



OCASC February 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 15 February 2018
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Attendance

Adrienne Clarkson ES: Melissa Hunt	Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean	Glen Cairn PS: Christine Lindsay
Bayview PS: Bonnie Oaks Charron	Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
Bell HS: David McCormack	John McCrae SS: Lainie Taylor-Ryan
Briargreen PS: Donna Owen	Lisgar CI: Robin Lim
Bridlewood Comm, ES: Shoshana Keller	Longfields-Davidson SS: Michael Need
Canterbury HS: TIm Hore and Ingrid Dabringer	Meadowlands PS: Sandra Ross-Ngyn
Carleton Heights PS: Laura Storrie	Mutchmor PS: Lisa Greaves
Cedarview MS: Cindy Frazer and Heather Graham	Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Earl of March SS: Zhong An	Sir Guy Carleton SS: Adrienne O'Rielly
Emily Carr MS: Bob Hawgood	Sir Robert Borden HS: Dave Wright
First Avenue PS: Dana Somaya	South Carleton HS: Kiera Delegate
Glashan PS: Joan Jiang	Stittsville HS: Jen Kearns
	Trillium ES: JP Grimes
	Woodroffe HS: Karen Walker

1. Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation

- OCASC Co-Chair received an invitation to present to the Ontario Minister of Finance (Charles Sousa) for pre-Budget Consultation.
- Three minute oral delegation with a longer written delegation. Spoke on behalf of OCASC and as a parent. Less than a week notice.
- Spoke on two issues:
 - Support workers in schools (e.g. EAs). Have been cut in the past and are really needed.
 - Minimum wage hike
 - Custodial staff make minimum wage. They have 18 minutes to clean one classroom. Schools are not being cleaned to the level that is expected. Cleaning helps prevent children and staff from getting sick.
 - Will more custodial staff be cut to offset the increase in minimum of wage?

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- Minister spoke with co-chair at break.
- Wide variety of groups presenting to the minister (not limited to education). Only 2 people spoke on education. The other was Trustee Lynn Scott. 60 people spoke that day just in Ottawa. Pre-budget consultations taking place in 6-8 other cities.
- Amalgamation of co-terminus boards was not raised. Not sure if this is directly related to Ministry of Finance.
- Agreed that OCASC should prepare a list of topics that they would like to delegate on for next year. Should do this in the fall.
- Special needs groups looking for more funding was one common theme, but overall it was a highly diverse group.

2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Update (Dana)

- Storefront program:
 - The goal of the program is to enable twelve exceptional students between ages 19 and 21, with a mild intellectual disability or developmental disability, an opportunity to spend half of the day in a work environment with the other half participating in life skills development. Program has run for 30+ years.
 - The program has been located in a commercial building near St. Laurent Centre for over 30 years, rent free. However, the building is now going to charge rent (approx \$3,000 month). Learning Support Services is planning to discontinue the program, stating that:
 1. There are already co-op programs in place for this sector in a variety of OCDSB Secondary Schools.
 2. This program is not under direct control of Learning Support Services.
 3. Without LSS supervision, there may be issues of equity of access.
 - There is significant support for keeping the program open by participants, stating the location is ideal within the city, and that because this program is not in a high school setting, it helps these students transition more smoothly into the adult world. This issue is not coming to Trustees for a vote, but delegates are hoping Trustee awareness will help save this program.
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) forms are now accessible to teachers in an online platform. This is an internal system, though eventually teachers will be able to send a child's IEP by PDF to parents. This new platform will hopefully bring consistency, clarity, and ease of access of IEPs to teachers and principals. The new software will be used starting for Term 2 IEPs.
- Gifted Secondary School Geographic Model Transition. Lisgar CI requested last month that a community consultation take place. Superintendent Grigoriev asked SEAC who

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they thought should be consulted, and how. Trustee Boothby suggested consultations be conducted in a similar way as Area Reviews, others commented that all the gifted schools involved and all the feeder schools that go into Lisgar - and whatever new sites they're considering - should be consulted. Trustee Ellis reminded SEAC that Trustees already gave staff the power to move forward with the Geographic model a few years ago. Trustee Boothby suggested Superintendent Grigoriev work with ABC and OCASC on developing the consultation process. If OCASC members have input regarding consultations let Dana know and it will be forwarded on to Superintendent Grigoriev.

- The Gifted Review Advisory Group is currently drafting recommendations concerning the gifted program. The report will be presented to OCASC next month, along with an information sheet about the Board process concerning the gifted program.
- Message from Trustee Christine Boothby - Gifted program is still ongoing and a viable program. Let Trustee Boothby (christine.boothby@ocdsb.ca) know if people are hearing otherwise.

3. Discussion on Secondary School Geographic Model Transition

- Currently four secondary schools offering the gifted program:
 - Bell High School (English/French) - 202 students
 - Glebe Collegiate Institute (French) - 65 students
 - Lisgar Collegiate Institute (English) - 366 students
 - Merivale High School (English/French) - 17 students
- Proposal is to move to 2 schools. Each school would offer a French and English program. The 2 schools have not been identified.
- Looks like LSS will consult without identifying the schools that will have the secondary gifted program.
- Frustration with board not listening to parents.
- Parents can have an effect by appearing at COW. Gifted Review last year is an example.
- School councils can pass a recommendation that gives advice to school board. The recommendation goes to the school's superintendent, and the superintendent has to respond.
- Some trustees ignore cut and paste type emails.

4. GrowSmartGirls - Community Information Sessions

- GrowSmartGirls (<https://growsmartgirls.ca/>) is a seminar series aimed at providing early information to our daughters (and sons) on some very concerning issues that have surfaced over the last few months. It's important that parents and their children get the information together and be able to speak to each other on these topics, with common starting points.
- While the initiative was designed with girls in mind, boys will benefit from the information presented and the workshops. Anyone who is interested is invited to learn about societal challenges facing our children today, and what we can all do to ensure they are

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equipped early to deal with those challenges. (Note there will be content not suitable for all age groups – these talks are geared for grades 6-12).

- The goal is simply to empower youth with knowledge/skills/tools to improve their situational awareness and respond to societal dangers (including those on the Internet).
- See the website (<https://growsmartgirls.ca/>) for details on the upcoming workshops and to register.
- Started by a mother whose daughter recently transitioned from grade 6 to 7.

5. Ingrid Dabringer from OCDSB Advisory Committee on the Arts

- <http://acaottawa.ca/> - Working on updating the website. Will be available next month.
- Website will feature past award winners.
- Tying arts to the curriculum, OCDSB exit outcomes, wellness and project based learning.
- Awards:
 - 4 teachers awards - 2 elementary and 2 secondary
 - 6 students awards (split 3/3 elementary and secondary)
 - plus others
 - (Leadership, Lifetime Achievement Award)
 - Would like every school to make a nomination
 - Working on an online nomination process
- Teacher training. When the teaching program went to 2 years, the amount of arts training stayed the same. U of O didn't run some visual arts classes because of lack of demand. Student teachers are not confident in getting a job with an arts teachable.
- Arts was on the priority list for PRO grants. Maybe schools can work together.
- Advisory Committee on the Arts members are open to visiting School Councils.
- Some schools have empty space that is looking to re-purposed. Maybe use for arts?

6. OCDSB School Council Banking Policy Change

- Was planned to be discussed at this month's meeting, but the report (Report 18-0XX, Consultation Plan re School Council Banking) to be discussed at February 20th COW is not available.
- Concerns
 - Vendor restrictions - Will councils be restricted on who they can make purchases from?
 - Choice of Payment System - Will councils be forced to use School Cash Online (school cash online takes 3% of all transactions even cash transactions)
 - Three percent goes to an administrative fund at school to pay for credit card fees (since some credit card fees are higher)
 - Additional workload on staff
 - Office staff are already overworked. Office staff is the heart of the school - don't want to add more work to already overworked staff.
 - Additional workload for principals.

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- Some schools have at least 10 fundraisers a year, write cheques for events and floats. Lunch programs - multiple cheques a week. Can the school staff handle this additional volume of work?
- 5 years ago there was more office staff and it was decided to let School Councils choose between banking with the school or with a regular bank.
- Control and Autonomy - Will principal veto council purchasing decisions?
- Charity Status - Concern about losing charity status. Ability to write receipts immediately without waiting for the board.
- Perception that there is a lack of trust of between principals and parent councils
 - Not the case in most of the time
- Cash Sales outside of School Hours - How will this work?

7. 2018 Community Recognition Awards – Nominations Open!

- More information on the OCDSB website at:
https://www.ocdsb.ca/about_us/awards/community_awards
- Categories:
 - Community Award
 - Community Partnership Award
 - Distinguished School Council Service Award
 - Excellence in Equity Award
 - Volunteer of the Year Award
 - Chair's Award

8. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be on Thursday, 22 March 2018.
Note: This is a week later than usual, due to the March Break.
- During the March meeting, there will be a speaker on the topic of Mental Health.