



OCASC October 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: 15 October 2020
Location: Zoom
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance

- Total attendance (?)
- Number of school reps attending (?)
- Total schools represented (?)

Member schools attending (?): total member schools (?) quorum (33%) = ?

Bayview PS: Rosy Young
Bell HS: David McCormak
Broadview PS: Donna Owen (SEAC)
Castlefrank ES: Ralph Quapp
Chapman Mills PS: Mital Kumar Patel
Farley Mowat PS: Marc Feliciano
Glebe CI: Gerry Nera
John McCrae SS: Lainie Taylor-Ryan
John Young ES: Aaron Driscoll
John Young ES: Dwayne Routliffe
Katimavik ES: Ian Urbach

Lady Evelyn Atl. PS: Graig Haplic
Manor Park PS: Safina Dewshi(SEAC)
Maple Ridge ES: Cynthia Allen
Mary Honeywell ES: Martin Nieves
Mutchmor PS: Alexandria Sjoman
Severn Avenue PS: Mark Warriner
Stittsville PS: SirMartin Ried
Stonecrest ES: Patricia McKeage
South March PS: Christine Moulaison
(Co-Chair)
Vincent Massey PS: Cheryl Kitoury

Non-member Schools attending (12)

Adrienne Clarkson PS: John Lymer
Alta Vista PS: Nancy Dean (Membership)
Elgin Street PS: Malaka Hendela (Co-chair)
Emily Carr MS: Robert Hawgood
Jockvale ES: Phil McKee
Knoxdale PS: Alysse Norcross

Lisgar CI: Jennifer Reynolds
Longfields-Davidson Heights SS:
Aliaa Daleroury
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SS: Terri-Lynn Kennedy
Trillium ES: JP Grimes
Vimy Ridge: Amber Lavelle

Guests and non-school reps (4)

Trustee: Donna Blackburn
Trustee: Lynn Scott

Trustee: Justine Bell (new trustee Downtown ward first official OCASC meeting)

OCDSB: Angie Masaiah (Board staff)



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1. Call to order

Nancy Dean called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcomed members and guests. House Keeping notes. Introduction of chairs and speakers list. Please keep muted but on camera if possible. Participants please choose the option to re-name images and please put name and school beside it for attendance.

Co-chair (Malaka): Discussion: Will be video recording for minutes purposes. Prefer not google transcription due to less formal nature of the meetings. Collaborative community: recording of minutes is based on fair and open dialogue. Unless preference is to go back to a more formal process. For any questions or suggestions, participants can send pms to Malaka to discuss.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Approved as presented. Motion:? Second: ?

November Minutes: Approved as presented. Motion:? Second:?

2. From your executive (including COW, SEAC, and PIC Updates)

Committee of the Whole (COW): Christine

Christine: 2 meetings have been held this year so far. All meetings have been virtual. Main topics for the first meeting were about COVID steps and virtual schools. Most recent was on Tuesday night, 2 topics: COVID prep, systemic racism and indigenous teachings in curriculum. Consultation plan coming out to parent councils and OCASC to try to breakdown systemic racism in the board. Question from Christine to board was how info would be communicated. The Board will likely present to OCASC meeting, reps will get notice to communicate due to new virtual consultation plans (link in chat to the indigenous equity report, also the school resource officers report link in Chat)

Comment (Vimy Ridge): Road map appears to be more of a report and less analysis.

Trustee Scott: Road map will look at activities over the next 3 years to dismantle racism. There will be multiple reports using identity based data. The point is to move us all forward in terms of being more inclusive. Doing as much as we can to make things more equitable and do to represent differences and value in the differences between individuals.

Follow up (Vimy Ridge): You can't dismantle a barrier that you haven't named. Identifying the differences in identity based data doesn't address the barriers. Recommendation that engagement needs to be treated with as much urgency as covid 19 because racism is of as much of a threat.

Trustee Scott: Analysis is the plan to determine disproportionality and then get at root causes.

Trustee Bell: One of the things about this road map, issues of indicators and identifying milestones are critical to measuring change. 5 issues were repeated again and again, these are



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what set the basis of the milestones for the roadmap plan.

Special Education Advisory Committee SEAC Update (Safina Manor Park): 2 Seac meetings have been held since the beginning of the year. Focus was on supporting students with special needs through new virtual learning environments. Many children with special needs do not have a virtual school but are supported by teachers who are also teaching in class. The original plan was to ensure that the children had the same type of support as they had in class. Parents don't find that it's working.

IEPs need to be finalized in just a couple of weeks which is just a couple of days before the end of the first quadmester so the students aren't getting the help they need before the section of learning is done. Rep is prepared to represent parents. These are ongoing issues. Board members are very receptive to hearing parents and SEAC is a good opportunity to raise issues.

Indigenous equity report was also covered at SEAC but Christine covered thoroughly in COW update.

Parent Involvement Committee PIC Update (Malaka and Martyn)

Parent Involvement Committee (Malaka): Body that communicates with parent councils. 2 meetings so far this year. They had a candid discussion about needs and concerns about elections and equality for virtual parents. There was an emphasis that there is a need for clear communication. The Board of Trustees set a list of rules for council elections for this school year. The last PIC meeting had short notice due to a communication glitch with new technology. Meeting is much more open due to virtual accessibility. Now it's a public meeting that anyone can join. Malaka and Martyn will post PIC links for more people to join. Last night a report was presented about parent engagement in a virtual world.

Also, Parent Council Day was discussed. Has occurred for the past number of years, they've normally had upwards of 800 participants. Event is not going to happen in November as usual because it needs to be set up to be successful virtually.

Lots of items to bring up to PIC this year. 5 spots are available for parent participation. Its an application process. A really good opportunity to share your voice with the board. To support systemic opportunities for change. Feeling very hopeful this year.

<https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/PARENT-INVOLVEMENT-COMMITTEE-APPLICATION-FORM>

(Martyn) Dr. Vera Etches presented to PIC regarding the current situation re. active cases in the board schools. They believe they're still managing the outbreaks in the schools. Dr. Etches said 'There are not as many incidents of transmission in the schools as you would think'. Ottawa Public Health are recruiting for public health nurses. New testing appointment booking system is up and running. Questions were raised to Dr. Etches about more accessible testing centres for families without cars. Some of the questions were about the time delays about when you find out your results. Parents need to inform the schools asap instead of waiting for pub health notification.

Questions raised to Dr. Etches about mandated vaccines, answer was likely no - and would likely follow the flu vaccine model. Transmission from touch is lower risk than sneezing etc. Parents asked OPH to provide teaching tools to support conversations in the school.



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Dr. Etches recognized the message from a parent peer would cut through communication noise to get info out to parents. Communication can't be long and just in English. Another channel OPH is exploring are non written notes, sound bites to share through whatsapp etc.

OPH knows that they have to get beyond the large testing centres, they're trying out other models for accessibility of testing.

Cynthia (school?) Comment: Outdoor classrooms, Board policy not to use them because there are insufficient space to distance properly, also cleaning needs. Some schools are doing adhoc classrooms. Masks, handwashing and distance are the most important points to prevent transmission. Martyn plans to let a bit of time go by and then go back to the board about this question.

Ashleigh (school?) Comment/Question: Parent communication and difficulty reaching parents. How do different channels access parents. How can this group help with the communication? eg. the Board is not asking the right questions with their surveys.

Martyn: Board is asking for input about how to access parents because the parent group spans every special interest group in the city. At the PIC meeting a Brainstorming Session was hosted: Common themes were communication, school engagement, the questions didn't resolve last night. Needs to be discussed again. Need more parents involved in the conversation. Nothing new came out that wasn't known already. Martyn found it to be a missed opportunity.

A report was presented about parent engagement. The 20 min session was the thought sharing exercise was the only opportunity for input on the budget spending for parent engagement for the coming year. Parents need to be consulted on Policy decisions, parent engagement is not optional. Malaka and Martyn are aiming to set a goal for parent engagement. They will share the report and would like more parent input to bring back to the board. We need to find out how to represent the needs of new councils to the board this year. Next PIC meeting is in November, will likely elect a new co-chair. Martyn has advocated for a work plan. Goal is to bring parent needs to PIC to ensure budget is spent to address real and pressing priorities. eg. 1. How to make a council stop and pause to make it a priority to engage communities affected by racism? 2. Make tools available, tool kits, communication channels, 3. New Councils need models and support.

ACTION: Trustee Giroux has asked for top tips to share with councils. Please share top tips with Malaka and Martyn to send over to the PIC. For feedback stittsvilleps.ocasc@gmail.com

Thinkpeice from PIC last night - <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#971505835/hub>



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<https://www.ocdsbvirtualschoolresources.com>

Some suggestions to support how to do fundraising in the virtual world. Please share ideas with Martyn and Malaka to bring to PIC. Councils can also share funds with sister schools. Virtual schools can likely do the same. Funding earned is normally funding for that community. Fundraising can be an issue of equity, no reason why councils can't get together or partner. Councils can organize a redistribution of funds. May set up a specific OCASC night to discuss general rules around fund raising and spending.

(Rep name Jackie?)OCV - Can take funds but nothing mandating that. There's been a huge amount of parent involvement in the Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/304914574293247/>

PIC topic - Afterschool clubs: how parents can support those, will be a discussion at PIC regarding how that carries on this year.

Positions of chair and vice chair up for voting at next PIC meeting.

Cynthia (Maple Ridge) Afterschool clubs, community use of schools canceled, parents traditionally have brought in guests. Are parents able to support in this way? Messages about what we can and can't do is not going to each school consistently. Why is there a blanket across the board cancellation of programs like running.

ACTION: (Martyn will take This question about what parents can and can't do to support clubs, special guests etc..back to PIC for more information)

PIC rep (Martyn) - move to virtual eg. scientists in the schools can host virtual workshops. Council can fund virtual programs. eg. items that will look good on a cv. like debate club can just be on zoom playing lego. What can parents support virtually that we couldn't do because it was in person? Some new opportunities. Malaka OCASC could develop models for virtual clubs? Parents can be a support of the school functioning. Could also expand beyond the specific school if a parent has specific skills that are in demand. Need to keep accessibility at the forefront. Eg. reduce inequity through use of internet dongles and shared board chromebooks. Malaka - how to build the fun back in is where the parents can support.

Outgoing Communications: (Helen, Sir Robert Borden) question, how to connect the virtual school with the school itself. The physical schools may close and then more kids will be in the virtual system. Difficult to get people involved even before COVID so even more important now.

Malaka- Parents are allowed to sit on both virtual and in person councils. Please share info from new virtual councils.



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Communications: (Nancy) has taken a list of the topics that reps have raised for discussion. Don't have to stick to regular monthly meeting, could hold meetings in between if necessary or interested.

3. **Breakout sessions (elections/clubs/ any other topics):** (POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING)

4. **Adjournment at (approximately) 8:39 pm**

AGM

1. **Review of Previous Minutes -set aside**
2. **Co -Chair: (Malaka)** Thank you to Helen, transitioning to representing her highschool. Helen has built the OCASC website, kept on task for all communications. Ever grateful that she will stay with OCASC though school community. Helen, thank you very much.

3. **Executive Reports:**

Chair Report: Christine and Malaka.

Commitments over last year changed radically, roles shifted radically. Communications with media re. Strike, then COVID transitions. HOping that it was done with a balance of objectivity. Participation last Feb. when Union representatives attended OCASC meeting. Have enjoyed the privilege of trying to support engagement of parent communities.

Membership Secretary: Nancy

Trying to engage more councils, trying to find out from the board which schools have council and which need support. Last year we had 47 schools represented 74 people listed in our forms, up from 35 the year before. HOpefully we can increase due to virtual accessibility. Working on renewal of memberships after the AGM.

ACTION: Virtual membership form will be sent out to all participants tonight and to facebook group so that we can gather the new information for this school year.

Treasurer Lisa: (Malaka reporting) Lisa sent regrets. Membership fees, only things to



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purchase have been snacks and technology, laptop and zoom licence. Money is spent based on approval of the membership. Membership fees have been a standard amount. Fees are voluntary. Nancy and Lisa are looking at how to set up the EFT and this is a tough year so council funds could be better spent in the schools. May gather funds for a specific cause this year. But we're not chasing for fees this year. Don't want to create work this year.

Communications Helen: Tasks have transitioned to Nancy, family tragedy in April has caused Helen to not be able to continue. This year was focussed on building the website. And will be helping behind the scenes for technical stuff. Will be supporting communications in the new virtual world. Always working to make sure that info is getting to the people that it needs to. Open to suggestions for ways to communication communications@ocasc.ca or put on the facebook page we can always improve with input.

4. Call for nominations:

Treasurer: Lisa (no objections)

Communications: Nancy (no objections)

Membership: Rosy (no objections)

Chair/CoChair: Malaka, Christine (No objections)

Martyn offered to run this part of the meeting to avoid a conflict.

Nancy: Question from the chat re burning questions from Manor Park have other principals been able to access OCV parents to send out council information. Principal should be able to send via principal. Martyn - Principal needs to speak to superintendent.

Co Chairs closing: feel free to contact anytime though fb or communications@ocasc.ca

AGM adjourned 9:05PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020