laffin, Helen Quaresma	Pleasant Park PS-Cecilia Lee
Dunlop PS-Craig Tiberi	Queen Mary PS-Chris Ellis
Elmdale PS-Megan Richardson	Rideau HS-Chris Ellis (Past Treasurer)
Fallingbrook Community ES-Bev and Dan Naylor	Riverview AS-Amelia Usher
Farley Mowat PS-Mostafizur Khan	Roberta Bondar PS-Kelly Dubinsky
First Avenue Public School-Gerry Nera	Roch Carrier ES-Shannon Walker, Kim Lockhart
Glebe CI-Carol Malatesta	Rockcliffe Park PS-Corrina Arsenault
Glen Ogilvie PS-Joel MacKinnon	South Carleton HS-Sue Carswell
Hawthorne PS-Louise Crawford	South March PS-Chris Bridgen (Communications)
Hilson Avenue PS-Barbara Bekooy	Stephen Leacock PS-Donna Garnons-Williams
Huntley Centennial PS-Mark Tymowski	Steve MacLean PS-Thayumanavan (Raja)
John McCrae SS-Nicola Hemstock	Rasapillai
John Young ES-Mike Hickey	Stittsville PS-Coreen Tyers
Kars on the Rideau-Adam Checketts	Stonecrest ES-Jen Muise
Katimavik ES-Teri MacDonald	Trillium ES-JP Grimes
Lady Evelyn Alt PS-Kim Petersen	Westwind PS-Carolyn James
	WO Mitchell ES-Simon Akinsulie
	Woodroffe PS-Tara Finlay, Donna Campbell

Non-member Schools (6)

Alta Vista PS - Adair Crosby	Hopewell Avenue PS- Karen Goodrich
Earl of March SS- Donna Garnons-Williams	Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS- Cathryn Pelosa
Forest Valley ES - Danielle Samuel	Sir Winston Churchill PS- Ayn MacDonald

Guests (3)

Paula Marble (OCDSB Policy Analyst), John Shea (School Trustee Zone 8 Orleans Cumberland), Jennifer Laale for Be Your Best-Improve with Improv Workshops

1. **Meeting called to order:** 7:10 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Adrienne Clarkson. All Approved.



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3. **Approval of Minutes:** Attendees take a few moments to go over the minutes from the September meeting.

Change to the Chalk It Up, Page 3, 1st paragraph, 4th line for Pleasant Park P.S. - Request to strike sentence "In addition, Principal prepares newsletter every 2 months which is forward looking and comprehensive". Not been decided yet.

Approval of minutes as amended - All approved.

4. **Election of Vice Chair** - Past Chair (Carrie Eaton) stepped in to handle the following:

Susan Klimchuk has accepted a position with the OCDSB and at the last meeting there was a request by South Carleton that we take it back to our school councils and see if there were any objections with Susan continuing as Chair of OCASC as a sole Chair, OR having Co/Vice Chairs, OR if she should step down as Chair of OCASC. OCASC Member Schools returned this meeting and a couple have thought it was a good idea to have Co/Vice Chairs for any issues that could arise that could be a conflict of interest scenario, at which point that Co or Vice Chair would be the decision maker. Susan indicated that she would not be running again next year for Chair of OCASC. Marti Falcone had stepped forward to be Co-Chair and all were in favour.

5. **Election of Treasurer**

Ellen Dickson put her name forward to stand as Treasurer. All in favour. None opposed.

6. **Chalk It Up**

1. Stonecrest: Milk program. Asking if anyone has any experiences with using the school as the milk program provider as opposed to the school council; school councils pay tax but if purchased by the school itself there is no tax charged.
 - a. Mary Honeywell: approach their Principal and request the school purchase the milk.
2. Mary Honeywell: Approached by several parents about paying for lunches, tickets, etc. through email bank transfers (EFT's, EMT's) instead of sending cash or cheques and was wondering about using a third-party payment processor such as Shopify.
 - a. Stittsville uses hotlunches.net. You pay per transaction/transfer which is .30/transaction + 1.5% of the amount.
 - b. Broadview says that although he doesn't know if his school uses email transfers, he knows a lot of people who use them for regular purchases and finds it to be a regular occurrence.
 - c. Paula, The Policy Analyst for the OCDSB will let Susan know of the Boards policy (if any) on Email Bank Transfers for such programs and the security aspects.
 - d. Trillium rep is in the IT Security field and says all info is very secure on hotlunches.ca.



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3. Adrienne Clarkson E.S.: School Council Meetings. Are they every month or does anyone do them every second month?
 - a. AJ Jackson does them every 2nd month.
 - b. Woodroffe does every 2nd month “meetings” and the other months they have speakers come in.
 - c. D. Roy Kennedy doesn’t have it every month if there are special occasions (like December).
 - d. The Ministry regulations are that meetings are only “required” to be held 4 times per year.

4. Castor Valley: Tech Systems. Castor Valley would like to update their technology systems and would like to know what everyone else is presently using; i.e. Laptops, iPads, desktops, SMART boards, projectors, etc. How many each school has possibly? Any further comments after suggestions can be emailed to leslie.chen@yahoo.ca
 - a. North Gower: School council has started an iPad project over the last 2 years. They have a class set and are aiming to have a set for every class that will stay in every class. That includes all the accessories. Teachers didn’t want SMART boards so they went with iPads. As for updating, N. Gower did a lifecycle analysis and there is money put aside for updating and replacing when required.
 - b. Stonecrest: Discussed iPads and decided against it as the technology goes out of date so quickly that they opted for projectors for 60 classrooms.
 - c. Nepean: Teachers like the iPads for music, not SMART boards.
 - d. Roberta Bondar: Have projectors in every class, computer lab that has 26 end-of-life desktops. They just found out that the Board has given them 2 mobile stations, 12 new desktops in their computer lab as well. In another 2 years they are getting another 12 computers.
 - e. Huntley Centennial: More of their classes have SMART Boards than don’t. Teachers use them for presentations. Keeps projects paperless.

5. Rockliffe Park P.S.: Locked Door Policy. Principal passed the decision making on the locked front door policy to the parent council as to whether to keep it open or closed and they are wondering what other schools are doing.
 - a. Huntley Centennial: Not possible to maintain locked door at all times.
 - b. Stonecrest: SRO suggested using security pass cards
 - c. Mary Honeywell: Principal made decision to look the front doors.
 - d. John Young ES: Main door is open as it passes directly by the office and all people entering can be seen by the Principal, VP, and office staff. Other doors are locked and require security pass cards to enter.
 - e. Hawthorne: Doors are locked and must use buzzer to get in.
Susan suggested we bring this topic back for further discussion at another meeting.

6. First Avenue PS - Skating Rink would kill soccer field grass? They are now being told they cannot have the risk on top of the soccer field grass due to drainage.
 - a. Alta Vista: Their drainage is fine and has no issues.
 - b. Mary Honeywell: No grass issues.



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- c. Katimavik: No grass issues.
 - d. Adrienne Clarkson: No issues.
7. Castlefrank P.S. - Setting up effective Kiss and Ride areas. Parking lot and round-about are closed to parking. How to handle?
- a. Roberta Bondar - Contact Transportation. They can investigate and help.
 - b. Woodroffe: Contact the Safe Walk organization.
 - c. Winston: Similar problem.
8. Woodroffe Avenue P.S. - Homework Policy. How much is too much homework? Woodroffe has very high volumes of homework. What are the Ministry guidelines?
- a. Alta Vista: 10 minutes per grade
 - b. Cedarview: 10 minutes/grade. Teachers need to communicate with each other to better coordinate homework assigned.
 - c. Huntley Centennial: Reading homework and math homework. Have to read 30 minutes per night.
 - d. Berrigan: If it is cutting in to family time, dinnertime, or sleep, tell the teachers.
9. Antbullying Programs - Best Practices. How to get parents involved? Talk it out, ignore, Tell someone.
- a. Roch Carrier: Lots of resources (Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre) in Kanata. That was the focus last year.
 - b. South March: Started program last year.
- Susan: **Our main presentation this evening has a bullying prevention aspect.
10. WO Mitchell - Cardboard Challenge: The students got to create cool things from cardboard like arcades, etc. K-8 school and the kids got to go around and play with everyone's creation. This was an initiative by VP Tracey Star. For more information email: simonmha@hotmail.com
11. Broadview - Science Activities? More money needed to be funded. Any ideas of Science activities for the elementary school?
- a) Adrienne Clarkson: Every year funds Scientists in the School which is a wonderful program. JK to Grade 6
12. Farley Mowat - 2 Guest Speakers of Interest
- a. Dr. M. Small - Helping Children Succeed in Math
 - b. Parent workshop on Children and Youth's Mental Health with guest speaker Michael Baine. For more information contact their School Council Chair at fmps.schoolcouncil@gmail.com.

7. Chris Bridgen - Welcome to OCASC - How to reach OCASC



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Website: www.ocasc.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ocasc
Twitter: @OCASC_ca

8. From Your Trustee - John Shea, Orleans Cumberland (Zone 8)

Transportation for Secondary School Bussing in the UTA

- a) In 1998 the OCDSB eliminated funding for transportation for all students residing in the Urban Transit Area, incl. if you live within 1km of an OC Transpo bus stop.
- b) All Catholic Board students still receive funding for transportation.
- c) Anyone in a rural area gets bussing and those levels have not changed.
- d) The Ministry of Education has now said we can qualify for more funding due to favourable efficiency audit.
- e) John and his colleague Katie Holtzhauer of Beacon Hill/Cyrville (Zone 12) put forward a motion that would see Secondary Transportation restored.
- f) The final vote is October 22 and if passes would mean that all secondary school students that reside 3.2 km away or more from school will be granted transportation at public expense starting in September 2014
- g) The transportation policy will mirror that of the Catholic Board.
- h) The decision as to providing OC Transpo bus passes or having the yellow school busses will depend on school needs / critical mass and will have to be determined.
 - Cedarview: Cross Boundaries allowed? J. Shea - Not immediately but will be explored.
 - Lisgar: Sufficient space for yellow school busses? J. Shea - Depends on the decision on investigation of critical mass numbers whether or not schools will have OC Transpo bus passes or yellow school busses.
 - Rideau: Will the OCDSB and the Catholic Board be sharing busses? J. Shea - bell ring times may be adjusted eventually. Some areas are sharing now but not all areas.
 - Lisgar: Costing model - are there any other transportation options? Yellow school busses are less costly than OC Transpo.
 - John Young ES – How soon will we know if this has passed? J. Shea – Tuesday night as soon as the vote has passed. (October 22, 2013).
- i) OC Transpo bus passes are only provided now by the OCDSB if a family applies under financial hardship.
- j) There will be a cost of \$4.2 million/year but after another audit by the Ministry of Education the cost should come to \$0.

9. Jennifer Laale - Be Your Best - Improve With Improv Workshops

- Jennifer Laale is a speaker, motivator, and coach teaching students and adults for the last 18 years and teaches how to improve their lives and defeat bullying with improv seminars.



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- Jennifer performed several OCASC group interactive mini-workshops that were exciting and well received by our members.
- Jennifer goes into schools to teach the workshops from grades 1 - 12. High schoolers focus on leadership qualities. Career skill building.
- Improv improves confidence.
- OCASC group does Personal Ah-Ha Moments Workshop.
- Jennifer said she read an article that Google, Groupon, and other big companies look for Improv on your resumes now because it shows the candidates are strong team players.
- Letting Go of Fear Workshop
- Make Your Partner Look Good. Make it your personal Mantra - "I make everyone I come into contact with look and feel good!"
- Jennifer Laale provided hand-outs to take back to our schools.
- One workshop is \$250. Booking more reduces cost (3 workshops in a day in \$225 and up to 5 is \$200 per workshop). 1 hour up to 2+ hours. 30-50 kids at a time preferred.

10. From Your Executive

- Rong Sun - Ministry Initiatives:
 - The Ministry of Education conducted a meeting to get opinions and direction as to how to shape the next phase of education in Ontario.
 - Rong Sun represented OCASC during that consultation meeting on Tuesday October 15, 2013.
 - The Minister of Education and 2 Deputy Ministers were there to listen to people's input on a set of questions. Great discussions and the general consensus was that all students need to be resilient and need systematic support.
 - Pretty vocal voices from the aboriginal community.
 - Need more student driven technology.
 - Online public survey available until Nov. 15 at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/survey.html>
 - Results will be published in 2014 once compiled.
- Marti Falcone - PIC:
 - Discussed the Ontario Education Strategy
 - Had a general debrief about School Councils Day which was held on October 5, 2013.
 - Marti will not be running to continue on PIC so there is an opening for anyone who wants to submit their name.
 - OCASC has 2 representatives at PIC
 - Sits once a month
- Marti Falcone - SEAC:
 - Presentations by people under the dept head of Jill Bennett, Superintendent of Support Services.
 - Left a stack of IEP Parent information Sheets at the back for anyone who wants to



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know what an IEP is or how to go about being assessed for one for your student. Also available on the website.

- Also not running for SEAC again so there is a SEAC opening.
- Susan Klimchuk - Chair's Report:
 - P4E will be coming up again. We have 4 people going. Carrie, Chris, Bobby, and Susan. Ellen also attending individually as she does every year. Will report back at November's meeting about P4E.
 - Committee Reps: Elections or Nominations or Ratifications happens in November. We follow the Board calendar schedule when they do their reorganization. Theirs is in December so when we do ours it is expected you would start on your new committee in December.
 - Committee of the Whole: not open to the general assembly. Represented by Marti or Susan, as it is always the Chairs the represent OCASC at the Committee of the Whole.
 - Calendar Committee: a good introduction to committee. Works with unions and other groups to set the school year calendar. Meets a few times a year.
 - PIC: OCASC has 2 spots on PIC. Mandated by the Ministry that every Board must have a PIC.
 - SEAC: OCASC has 1 position available. A very formal committee. Mandated by the Ministry that every Board must have a SEAC.
 - ACE: Advisory Committee on Equity
 - Trades and Technology Committee (tends to be a daytime meeting).
 - Arts Advisory Committee
 - Alternative Schools Advisory Committee
 - Committee of the Whole - Budget has OCASC representation. Good to have 2 people for that one as it is a huge load of meetings and information.
 - Membership fees for OCASC are \$35. They are due in November but we will accept them throughout the year. Cash or Cheque.

Adjournment: 9:10pm

Acronyms used

ACE = Advisory Committee on Equity
IEP = Individual Education Plan
P4E = People For Education
PIC = Parent Involvement Committee
SEAC = Special Education Advisory Committee
SRO = School Resource Officer