



OCASC October 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 18 October 2018
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (39)
- Total schools represented (34)
- **Member schools attending (17), Total member schools (17), quorum (6)**

A Lorne Cassidy ES: Ashley Jackson
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Bell HS: David McCormack
Broadview PS Donna Owen
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Castor Valley ES: Alka Moorjani
Cedarview MS: Priti Sanhu
Chapman Mills PS: Mital Kumar Patel
Churchill Alt PS: Brecken Hancock
Churchill Alt PS: Dennis Murphy
Colonel By SS: Kenneth Xi
Earl of March SS: Zhong An
Earl of March SS: Rock Carrier
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Elmdale PS: Mona Pare
Farley Mowat PS: Marc Feliciano
Glashan PS: Lisa Greaves (Treasurer)
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
Glen Ogilvie PS: Lisa Louric
Hopewell Avenue PS: Deborah Gomes-Schultz

Huntley Centennial PS: Mark Tymowski
Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
John McCrae SS: Elizabeth Conabree
John Young ES: Dwayne Routliffe
Katimavik ES: Ian Urbach
Lady Evelyn Alt PS: Graig Halpin
Manor Park PS: Safina Dewshi
Mutchmor PS: Alexandria Sjoman
Rockcliffe Park PS: Christian Denter
Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Sir Robert Borden HS: Helen Norman (Communications)
Sir Winston Churchill PS: Jenn O'Reilly (School fundraising rep)
South March PS: Christine Moulaison (Co-chair)
Stittsville PS: Martyn Reid
Stonecrest ES: Patricia McKeage
Vimy Ridge PS: Greg Rallo
Westwind: Marcia Goodfellow

Guests (3)

Guest Speakers: Michelle Gireaux, OCDSB Communications
Halcian Joseph-Closy OCDSB Strategic Plan
Rob Campbell Trustee Candidate



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1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:08)

- The meeting to order and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.
- Malaka will be on CBC radio tomorrow (Friday October 19th) at 7:30am discussing why people should vote in the school board trustee election.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Chapman Mills; Second: Jockvale
September Minutes: Approved as Presented. Motion: CastleFrank; Second: First Avenue

3. Speaker from the OCDSB (Michelle Giroux)

Michelle Giroux (OCDSB Executive Officer) joined us and presented several items of interest.

Strategic Plan (See links to measurement reports and strategic planning documents for the current plan 2015-2019)

<http://ocdsb.ss13.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=202963>

http://ocdsb.ss13.sharpschool.com/about_us/strategic_plan

- Strategic Plan is a four-year plan, it is designed to overlap old and new Boards of Trustees
- A major consultation is planned for this school year to develop the next Strategic Plan
- Four phases of Consultation Process
 - Pre-Consultation - October / November - discussion with advisory committees, OCASC, students, federations on how to get people involved with the consultation process
 - Community Wide Idea Exchange (via Thought Exchange tool) - November / December - community, students, staff
 - Developing Strategies and Actions - January / February
 - focus group meetings with community and with partner organizations
 - will bring the information gathered from Thought Exchange
 - After this stage, all of the information that has been gathered will go to staff and Trustees and they will produce a draft Strategic Plan
 - Feedback on the Draft Plan - May / June
- Distribution of the strategic plan and invitation for feedback

Discussion:

- Every year there are measurement reports on the implementation Strategic Plan. Status of Year 3 of the strategic plan will be presented at the board meeting in November.
- Need to use plain language
- Message about why do parents care? Use plain language. Education speak is a barrier.



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- Reflect that this is a partnership between parents and schools
- Needs to be differentiated from the current provincial consultation
- Own subject in an email (with simple language) - not buried in another email
- Different cultures / different understandings of school system - this is a barrier
- Get school councils to communicate with parents about this topic
- Make sure there is enough time for parents to comment on the draft plan and have those comments incorporated into the final Strategic Plan.
- Parents need to understand the goal at the end of the 4 year plan.
- January/February focus groups - some aspects will be open to everyone, some will be limited to specific groups
- Consultations should present summary of input received
- Suggestion to connect with families that haven't entered to the school system yet. Kindergarten Info nights may be a way to reach these parents. Response - They reach out to all community associations, will talk to EDP committee.
- Have a way to draw people to focus groups (combine with another event to entice people to come). Maybe combine meeting with meet and greet with the new board and new Director of Education.
- Moderated conference call
- People who come out to meetings are comfortable in that environment, some parents are not comfortable, maybe randomly invite people to small focus groups

How do school councils engage with parents successfully?

- One school held focus groups to understand to how to engage parents
- School council tip sheets
- Make chrome books available for parents at school councils meetings to participate in the process
- Web casting of school council meetings, facebook live, facebook groups, email
- Serve food and offer childcare

Comments on Proposed Questions:

- Think about audience for questions, e.g. Maybe references to OCDSB should be replaced with "school"
- As a parent, wouldn't know how to speak about the "board"
- Use plain language and relate to the children, e.g. What are the key issues facing my child?
- Questions are very broad, give prompts to frame discussion
- Preamble to the questions about the purview of the board. A lot of the issues currently being discussed are provincial and out of control of the board.
- Include information about what the OCDSB does, many parents don't even know what the OCDSB does
- May get similar answers to first two questions
- Tell story about a student in the new strategic plan, and then where we want this student to be at end of the new strategic plan
- Ask about strengths



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- Maybe keep it regional, parents can relate to their community

PRO Grants

- Learned via media that Ministry may be pausing PRO grants. No official word. OCDSB has requested more information.

Parent Conference

- November 3. Registration is open, child care is available.
- Several sessions, including a Ottawa Public Health session on cannabis, and Ottawa Police on Sexting. Full list of sessions will be made available shortly
- Please let parents know about the conference
- School Council Websites
- Every school website has a school council page. There is a improved template. School councils will be able to manage the content. Hoping for a presentation at Parent Conference on this topic.
- Worked with several school councils to develop template.
- School councils should have a conversation with principal about how to manage the content. Principals can give someone from council access.
- Councils are still allowed to have own websites for now. AODA compliance is an issue, because the board is responsible for school councils. Legal liability for board.
- There is a way to have a draft version on the content, so that it can reviewed before posting.
- Emails - Is there a way for councils to draft emails, get approval from principal and then have it sent out? Michelle will find out.
- Technology for school councils - Questions and comments to Michelle Giroux or Diane Pernari-Hergert

Cannabis Policy

- A letter from Ottawa Public Health was distributed with information about how to talk to children about cannabis
- In terms of board policies, everything that applies to alcohol, also applies to cannabis
- There are upcoming parent information sessions
- Board staff are collecting questions to develop a FAQ
- Cannabis is covered in the student well-being and physical education parts of the curriculum

4. Random Hacks of Kindness (RhoK) (Malaka, Helen and Nancy)

- Technology for social good, twice a year event in Ottawa, volunteers solve a technical problem in a weekend
- Malaka pitched idea, and Helen and Nancy provided moral support and stayed to help work on solutions- how to share information with the parent community:
 - Wading through all of the information that we receive from the Board and from the various committees to find the relevant information



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- Answering common questions that councils have (what we previously did at Chalk it Up)
- Parents typically get involved in parent councils to host a fun event, fix something, or fear of something
- Solutions and next steps:
 - New skin on OCASC website
 - OCASC Knowledge Library prototype - Developers worked on a database, data can be imported via Excel (will be migrated to a form)
 - Figuring out next steps
 - Volunteers from RHoK willing to be still be engaged
 - Will launch new website
 - Looking for people who want to help out
 - Want to use Slack for OCASC communications
 - Ask councils to start documenting how events are run, and conversely what information on events are councils looking for

5. SEAC and Gifted Advisory Group (Dana)

- Staff report (see attached link on webpage) on the Gifted Advisory Group was released 2.5 business days before October SEAC meeting.
- Report 18-100 was discussed at October SEAC. SEAC recommendation is that staff implement a pilot of Guide to Support Gifted Students and Interest Academy, and that SEAC monitor the implementation of pilot. Recommendations passed by COW.
- Gift Advisory Group complaint letter was discussed at SEAC, no action taken by SEAC
- Trustee Boothby's has put forward a motion to remove Tiered Intervention from criteria to enter the Congregate Gifted Program.
- Dana wrote a minority report on Report 18-100 with her significant concerns on the report. Posted on OCASC Facebook page.

6. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

- Parent / School Climate results are available on the OCDSB website
- Discussion on Provincial Consultation. Should PIC respond? Should school councils respond?
- Consultation seems to be directed at parents. No consensus, need to discuss further. At Parent Conference on November 3, PIC will hold a session with parents to discuss.

7. Arts Advisory Committee

- Would like all School Councils to have an Arts Rep



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8. New Business

PRO Grants

- Last year - 82 grants / \$80K
- OCASC will wait to see what happens with this year's PRO grants. OCASC will consider a motion at the next OCASC meeting in support of PRO grants and their support of parental engagement.
- Suggestion for parents to include comments on this topic in the current provincial education consultation. Parents can also reach out to MPPs.

Congregated gifted programming

- First Ave PS - Filed a complaint with the board about not being consulted about changes to the congregated gifted programming at the school.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next meeting: 15 November 2018