



# OCASC November 2017 Meeting Minutes

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133 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K2H 6L3

Date: 16 November 2017  
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue  
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

2. **Agenda: Approved as amended (addition of a dress code discussion).  
Motion: South Carleton; Second: Bridlewood**

3. **May Assembly Minutes: Motion: South Carleton; Second: Glebe CI**

4. **September Assembly Minutes: Motion: Bayview ; Second: Glebe CI**

## 5. From your Executive

- COW meetings - The following reports were presented this month:
  - Annual Student Achievement Report (ASAR) 2016-2017
  - Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSAW) 2017-2018
  - Schools use these documents for School Learning Plans
  - Principals should be talking to councils about the School Learning Plan
  - Let OCASC know if your council is not hearing anything about the School Learning Plan. School Learning Plans will be a topic at the next OCASC meeting.
  - School Councils can take PRO grant money and use it in support of objectives in School Learning Plan.

## 6. Gifted Review Advisory Group Update - Dana Somayaji OCASC SEAC Representative

- Motion: A. 'Staff work with SEAC and an Advisory Group that would include SEAC representation to expand options to be presented to the public to improve the effectiveness of service for Gifted students and to increase equity of access for under-represented groups.'
- The group is made up of 3 in-house staff, 2 principals, 2 ABC representatives, 2 SEAC representatives, 2 external experts and a trustee. The group was supposed to produce a final report including a plan for the Geographic Model transition, including costing, no later than the end of December 2017.
- The Advisory group met 3 times in the spring for 7.5 hours. We discussed what we liked about the current gifted program and one expert discussed creating a 'Talent Pool' based on some of Joseph Renzulli's pedagogy.
- At the third meeting, members were asked if we should implement a pilot project before rolling out changes to the gifted program system wide. All agreed.
- In the June interim report, it stated: 'At this point, the group has not determined a new model to be recommended to the Board for gifted learners; however, currently it seems unnecessary to explore other options for program changes but rather to shift our focus



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on the development of a pilot program.' and that the group will continue to meet in the fall to 'discuss implementation and evaluation of the pilot model.'

- The group was given multiple Renzulli articles to read, and they were very broad ranging, including the System-wide Enrichment Model which employed computer analysis of all students' learning tendencies and individualized lesson plans.
- The group resumed meeting on November 6, where I expressed concerns such as:
  - 1) There were no specific, real-world parameters or success measurements discussed to date
  - 2) There was not one specifically agreed upon model (Renzulli theories and his multiple models are extremely diverse)
  - 3) Renzulli's models do not clearly address issues of equitable access to the Congregated Gifted Program
  - 4) The report states that neither the options nor the pilot program will be presented to the public
- The group was also told by Learning Support Services Superintendent Olga Grigoriev that the group will not be discussing congregation or exploring options to expand access to underrepresented groups to the congregated program.
- The group was told that the Advisory group will only be discussing in-class gifted supports - and that that group will not pursue Renzulli's School-wide Enrichment Model as it is too costly.
- At the November 15 SEAC meeting (last night) Superintendent Grigoriev gave an update on the Gifted Advisory Group. She stated:
  - The next step will be for her talk to a US school who has a congregated gifted program and has implemented a subset of Renzulli.
  - She is supposed to have to have a final report by December 2017 but she realizes that there is not enough time and is working on this issue.
  - The SEAC Chair Rob Kirwan stated that the original December motion requires options to be brought back to Trustees and that the Advisory group should determine options. This conflicts with the June report that says no other options are being looked at.
- The group is supposed to keep meeting, but the next meeting date has yet to be determined.
- Questions:
  - Cedarview - What is the reason for Gifted Review? Answer - Board reviews all Special Education programs on a regular basis.
  - Glen Carin - What will pilot look like? Answer - Still to be determined.
  - Rockcliffe - What are the success measurements? Success measurements have not been determined.
  - Glashen - Is the curriculum different for gifted? Answer - Same curriculum, but more in depth.
  - Cedarview - What is the purpose of the pilot? Answer - The Gifted Review found that parents don't feel the needs of gifted students are being met in the regular classroom. The Pilot is intended to help meet the needs of gifted students in the regular classroom.
  - Woodroffe - Any discussion about the high school gifted program? Answer - No.

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OCASC is advocating at committees for parents. The public can delegate at the PIC, SEAC and COW committees. Agendas for these meetings are published in advance (available on the board website, see the [Calendar](#)). The COW meetings are live streamed. OCASC is happy to help - to take away the intimidation of the board process.

## 7. Dress Code (South Carleton HS)

- Approached by principal to review dress code.
- Is Board level dress code policy being reviewed at the board level? Sounds like not. Board level policy is very generic.
- Meadowlands - Apparently principals told to stay away from dress code issues - in the courts right now (Human Rights issue)

## 8. Vacant Positions (Membership, Treasurer, SSC Chair)

- Treasurer
  - Some cheques from last year didn't get cashed. A few schools. Please see Ellen Dixon.
  - Woodroffe PS is interested
- Membership Secretary
  - Alta Vista is interested
- PIC - OCASC have 2 spots, 1 available
  - 1 meeting / month at the board office, dinner is provided
  - Bayview is interested

## 9. Presentation by Mike Carson – Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

- Thanks to parents for volunteering, great for our children.
- Financial Statements going to Audit committee next week
  - In good shape
  - Last few years under multi-year recovery plan, coming out of this.
  - Will be posted to website this week
- After Christmas will be starting consultation on where and how school councils do their banking
  - $\frac{1}{3}$  of schools currently do their banking with the school (about 20-25 schools)
  - In the past a lot of opposition to school councils moving to banking with the school
    - School councils wanted to maintain control
    - Office staff had concerns
  - Comprise in the past - councils could bank separately from the school, but had to follow board policies:
    - Provincial Fundraising Guideline (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/Fund2012Guideline.pdf>)
    - Management of School Council Funds - Policy P.133.FIN (<http://old.ocdsb.ca/ab-ocdsb/p-n->

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[p/Policies%20and%20Procedures/P%20133%20FIN%20-%20Management%20of%20School%20Council%20Funds.pdf](#)

- In past there was a qualification on the audit of board financials statements - except school council funds. It has been removed.
- Will be an upcoming report that will likely have a recommendation for all school councils to move banking to the school.
- There are advantages and disadvantages to banking with the school and banking outside the school. Report will look at both. Senior staff is leaning towards requiring banking in the school.
- There will be formal process including consultation starting after Christmas.
- Looking for input. Send it to Mike via OCASC executive
- A workshop on school banking at the Parents Conference. Staff will be available at those workshop if there are questions.
- School office workload needs to be figured out.
- Councils that already bank through school:
  - Some small schools
  - A few big schools - they were new and started that way
- Provincial Fundraising Guidelines (see link above) outline items that council can raise money for.
  - Ok - Charitable causes - families in need, Play structures, Bus tickets (high school), scholarships, bursaries, awards
  - Gray area - Projectors, Smart Boards
- Questions/Comments:
  - Rockcliffe - Answer: The authority to spend the money still rests with council.
  - Emily Carr - Answers:
    - Banking at school - money would be deposited at the school
    - Would earn interest, cheques would come from the school.
    - There have been past problematic incidents with school council money
  - Elgin Street (Malaka) - Answers:
    - It is the board's choice - banking in the school or outside
    - Most boards in province mandated banking in the school in the late 90's.
    - Comment - Seems like an administrative burden on board staff. If parents want to handle, why not let them?
  - Woodroffe - Answer:
    - Banking in school - A report is generated every month.
  - Steve McLean - Can schools bank with credit unions? Some advantages to banking with credit unions - better interest rates, etc. Answer:
    - Don't discourage schools from banking with credit unions.
  - Alta Vista - Why is banking with the school better? Answer:
    - Mismanagement is an issue - not deliberate in most cases. Has cost the board money in the past (small amounts).
    - Recommending moving to in school banking will provoke more discussion.
  - Fallingbrook - Answer:
    - Suspect there are still some trust issues with the board.

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- Mutchmor - Concerns about burden on office staff. If parents don't trust school board with money, how can they trust them with our kids. Answer:
  - Less school staff than 5 years ago when this issue was last discussed. Realize that they are issues with the impact on school staff.
- Broadview - Will there be consultation with principals?
  - Ongoing informal discussions. Varied opinions from principals.
- Severn Avenue - Parent Conference workshop on school finances mentions potential for on-line tool.
  - On-line tool helps, but cash is a lot of work.
- Glashen - Is there a standard for handling cash? (2 people counting the money, book keeping and recording)
  - Yes, there are procedures. Find that some councils don't follow them from time to time.
- Glashen - Question on gifted kids.
  - Lots of gifted kids can be served in the regular classroom.
  - Not the right person to speak on gifted. Not an educator.
- Castlefrank - Will councils have to follow the same procurement standards as the board?
  - Councils should be following board's procurement policies now (whether they are banking through the school or not)
  - Doesn't impact Pizza Days, supplies, small stuff.
- South March - Will there still be 2 signatures on cheques?
  - Yes. Could consider one of them being the council treasurer.
- South March - Timeline for consultation?
  - Hoping to go to COW in January.
  - Last time this issue was discussed a special meeting was held for treasures and council chairs (instead of coming to OCASC).
  - Will be consultation with principals and office staff.

### **10. Update from November 16 SEAC - Donna Owen Alternate OCASC SEAC Representative**

- Universal Screening Tool for Giftedness
  - This report not intended as a recommendation either for or against a screening tool – only meant for discussion in response to the motion passed by the Trustees last December arising from the Gifted Review.
  - But staff are not interested in implementing any kind of screener until the provincial Ministry's updated definition of Gifted is revealed
  - Proposes to test all grade 4 students with the CCAT 7 tool. CCAT 7 is a Canadian normed cognitive assessment tool.
  - Would be used a screening tool. Not sufficient for a formal identification of giftedness. Further assessment would be required.
  - Would provide valuable information on all students, not just gifted.
  - Annual cost - estimated to be between 300K and 900K.
- Exclusion Report
  - Principal can refuse to let a child attend school who presence in the school is detrimental to the physical or mental well being of other students

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- Not disciplinary in nature, a last resort
- Written notification to parents, with reasons, right to appeal, steps that had to be taken before the child could come back.
- Right to appeal seems not to be clear in the policy.
- Safe Schools Procedure PR.521 - being to revised now to include appeal procedure.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Glashen - Small numbers of gifted students, not teaching to abilities, lack of challenge.
  - Cedarview - Lots of discussion about gifted, but what about supports for children with ADHD? Would like to see more supports for kids with ADHD. Sees need for more training for teachers on ADHD.

### 11. Adjournment

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be on 18 January 2018