



OCASC May 2019 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 16 May 2019

Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (23)
- Number of school reps attending (20)
- Total schools represented (21)

Member schools attending (22): total member schools (30) quorum (33%) = 11

Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Bayview PS: Rosemary Young
Bell HS: Pryantha Wijeweera
Broadview: Donna Owen
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Earl of March SS: Zhong An
Elgin PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-Chair)
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
Glashan: Lisa Greaves
Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
John Young ES: Dwayne Ratcliffe & Kevin
Katimavik: Ian Urbach
Lady Evelyn Alternative: Graig Haplin

Manor Park: Safina Dewshi
Maple Ridge: Cynthia Allen
Mutchmor PS: Lisa Greaves (Treasurer)
Sir Robert Borden: Helen Norman
(Communications)
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: Cynthia Allen
South March PS: Christine Moulasin
(Co-Chair)
Robert Hopkins PS
Roch Carrier: Zhong An
Steve MacLean: Genevieve Harte & Lynn Vanasse
Stittsville PS: Martin Reid

Non-member Schools attending (0)

Guests and non-school reps (1)

Trustee: **Rob Campbell**



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1. Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:13pm and welcomed members and guests.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion: Stittsville PS; Second: Jockvale ES

March Minutes: Approved as presented. Motion: Stittsville PS; Second: Maple Ridge ES

3. From Your Executive

We welcomed Camille Williams-Taylor, the new Director of Education.

Draft Strategic Plan is available

- Public consultation period has started, ends June 7
- PIC – Staff will come up with plans to meet the strategic plan goals. Requested at PIC that those plans be made public. Have asked to see the relationship between the strategic plan and the budget.
- Information on consultation was sent to parents via the School Council newsletter email
- Infrastructure needs of schools can be tied to safe school aspect of the strategic plan

The budget will be presented May 29, if there are comments or questions contact Malaka (OCASC representative on COW Budget).

PIC

- School Council Training Day for next year
 - Target date is November 9
 - Discussing ideas to make it better. Let Malakla or Martin know if you have feedback or suggestions for speakers.
- PRO Grants
 - Information from the Ministry is that PRO grants will go ahead for next year
 - No application deadline yet

Overnight Field Trips Update from Alta Vista PS

- Annual grade 6 camping trip was not offered this year (had been offered for several years previously)
- There was little consultation with the parent community on this decision
- Heard rumblings that overnight trips were no longer allowed
- Parents investigated what was going on. They found that there was uneven application of the board's policy/procedures. There was not a clear message from the board or superintendents on the criteria for an overnight trip.
- Principal has reconsidered and has approved the trip. Solution found for principal's concern about disturbance to school staffing.
- The situation caused a lot of strife in the school community.
- The Superintendent said the approval of the field trip was up to the Principal. Parents wanted to determine how to resolve and move forward in a respectful manner.



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- Transparency and the trip approval Criteria are issues. Would like clarity on criteria for approving overnight field trips.
- Concerned that other schools may have trips cancelled, and not have parents who could spend the time to work on getting the trip re-instated.
- Overnight field trips were raised at PIC
 - Staff said very clearly that there have been no changes to policy/procedure or communication.
 - Have asked for clarification on criteria for approval of overnight field trips.
 - The Associate Director advised parents to speak to the school's Superintendent if there are concerns.
 - Trustee Campbell – Would only get involved when the communication has broken down.
 - A principal was at meeting where they were told - no trips around water and trips limited to 2 days.
 - Need consistent messaging. Need open communication if trips are being cancelled.
 - Is there any opportunity to measure the number of field trips, to see if there are changes?
- Camille Williams-Taylor
 - Agrees about the importance of notice, communication and transparency
 - Caution about consistency. Schools have different circumstances and different leaders; this may lead to different application of policy/procedures.
 - There should be consistency of process, not necessarily consistency of outcome.
 - There was an accident with a serious injury. Rules were followed. Fluke accident. Caused a discussion amongst board staff.
 - Criteria, policy/procedures have not changed
 - Expectation of vigilance and following all the policy/procedures. Some people may not be comfortable with things that have happened in the past.
 - Challenging that different staff are saying different things.

4. Speaker: Priyantha Wijeweera (Bell HS) 3D Printer Proposal

- Bell has four 3D printers. Very popular with students. Funded by school.
- Trustee Campbell – idea for technology lending library so all schools can access
- Public libraries – have 3D printers available, wondering if there is an opportunity for partnership
- 3D printer costs are coming down. Supplies (made of corn starch) are very inexpensive. Software is free (Thingiverse)
- Maple Ridge – Need teacher to champion the use of new technology like this, or it doesn't get used.

5. Discussion about the OCASC website (updates and next steps. etc)

Helen has been working to improve the OCASC website. She will continue and is looking for suggestions on ways to make it better.

- Previous meeting agendas and minutes has been added
- Knowledge library is still in the works



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- Important Links section has been added
- RSS feed to OCDSB Events
- Suggestion to add section on Consultations

School Council Websites

- Councils can decide whether they use the school website or maintain a separate website.
- Told last fall that the board staff would reach out to school councils, that hasn't happened
- Searching OCDSB website doesn't search school councils
- School council section of school websites was designed without consultation with school councils
- There is confusion as some school council information is not up to date, some schools have 2 websites
- School Councils can get access to School Council portion of the school website. Ask the principal.
- A topic for future discussion.

6. SEAC Update

Changes to locations of some special program classes

OCDSB Guide to Supporting Gifted Students in the Regular Classroom Pilot and OCDSB Interest Academy Pilot

- Pilot implementation of the resources is planned for two junior classes within 3 schools in the fall of 2019.

Empower Reading Program Update

- A tier 3 intervention for students who are having difficulties learning to read, spell and comprehend text.
- Ask your principal about the program at your school

7. COW, PIC Update and Arts Advisory Updates

Code of Conduct - Approved by the board. Available on the board website.

8. New Business

Grow Smart Talks (<https://growsmarttalks.ca/>)

- Next May 22 – Teen Dating Violence / Sexual Assault, Coercion & Consent

Secondary Schools

- Would like a separate time/space for secondary schools. Would like to address this next year.



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- Secondary schools can add items to the agenda. Hasn't happened yet.
- Can break meeting out in separate topics.
- Want to accommodate everyone and provide ways for people to communicate.
- Happy to turn the meetings into whatever the community wants.
- Chalk it Up has been moved to Facebook, to allow time for other topics.
- A lot of high schools are grades 7-12 now.
- Open for suggestions for next year.

Fundraising/Solicitation

- General Practice of not bringing fundraising or solicitation (selling products) to OCASC meetings. Asked for feedback on this practice.
- In the past this type of information was presented during Chalk it Up
- A suggestion for one break out session per year for fundraising ideas. People who are interested can attend. Alternatively push information out over email and/or Facebook.

Ontario Autism Program Consultation is on going

- Telephone Halls
- Written and email submission
- Online survey

9. Adjournment ? pm

Next meeting: 26 September 2019