



OCASC Assembly Meeting Minutes

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership

Date: February 20, 2014
Location: Fisher Park School, 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Total Attendance: (49)

Member Schools (Total schools in attendance 35/64 =55%, 36 school reps)

Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES)-Marti Falcone (Co-Chair)	Hopewell Avenue PS-Karen Goodrich
Barrhaven PS - Amy Lajoie	Huntley Centennial PS-Mark Tymowski
Berrigan ES-Susan Klimchuk (Co-Chair)	Jockvale ES-Cindy Frazer
Briargreen PS-JP (Jean Paul) Larochette	John McCrae SS-Nicola Hemstock
Bridlewood Community ES-Susanne Bowen	John Young ES-Mike Hickey
Broadview PS-Bobby Chawla (Liaison Officer)	Kars on the Rideau-Adam Checketts
Canterbury HS-Alison Shaker	Katimavik ES-Teri MacDonald
Castlefrank ES-Sara Fitzgerald	Lakeview PS-Tracy Neufeld (Liaison Officer - Secretary)
Cedarview MS-Ellen Dickson (Treasurer)	Lisgar CI-Rong Sun (SSC Chair)
Elmdale PS-Megan Richardson	Longfields-Davidson Heights SS-Susan Klimchuk
Farley Mowat PS-Mostafizur Khan	Manordale PS-Cathy Babyak (Membership)
First Avenue Public School-Gerry Nera	Mutchmor PS-Milana Karaganis
Forest Valley ES-Elisabeth McCudden	Roberta Bondar PS-Kelly Dubinsky
Glen Cairn PS-Paul Warner	Roch Carrier ES-Shannon Walker, Kim Lockhart
Glen Ogilvie PS-Joel MacKinnon	Rockcliffe Park PS-Corrina Arsenault
Greenbank MS-Janet Cameron	Westwind-Carolyn James
Hawthorne PS-Louise Crawford	Woodroffe PS-Danna Campbell
Hilson Avenue PS-Barbara Bekooy	

Non-Member Schools (4)

Alta Vista PS-Adair Crosby
Carleton Heights PS-Stephanie Littlejohn
Knoxdale PS-Geoff Pearce
Stittsville PS-Coreen Tyers

Guests (9)

Vicky Kyriaco, OSTA	Karen Jordan (Elmdale, Parent)
Paula Marble, OCDSB policy analyst	Kate Teeple (Robert Bateman, Parent)
Anthony Joseph, Algonquin College	Jennifer Small (Hopewell, Parent)
Joanne Kim (Devonshire, Parent)	Geri Moss-Norbury (Elmdale, Parent)

Meeting called to order: 7:01pm

Marti Falcone welcomed all those in attendance.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 23, 2014 were approved with the following amendment:

- Under item 4.a.) correct the email address for First Avenue PS to Gerry.Nera@cta-otc.gc.ca



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3. Chalk it Up

- a) **Rockcliffe Park - Grade 6 graduation trip – what are activities and how they are funded?; contact corrina.arsenault@gmail.com**

Greenbank - annual day trip; school principal contributes amount from school budget and school council contributes an amount to cover costs

Longfields-Davidson Heights – annual day trip to Montreal; children fundraise to off-set costs; families contribute about \$50 per child

Elmdale – annual school trip

- b) **Farley Mowat – Requesting suggestions on which food service companies work well for on-line lunch ordering contact fmps.schoolcouncil@gmail.com**

Bridlewood - Lunchlady

Greenbank - Mummy's Yummies and Lunchlady

Katimavik - Mazzola, lunchlady, pita pit

Briargreen - subway, local pizza

Huntley - Mazzola, local pizza, mucho burrito

- c) **Roch Carrier – Requesting ideas for school clubs (extra-curricular); contact rcsc.chair@gmail.com**

Barrhaven – numerous lunchtime clubs; pet club (bring animals in), environmental club, -games club; all teacher driven

Glen Cairn -Maker space (run by 2 retired Nortel engineers – 3D printing, robotics), Textiles club (knitting, sewing)

First Avenue -philanthropy club run by teachers and a few parents -get seed money from council

John Young -Lego robotics club; groups of 4-6 kids

Knoxdale parent -rainbow loom club

Huntley-gardening club, reading club, arts club

Elmdale-eco club; trip /organic farming

Rockcliffe -dance club

- d) **Canterbury; sharing information on a new program they are supporting www.host-program.org, award which helps a student struggling to stay in high school \$100 – financial struggles preventing them from staying in school.**

- e) **Westwind; Grade 6 leaving ceremonies; what does your school do and how is the cost covered? Contact: msanovskaya@hotmail.com**

Hopewell – this question is discussed often at school; perspective is that leaving ceremony is academic event and so costs come from school budget; have lemonade and cupcakes in the gym. Knoxdale - school council partially funds leaving ceremony (\$10 per student), remaining comes from school budget; have band, lemonade and cupcakes, kids get pizza party and cupcake afterward.

Broadview - grade 7s plan and organize leaving ceremony for the grade 8s; ceremony and dinner after, grade 7s serve the dinner, \$10 a student for attending, school council budgets \$500, parents donate baking ingredients, note that school council can sell items to raise funds at the event.



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John Young - leaving ceremony similar, parents organize.

Longfields-Davidson Heights SS - Luncheon for children only covered by School Council; Cake and drink, teacher-organized.

- e) **Bridlewood- considering website rebuild; looking for good examples to emulate** Contact: Susanne.bowen@icloud.com

Suggestions: Farley Mowat, Alta Vista (new WordPress site created with Pro Grant funds), Broadview, Roberta Bondar (suggest a Facebook page).

It was noted that OCASC web page has a link to individual council websites for reference.

<http://ocasc.ca/school-council-resources/school-council-websites-2/>

- f) **Mutchmor School - school council payment for teachers to accompany students on sporting event trips – current practice?**

Greenbank - \$75 per student request related to volleyball team (uniforms and release time etc.) - was retracted.

Elmdale - Council has chosen to support this in the past.

Bridlewood - Council pays; parents are also asked to provide funds

John Young – Council doesn't directly pay, but has been approached for bussing

General comment that Board discourages use of School Council funds for teacher release time.

- g) **Castlefrank; question re: use of TV in classroom/during class-time and any policies**

Paula – no board level policy -curriculum-based best practices exist; deal with on-site/principal.

4. PRO Grant discussion

Susan Klimchuk provided a review of previous discussions held at the Assembly. OCASC has approximately \$7,000 remaining from a past PRO Grant that is available for use. The OCASC Executive has come up with a number of options for utilizing the funds in order to meet identified needs. Because the funds were received a number of years ago, there is a strong desire to make use of them as soon as possible for the benefit of parental engagement.

Marti and Susan described the following options and opened the topic for discussion to the Assembly.

Ideas/Options:

- Update of OCASC website
- Educational evening for parents with high quality speaker (possibly P4E speaker)
- Joint speaker presentation/event in partnership with Catholic School Board

Website comments:

- Website is a high priority as it is first point of contact/resource for Councils, is highly accessible and has a broad reach.
- Current site infrastructure is good, but content has mushroomed and it's now difficult to find material; site needs content management / clean-up.
- The esthetic of the site is important – use of graphics to ease navigation.



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- Question re: cost of updating/streamlining vs. redesign of new site – don't rule out either option
- Consider ensuring revised site can pull in social media such as Facebook, twitter, video, and other current media.
- Idea re: investigating central online system for e-transfer of funds that Councils could use in fundraising activities – debate about whether such an investment would be in keeping with “parents reaching out” theme of PRO grant.
- Question re investing in a template for school council websites – Paula Marble noted that any new school council websites will be required to adhere to ADOA – legislated by the province and that OCDSB encourages school councils to have a page on the school website.
- A committee of volunteers from the Assembly should look at the site first before the Assembly decides to scrap, fix, or update the site. Ellen Dickson has offered her professional expertise to lead this exercise.

Speaker/workshop event:

- Important to be open and accessible to all parents.
- Topics of interest: resiliency and the brain and anxiety and coping measures in young children.
- “Best Practices” theme could cover multiple topics.
- Idea to consider more of a conference – workshop day with carousels.

The following Motion was presented by Broadview PS and seconded by John Young PS.

“That the OCASC assembly spend the remaining \$7,000 in PRO Grant funds as follows: up to \$3000 to upgrade the OCASC website, up to \$3000 to hold a guest speaker educational event for parents and any remaining funds to be put toward a joint parent event with Catholic School Board”.

The Motion was carried unanimously.

5. Presentation from Vicky Kyriaco, Ottawa Student Transportation Authority

Vicky Kyriaco provided a presentation on bell-time changes and safety and hazards review being led by OSTA (see attached presentation). OSTA is applying best practices in order to effectively use public funds – balancing efficiency needs with needs of school communities.

Highlights of opportunities for improvement shared by Vicky:

- Currently have 3 sets of maps - need one set of maps;
- Some areas haven't had a hazard review in 10 years - things have changed in 10 years;
- Consistency in application of policies and procedures;
- Desire to have a consistent way of establishing hazards across Boards;
- Aligning bell times will allow a reduction in the kilometers that any bus might run;
- Each school community will experience the change differently – difficult to gauge equity of change.
- Promotion of active transportation: School Active Transportation Charter
- OSTA has a safety transportation coordinator who helps schools developing walk-to-school programs; next fall – walking to school bus pilot programs with paid leaders – children can join as the bus passes by; opportunity to reinvest money from bus savings

Questions:



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John Young-What do you know about good practices in parent drop-off/pick-up (kiss and ride vs. honk and yell)?

Response: An engaged parent council can help with communication of messages and adoption of norms— some schools have created tools to help the community communicate to those parents e.g. tickets for kids to give out to illegally parked cars. Another option is to invite bylaw in. For further information, talk to your principal and they will call their zone coordinator at OSTA for guidance.

Carleton Heights - When was bus route data compiled? Carleton Heights is being renovated – students currently at different location so it will be skewed. Also, will multiple schools be on one bus?

Response: Data is current and takes into account anomalies. Usually shared bus means use it multiple times in a row vs combining school groups at the same time.

Cedarview -Barrhaven situation years ago – 4 options presented to two boards; how will voting at school boards work this time?

Response: A good effort has already been made to harmonize across the two boards. Don't foresee problems.

Hopewell – question re communication

Response: Sent a newsletter electronically in February; Sending a subsequent newsletter out – beginning of March – customized for each school with date of consultation; changes proposed.

Alta Vista - Hot topic at council meeting; question 1 – degree to which best interest of kids are being considered 2 – how relevant is parental preference; most communities would prefer an earlier start time. What is mandate – what is objective?

Response: The Ministry expects us to meet the goals of the best practices; part of this is efficiency; is there a savings? School boards will be able to use saved dollars for student learning. Where there are concerns, encourage communities to collect justifiable reasons with feedback and evidence to ensure what you say counts in the decision making process.

Knoxdale –is criminal activity in neighborhoods considered a safety hazard?

Response: No; criminal activity zones are fleeting week to week and can be impacted by work with police etc. – safety hazards don't change over time.

6. Election of Recording Secretary and Communications Officer

Susan and Marti described current vacancies on the OCASC Executive Committee. Mark Tymowski of Huntley PS stepped forward for the Communications Officer Role. Tracy Neufeld, current Liaison Officer and Lakeview PS representative, stepped forward as Recording Secretary. Both nominations were accepted and approved unanimously by the Assembly.

7. Chair's Report

The Chair's Report and From Your Executive items were tabled to the next meeting.

8. Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.