



# OCASC November 2019 Meeting Minutes

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Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K2H 6L3

Date: 21 November 2019  
Location: Fisher Park School (Library), 250 Holland Avenue  
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

*The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an umbrella organization for school councils and parents in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) to share information and facilitate communication within the OCDSB communities to enhance the education of all its students. Learn more here: <https://ocasc.ca/about-ocasc-2/about-ocasc/>*

## 1. Call to order

The Co-Chair (Malaka Hendela) called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm and welcomed members and guests.

## 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

**Agenda:** Amendment proposed to substitute Pro Grant discussion in place of #4 Speaker: Mike Carsen (CFO OCDSB) Lead in Schools. Speaker not able to attend and will send some materials to OCASC members to share with schools. (Malaka Hendela)

Approved as amended. Motion: Canterbury; Second: Lisgar

**October Minutes:** Approved as presented. Motion: Glebe; Second: John Young

## 3. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update and Pro (parents reaching out) Grant discussion (Malaka and Martin):

**At the most recent PIC meeting, Malaka and Martin committed to have a discussion at OCASC to put ideas together for how to implement changes in PRO grant funding given new program design. Ideas to be brought back to the next PIC meeting to inform roll out.**

Major points to support discussion:

- \$40,521 allocated to OCDSB to be spent by June 2020, with board reporting done by July 15,2020. How do we spend best to meet engagement objectives?
- More than 50% cut from previous year funding. This will replace both Regional and council grants.
- All new rules are listed on the Board website.
- Projects have to set objectives, amongst other measurable targets. Final reports will be completed by the board.
- Parent conference will be funded out of another administrative budget, speaker series is also covered by the other budget, not the Pro Grant budget. For this year.
- Board will engage with a wide variety of community engagement stakeholders to determine which projects will get funded and funds will be spent.
- Some ideas to start the discussion
- Board could hand out 1\$ per student
- Distributing by zone
- Partnering schools



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- Demographic basis
- Create some parent engagement activities, eg. purchase a number of workshop activities.
- Looking to leverage low cost options and maximize reach of engagement activities.

Main goals of the current iteration of ProGrant program:

- To remove barriers that prevent parents and families from engaging fully in their children's learning.
- Create an outreach plan with set outcomes. Workshops, information sessions, parent resources, parents felt like valued partners.
- Include measurable targets. Number or percentage of parents who have increased activities, number and percentage of parents who felt more comfortable in the school environment.
- Areas of focus, Math, Safe schools
- Measurement needs to be as simple and streamlined. Cannot cost more than 15% of overall budget.

Ideas discussion:

- Support for purchase of workshops. Schools can participate together.
- Possibility to put 40\$K towards supporting schools that don't have a history of engagement to run the packaged activities.
- Could delegate needs assessment to Superintendents to poll principals.
- Don't give the money to the councils on per capita basis because reporting would be so difficult. They might just turn it down.
- Parent workshops – would fit criteria
- Presents an opportunity to develop equity.
- Do want the schools who don't have councils to become engaged.
- A speaker series is not going to engage the parents who have traditionally not participated.
- Online tool available to parents who could participate more without having to physically be present.
- Invest in a person to come up with initiatives to engage parents for the schools that have higher needs.
- Separation between elementary and secondary. Re-engagement check ins Kindergarten/Grade 7/High School
- Create welcome kit/ Ambassador program, communication tools. Welcome bags and resource library
- Parent resource library. Schools that have them could build standard plan and roll out tool kit to schools who need them. Use of library is the measure of engagement.
- Translation fees be covered to support engagement. Board does have translation services, not for school councils. Translation can be available for certain things.



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## Considerations raised:

- Has a needs analysis been done?
- Baseline could be measured by looking at the following data: Determine which schools have never accessed Pro Grants, we need to determine which schools have never had councils, have they ever had engagement activities.
- Needs analysis would help to focus activities and to measure success.
- Best to go back to actual data to build out a model from who has accessed the funding in the past. But timing is an issue.
- Board is launching engagement project related to engagement in Math. Activities in schools to talk to parents about engaging parents in supporting mathematics.
- Board Improvement plan for Math linked in PIC agenda. [Attach pic agenda](#)
- Standardized tools will be required for measurement.
- Focus more on high schools because they are not as well represented at OCASC.
- What if funds are gone next year? The plans should support making parent engagement sustainably funded.
- ONFE – could be engaged

## Questions posed:

- Are other funding sources available or recommended to make up the shortfall?
- Can schools with \$\$ can offer top-up funds and share?

## How to continue the discussion and contribute new ideas:

- Contribute to Thought Exchange – contributions through link may be measured against OCASC recommendations.
- Submit suggestions through OCASC Facebook Group

Martin is leading a sub committee. He is collecting all of the ideas and will represent them at next PIC meeting.

## 4. Committee Of the Whole (COW) Update:

- Policy change - over 30 different dress codes and safe schools policies will be merged,.
- Code of conduct and two others etc. will be coming out to parents for consultation through sessions in the east and west ends of Ottawa and through the Thought exchange.
- Policies will be board-wide. Please keep an eye out you can get involved with that. Please see COW minutes for info on policy changes. Agenda items are included there
- Tuesday evening Board meeting to discuss, attend if there are any issues about that.
- Board has launched an attendance app launched in 12 schools.
- Labour Relations update- Elementary Nov 26 work to rule. Teachers can continue to work with school councils through work to rule.
- Values survey for elementary schools – please fill out board really needs the feedback



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## 5. Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Update:

- SEAC right to read public enquiry ont human rights commission – OCDSB is a part of the enquiry.
- 14 boards included.
- See Board Website for more information.

## 6. Adjournment:

Co-Chair (Malaka Hendela) adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, 16 January 2020