



OCASC September 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 27 September 2018
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (39)
- Total schools represented (37)
- **Member schools attending (5), Total member schools (5), quorum (2)**

Mital Kumar Patel: Chapman Mills PS
Dwayne Routliffe: John Young ES
Ian Urbach: Katimavik ES
Margaret Sambol: Sir Winston Churchill PS
Martyn Reid: Stittsville PS

Non-member Schools attending (16)

A Lorne Cassidy ES: Ashley Jackson
Adrienne Clarkson ES (ACES): John Lymer
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Barrhaven PS: Allen Garlow
Broadview PS Donna Owen
Canterbury HS: Tim Hore
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Cedarview MS: Cindy Fisher
Cedarview MS: Priti Sanhu
Churchill Alt PS: Shannon Williams
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Elmdale PS: Caroline Hutton
Emily Carr MS: Lisa Louric
Farley Mowat PS: Marc Feliciano
Glashan PS: Lisa Greaves (Treasurer)
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
Glen Ogilvie PS: Lisa Louric

Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
John McCrae SS: Lainie Taylor-Ryan
John Young ES: Kevin Michael
Knoxdale PS: Alyssa Norcross
Lady Evelyn Alt PS: Graig Halpin
Lisgar CI: Jennifer Reynolds
Maple Ridge ES: Cynthia Allen
Mary Honeywell ES: Barb Brunzell
Mary Honeywell ES: Martin Nieves
Mutchmor PS: Sarah Dingle
Rockcliffe Park PS: Christian Denter
Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: Terri-Lynn Kennedy
South March PS: Christine Moulaison
(Co-chair)
Vimy Ridge PS: Greg Rallo
Westwind: Marcia Goodfellow

Guests and other (5)

Guest Speaker: Engy Masieh, Policy Analyst



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1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:05)

- The meeting to order and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.
- Chalk it Up - Moved to OCASC Facebook group. If you have feedback on this change send it to the chairs (chair@ocasc.com)

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Cedarview; Second: Glebe CI

May Minutes: Approved as amended. Motion: Jockvale; Second: Glebe CI

3. Municipal Election - Monday October 22, 2018

- The OCDSB has a policy on election activities that covers school councils. See P.122.GOV (<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/0/edoc/3054208/P%20122%20GOV%20-%20Election%20Activities.pdf>). If councils have questions, approach board staff or OCASC chairs.
- If a school council chooses to endorse a candidate, then the council must hold a vote and document it.
- If a Trustee candidate is invited to a council meeting, then all Trustee candidates must be invited. Trustee candidates must be given equal time to speak. Candidates can decline to attend and that is ok.
- Zone 8 Candidate Meeting: Tuesday October 9 at 6:30pm at Maple Ridge Elementary.
- School council members may endorse a candidate personally, but not as a representative of a school council.

4. Council Banking Update - Update from the OCASC Council Banking Working Group (Christine Moulaison)

Objective: To enhance and ensure compliance with Ministry guidelines including but not restricted to:

- accountability
- finance reporting
- transparency
- to strengthen implementation of already existing OCDSB policies. Note: All of policies and procedures already in place would have prevented issues that have arisen in the past (if they were enforced).

Some suggestions and ideas from OCASC Working Group:

- A new OCASC Executive member is voted in as a Council Banking Head/liaison to the OCDSB for any council banking issues/inquiries.
- Audits can be done by OCDSB/OCASC executive members alike and/or together as a team.
- Expand current end of year reporting spreadsheets to include more detailed information and have them live, online, for easy completion, submission, and collation for OCDSB staff and OCASC members alike. OCASC is more than willing to provide



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members to aid any councils that reach out for help in completing and submitting said forms.

- Have these reports be completed twice yearly to help ensure compliance by all members.
- Begin with a pilot project that starts with a few schools the first year, we can then expand to all OCASC member schools the following year. Once all parties are satisfied that the project is working and is beneficial to all parties, we can expand to all schools in the OCDSB.
- Hold two evening talks, one east and one west, to provide as many councils as possible with information on the new reporting program as well as ways to help keep proper records to help adhere to ministry and OCDSB guidelines for all councils.
- Create a simple and user friendly spreadsheet to new and/or smaller councils to help simplify and keep detailed records as per ministry and OCDSB guidelines.
- Have council Chair, Treasurer, as well as school Principal/Vice Principal sign off on all reports provided to board to ensure that both parent and board staff members alike agree that all the information is correct to the best of all signatory members memories.
- Increase parent engagement with councils. The more parent members we have, the more people we have monitoring the financial records.

OCASC long term goals:

Begin a mentorship program between schools within wards, as needed, to aid in building strong, involved and inclusive school councils as well as helping increase those schools fundraising ideas and goals.

Questions:

- The 'Council Banking Head/liaison to the OCDSB' position would be an OCASC executive position.
- Audit Committee - Can OCASC have a spot on the audit committee?
- Suggestion for term limits for treasurers. Any council can put that in their constitution. Might be difficult for small councils.
- Lots of money is handled by councils - approximately \$8 million in transactions
- School Cash Online - 3% administration fee - on \$8 million is a lot of money

5. Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Curriculum - Tim O'Loan

- Worked for Senator Murray Sinclair as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Last residential council closed in 1996. Many policies are in effect related to Indigenous people that Canadians should not be proud of.
- 94 calls to action from TRC
- TRC recommended changes to public education curriculum. Requires adequate funding.
- If change is going to happen, needs to happy with children.
- Màmawi Together - Community Reconciliation in Action
 - www.mamawitogether.com / mamawitogether@gmail.com / @Mamawi_Together - Twitter / MamawiTogether - Facebook



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- A community-based initiative that engages parents, students, and community members in putting reconciliation into action.
- Challenge - Do a legacy reconciliation project at your school.
 - Bring an elder to your school
 - Review school library materials and remove inappropriate materials
 - Acknowledgement of traditional territories
 - Create an art mural
 - A lot of information on Mamawi Together web page.
- Can provide assistance and connect councils with elders
- New books are available for librarians on reconciliation and indigenous issues. School councils may want to fund these books.
- The book 'They Came for the Children: Canada, Aboriginal Peoples, and Residential Schools' is a good foundation book.

6. The Year Ahead - How to structure meetings for this year, what topics are of interest?

- Health/Math/Indigenous curriculum - What parents and school councils might do in the year ahead?
- Equity, Truth and Reconciliation and Race statistics are all priorities for the board this year. (There will be a new board of Trustees in December and a new Director of Education in January).
- Accommodation Reviews - Will they be restarted under the new provincial government? Update on what is happening (when it is known)
- Writers Festival

7. Topic Suggestions for Future Meetings

- Can Parent Councils supplement curriculum topics?
 - Will find out tomorrow how the Ontario government will be engaging parents in upcoming curriculum changes. How will Parent Councils and PIC be engaged?
- Transition to post secondary
- Mental Health - anxiety/depression/mindfulness/self-harm - What can councils do to help in this area?
 - The board is working on a new mental health strategy. We will keep eye on this topic.
 - Buddy Benches - a resource is available
- Legalization of Cannabis
- Secondary Parent Council Meetings - Separate meeting or not?
- Assessment / Grading Standards
- Technology in the schools
 - Social Media norms
 - Resource (e.g. laptops) availability
 - School council websites
 - Device usage policies
- Curriculum Changes - Would like updates throughout the year
- Staffing Issues with Occasional Teachers - Impact on staff professional development
- Budget



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- Parent Councils Best Practices Sharing
- Meetings at other locations
- Board policies on green transportation / green parking. Heaters / Air Conditioners / Fans.

8. Parent Conference and School Council Training Day

- November 3 at Gloucester High School
- Worthwhile to attend, please attend. Share it with your parents and parent councils.
- Would like to have a discussion after the event about sessions

9. Random Hacks of Kindness

- Taking place in the October 13/14th weekend.
- Idea - Parents want to be engaged, but parent council meetings in a room once a month seems a little archaic. Not leveraging technology to foster communication. Maybe a toolkit of tools for Parents Councils.
- Looking for volunteers to help out and bring their experience on Parents Councils. Can we use creative communications and technology? Looking for people to help with the pitch documentation and people who available on that weekend.

10. SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) Update

- Legislated committee. Provide advice to the board on special education.
- Approximately 2 years ago as a result of the Gifted Program Review, a Gifted Advisory Group was formed "to expand options to be presented to the public to improve the effectiveness of services for gifted students and to increase equity of access for under-represented groups".
- Drop in enrollment in gifted specialized classes was due to implementation of Tiered Intervention, but this was not widely communicated. As a result there are no children in the grades 1 and 2 of the gifted specialized program. There are 4 students in grade 3 and 6 in grade 4.
- Complaint Letter was written by non-staff members with concerns about the gifted advisory group. The letter was distributed. Dana our OCASC SEAC representative was one of the 4 members who wrote the letter.
- Decisions on special education programs also impact children in the regular classrooms, as more students with special education needs are integrated into the regular classroom.
- Trustee Boothby has put forward a motion on the gifted program.
- The complaint letter regarding the Gifted Advisory Group and Trustee Boothby's motion will both be discussed at the October 10th SEAC meeting and the October 16th COW meeting.

11. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)

- Looking for an additional OCASC representative on PIC
- 6 meetings per year at Board Office



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- Voting members: 2 OCASC members, 3 community reps (currently vacant), 8 parent members
- Non-voting members: 1 Trustee plus others

12. Other Business

- Motion to continue to have an OCASC SEAC representative for next four years was voted on and passed.
Motion: Stittsville; Second: Canterbury

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Next meeting: 18 October 2018