



OCASC April 2017 Meeting Minutes

chair@ocasc.ca www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/ <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 20 April 2017
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (42)
- Total schools represented (36)
- **Member schools attending (30)**

Adrienne Clarkson (ACES): Carrie McConnachie
Agincourt Road PS: Meghan Leitch
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean
Bell HS: Priyantha Wijewelra
Briargreen PS: Donna Owen
Canterbury HS: Nadine Clarke
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Chapman Mills PS: Luc Poirier
Earl of March SS: Donna Williams, Catherine Roberts
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Elizabeth Park PS: Dale Childs (Co-Chair)
Fallingbrook Community ES: Darlene Glover
First Avenue Public School: Dana Somayaji
Glen Cairn PS: Christine Lindsay
Goulbourn MS: Kiera Delgaty
Greenbank MS: Helen Norman (Secretary)
Jockvale ES: Joe Allan

John McCrae SS: Ellen Dickson (Treasurer)
John Young ES: Kim Hope
Katimavik ES: Ian Urbach
Leslie Park PS: Karen Adelberg, Carmen Parsons, Dave Wright
Longfields-Davidson Heights SS: Susan Klimchuk
Manor Park PS: Andrea Genereaux
Manordale PS: Cathy Babyak (Membership)
Mary Honeywell ES: Elizabeth Conabree (Liaison Officer)
Maple Ridge ES: David May
Rockcliffe Park PS-David Mackie
Sir Robert Borden HS: Carmen Parsons
South Carleton HS: Kiera Delgaty
South March PS: Christine Moulaison (Liaison Officer)
Woodroffe PS: Danna Campbell

Non-member Schools attending (3 schools attending; 3 representatives)

Lisgar CI: John Higgins (SSC chair) Woodroffe HS: Karen Walker
Mutchmor PS: Lisa Hamilton

Guests and non-school reps (5)

Michael Carson (OCDSB Chief Financial Officer), Keith Penny (Trustee Zone 8- Orleans Cumberland), Carol Mothersill (Scientist in Classroom), Susan Baker (OCDSB Policy Analyst), Christine Boothby (Zone 2-Kanata, Vice-Chair of the Board)



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1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:01)

Dale called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Glen Cairn; Second: Fallingbrook

Minutes: Broken link in Leslie Park presentation; Approved as amended.

Motion: Rockcliffe; Second: Chapman Mills

3. From your Executive

Dale talked about the AGM and where we are going for next year.

- All of the positions were described
- Emphasized the liaison position – Board meetings, reaching out to schools, etc.

4. Committee Reports

Donna Owen presented SEAC committee report.

<http://ocasc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/SEAC-Report-for-20-April-2017-OCASC-Meeting.pdf>

5. Questions about school council finances

- Mike Carson, OCDSB Chief Financial Officer, thanked council members and in particular OCASC members
- What will happen with school council funds with school that will be closing and councils merging? The funds will follow the children, and schools that are closing will be encouraged to have end-of-school celebration
- Report coming out on Monday

Q: Leslie Park – How many school councils bank through the school office?

A:

- About 30 to 40 schools
- Training for councils
- Benefits for councils and the board

Q: What about extra work for staff?

A:

- Cashless transactions coming in 2018 (schoolcash.net) – starting with 20 (?) schools – formal rollout in May 2017
- Biggest school in Barrhaven – started out with the system in place

6. Alternative Program – Christine Boothby

- Alternative Program fact sheet (http://www.ocdsb.ca/med/pub/Publications_Updated/Alternative_Elementary_Programs.pdf)
- K through 8 program (7 and 8's go to Summit Alternative), English only with Core French
- Grant Alternative will move the Regina PS
- Bussing provided for students are outside the catchment area
- Cooperation and teamwork



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- Student driven
- Intentional multi-grade projects
- Non-competitive
- Churchill almost at capacity

Q: Leslie Park – Will teachers at Regina receive training as alternative teachers?

A: Teachers don't receive specific training for alternative curriculum

Q: Has enrolment been increasing or decreasing?

A: Peak enrolment about 9 years ago – enrolment may be down because of French immersion – open enrolment – child can start at any grade

Q: Why is the program only offered in English?

A: Would be one more separate program – one of the trustees has asked the question as well. The seven tenants of the program need to be met – review in 2009 recognized that some of the tenants are useful in other schools, e.g. multi-grade projects. Many ideas from the alternative schools are being used in the public school

Memo in May will be distributed – all memos are on the OCDSB

Q: How did the alternative program come to be? What should be used across the board?

A: More than 25 years old – used to be in the Ottawa School Board – (review) – Smaller schools have an easier time putting the tenants into place

Q: If these tenants are going to be imbedded in other schools, what is the future of alternative schools?

A:

- Alternative schools meet very specific needs – schools with lower enrolment make it easier to keep the tenants in play
- Executive council looking at best practices for math and literacy
- Connection between increase in French immersion enrolment and decrease in alternative enrolment
- A lot of decisions are made because of the location of the school
- Ask the question on the enrolment form

Q: What is the connection between the English only and the alternative school? Some children were asked to leave French Immersion, because they are having difficulties.

A:

- Some children go to the alternative school because it's in their neighbourhood and some because it's the only program that works for those kids
- Alternative schools are not in high capacity neighbourhoods
- Purpose-built alternative schools are not likely to be built

Q: How will these questions be raised in the next set of accommodation reviews?

A: Alternative schools will be part of the discussion – what are the things that make you decide to attend a school?

Q: With the bussing for alternative schools, will other schools be losing out because of budgetary concerns?

A: This is one of the considerations, but it's not a huge concern

7. Scientists in School (using the PRO grant for family math and science nights)– Carol Mothersill



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- Catalogue
(http://www.scientistsinschool.ca/pdfs/OTT/Catalogue_OTT_Sci_in_School_2016-17.pdf)
- **Information Package** (<http://ocasc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Scientists-in-School.pdf>)
 - PRO grants are due 25 May 2017

Q: Do you need 300 students to make it work?

A: If you have more than 300, marketplace works best; if you have fewer, workshops work well

Q: Is program bilingual?

A: In classrooms, the programs are in both languages; in the evening (PROgrant evenings) only in English

Q: Outdoor activities?

A: Yes

Q: Financial management?

A: In classroom workshops, grades 5 and 6

Q: Science/Math night – Do you divide workshops according to grade level?

A: Four levels to accommodate different levels within the family

8. Chalk It Up

Q: Jockvale – Alternatives to hot dog lunches

A:

- Fallingbrook – Lunch lady, pizza, and hot dog – going to try Pita Pit (<https://pitapit.ca>) – worked well on-line
- Adrienne Clarkson – hot dogs once a month – whole wheat buns
- Pita Pit is often not warm
- Mazzola (<http://www.mazzola.ca>) – like Lunch lady – nice and healthy

Q: First Avenue – Handling of cash after school events

A:

- Mutchmore – safe with a slot – kept in the Principal's office – double counted
- Costco sells the best safe
- Leslie Park – banking through school office – Principal is always onsite

Q: Briargreen – Parent Consultation: Significant changes to schools – was there consultation with parents and how did it work?

A:

- Should be a pro-active consultation
- Castlefrank - Principal sent out survey to find out if the parents like how they are being communicated with – consultations in evening and during the day

A: Mike Carson – in a lot cases, the parent consultations are connected to the city's work – letting people know what is going to happen

Q: Bulletin board dedicated to school council – what goes on the board?

A:

- Jockvale and Fallingbrook – upcoming events, newsletter, movie nights, etc.



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- Alta Vista – sandwich board

Q: Transitioning to Learning Commons

A: More diverse learning space than old-fashioned libraries – secondary schools are further along – being used after school

A: SRB renovations to add a maker spaces and charging stations, etc.

9. Committee of the Whole (COW)

- Budget will be presented on Friday, 26 May 2017
- The budget will be reviewed at the COW on Monday, 5 June 2017.

10. Other business

- Wednesday, 31 May 2017 – Volunteer appreciation event (<http://www.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/awards/Pages/CommunityAwards.aspx>) - All council and OCASC members invited – Spread the word!

11. Adjournment

Dale brought up the AGM (see information on the website at <http://ocasc.ca/events/ocasc-general-assembly-meeting-and-agm/>).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Motion: Jockvale; Second: Glashan

Dale thanked everyone for attending and for the discussions.

Next meeting: 18 May 2017