



OCASC November 2018 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 15 November 2018
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue
Time: 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (36)
- Total schools represented (32)
- **Member schools attending (22), Total member schools (27), quorum (9)**

Bayview PS: Rosy Young
Broadview PS: Donna Owen
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Castor Valley ES: Alka Moorjani
Chapman Mills PS: Mital Kumar Patel
Colonel By SS: Kenneth Xi
Farley Mowat PS: Marc Feliciano
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
Glen Ogilvie PS: Lisa Louric
John McCrae SS: Lainey Taylor-Ryan
John Young ES: Kevin Michael
Katimavik ES: Ian Urbach

Manor Park PS: Safina Dewshi
Maple Ridge ES: Cynthia Allen
Mary Honeywell ES: Martin Nieves
Mutchmor PS: Sarah Dingle
Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Sir Robert Borden HS: Helen Norman
(Communications)
South March PS: Christine Moulaison
(Co-chair)
Vincent Massey PS: Christine Dalglish
Vincent Massey PS: Cheryl Kitoury
Westwind: Marcia Goodfellow

Non-member schools attending

Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Earl of March SS: Zhong An
Earl of March SS: Rock Carrier
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Emily Carr MS: Lisa Louric
First Avenue PS: Dana Somayaii (SEAC)
Fisher Park PS: Patti Black

Glashan PS: Lisa Greaves (Treasurer)
Glashan PS: Joan Jay
Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
Merivale HS: Ian Burgess
Vimy Ridge PS: Amber Lavelle

Guests (3)

Guest Speakers: Rob Campbell
Engy Masieh OCSD Policy Analyst
Rob Campbell Trustee Candidate



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1. Welcome and Call to Order (7:06)

The meeting to order and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Glebe; Second: John McCrae
September Minutes: Approved as Presented. Motion: Jockvale; Second: Glebe

3. From the Chair

- Received a thank you from Michelle Giroux for OCASC's valuable input on the Strategic Plan consultation that was provided at the October meeting.
 - Will be announcing the upcoming consultation called "Building Better Futures Together @ocdsb"
 - Next Wednesday (November 21) all parents/guardians will receive an email with a link to the ThoughtExchange. Parents can share their thoughts between November 21 and December 12.
- School Council Newsletter – A weekly email with information and events of interest to school councils and parents. To subscribe go to the board's main web page (ocdsb.ca) and click the Subscribe link at the bottom of the page. Encourage other parents to sign up.
- November 3rd Parent Conference Recap
 - A recording of the Keynote presentation by Peg Dawson, and the workshop presentation materials are available on the board website. (<https://www.ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=2596065>)
 - Approximately 300 participants
 - Malaka facilitated a session on the Education in Ontario Government Consultation. The feedback will be discussed at the November 21st PIC meeting.

4. Education in Ontario Government Consultation (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>)

- Feedback from the consultation will influence decisions in the following areas:
 - Improving student performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
 - Preparing students with needed job skills, such as skilled trades and coding
 - Improving provincial standardized testing
 - Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including financial literacy
 - Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones
 - Building a new age-appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis
 - Developing the first-ever Parents' Bill of Rights
- Consultation ends December 15
- Different ways to participate
 - open submissions (web form or email) – mostly free form text responses
 - online survey (multiple choice questions)



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- telephone town hall – 1 more in Ottawa – November 27th
- There is change coming from the provincial government. This survey is the beginning. What the government does with information gathered from the survey, we don't know.
- Anyone can participate (don't have to be a parent)
- Malaka participated in a telephone town hall (they were moderated and questions were screened)
- No mention of how School Councils or PICs will be included in the consultation.
- How to get more parents to participate? How do we help parents understand and answer the questions? Particularly the open submission questions.
 - An example of feedback that could be given: Parents Bill of Right should include School Councils.
 - How to answer questions if you don't agree with the premise of the question. Suggestion – Don't have to answer the specific question, state opinion on the issue instead.
 - Could share answers to questions in the Facebook page or a Google doc.
- Ideas to increase participation
 - Post on Facebook/Twitter – one filled out survey
 - Blitz Day – Promote a day that everyone fills out survey
 - Send a dedicated email
 - Ask everyone you know to participate – neighbors, relatives, friends
 - Discussion at School Council meetings
 - Request for a post on OCASC Facebook group that can be shared with school Facebook pages
 - Give information to Newcomer Services in the community
- OCASC will facilitate dissemination of information, but will not take a position
- Bill of Rights – experience of a parent from the US
 - Typically pushed by extremist/conservative groups in the US
 - Used as a tool for undermining public education and public policy (e.g. climate change, vaccination)
 - Creates a model where public funds are spent to undermine public education (e.g. funding charter schools)
 - Tool to underline public education
- How does proposed Parents Bill of Rights work with existing legislation Ontario Human Rights and Charter of Rights?
- Request for a post on OCASC Facebook group that can be shared with school Facebook pages
- Question: What to do if principal doesn't want to send email on behalf of council? Council can pass a motion and it would be difficult for the principal to not send the email.
- Has the consultation been translated into other languages? Not sure.

Motion: Ask PIC to direct staff to ask principals to send an exclusive email to parents asking parents to participate in the Education in Ontario Government Consultation

Motion: Vimy Ridge; Second: Chapman Mills. Passed Unanimously



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Motion: OCASC Executive to reach out to the media to encourage participation in the Education in Ontario Government Consultation. OCASC executive will not take a position on the consultation topics.

Motion: Westwind; Second: Glashan. Passed Unanimously

5. Gifted Advisory Group (Dana)

- Dana worked on the Gifted Advisory Group for approximately 20 months and dedicated many hours to the group
- There were 3 parents that were part of the group – Dana and 2 representatives from Association of Bright Children (also parents)
- From the beginning OCASC asked for the meeting to be open, for the agendas and minutes to be public, and for parents of non-gifted children to participate.
- Parents felt they weren't being listed to
 - Asked to write a report to expand on a staff proposal. The report was provided in March, feedback was provided in June with only 2.5 days notice. Staff proceeded and didn't consider the content of the report.
 - A complaint letter was submitted by some members of the group - 3 parents plus a Trustee in August. No response received. Staff produced Report 18-100, and again there was provided only a few days before the report was discussed at SEAC.
- Dana wrote a minority report with her concerns about Gifted Advisory Group, including a chronology of events
- Stepping back - Concern about parent involvement and parents voices not being heard.
 - Malaka has raised previously concerns about parent involvement in the Gifted Advisory Group at PIC
 - Don't what this happen again next time there is a working group
 - What would we want next time parents are participants in a working group?
 - Boarder communication problem with parents and the board
 - There should be a conversation when parents don't agree with staff, not ignored
 - Malaka to ask to have this issue added to PIC agenda

Motion: Strike a working group on parental involvement, expectations, commitments and complaints relating board working groups.

Motion: Earl of March; Second: Manor Park. Passed Unanimously

If you are interested in participating in the committee email communications@ocasc.ca or talk to Dana

6. COW

- Annual Student Achievement Report (ASAR)
- Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSAW)
- Consolidated of Safe School Policies – Safe Schools, Weapons, Access to Board Premises, SCO Bullying Prevention and Intervention, Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour



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7. SEAC

- Review of Standards (Special Education Staff, IPRC, Transportation, Staff Development)
- Minority Report on Gifted Advisory Group Suggestions to move forward – Restorative Justice, Healing Circle
- SEAC Representatives for new term of Board – Donna Owen (Broadview), Safina Dewshi (Manor Park)

8. New Business

- \$500 for each School Council – money is coming in the next couple of weeks
- Looking for a representative for the Calendar Committee. Email communications@ocasc.ca if interested
- OCASC PIC representatives have been filled
- Technology funding
 - Board has a five-year plan to fund mobile technology in the classroom at the ratio of 1:4 (as per information from the board staff presented to OCASC in October 2017). Ratio was not supposed to include technology purchased by School Councils.
 - How much is the board funding the five-year technology plan? Is the Board relying the School Council funds to fund technology?
 - Leveraging Technology in the Classroom presentation at Parents Conference provided some information. School councils should not be buying Chromebooks.
 - Malaka / Christine – Reach out to someone at the board to come to OCASC to discuss the five-year technology plan, and how it relates to School Councils.

Next meeting: 17 January 2019