



OCASC December 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: December 10, 2020

Location: Zoom

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Attendance :

Schools In Attendance : ()

OCASC Reps In Attendance: ()

Additional participants (Schools to be identified) ():

Guests and non-school reps ()

ATTENDANCE TO BE UPDATED

1. Call to order

Call to order from Nancy Dean Communications Lead (Ridgemont) 7:02PM

(Welcome Poll) 67% of councils in attendance use school websites. (28 participants)

Introduction: Christine Moulaison Co-Chair (South March) Scientists in Schools will come in to present about the virtual programs that are now available. If we can it's a nice change of routine for the students.

Comment: Laura McKenzie (OCV) It's an amazing program "sticky science" with 'Sparks' aged children was excellent. Other question is whether fundraising is permitted this year.

Blake (Broadview) the school is doing in person fundraising sales of coffee Equator Coffee off site at an adjacent from the school property. FlipGive app is being used towards school and teacher gifts. VanHoutte is also offering coffee fundraising programs.

Christine (South March) has the contact for VanHoutte and will provide upon request.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Move to approve agenda: Blake (Broadview), second Ralph (Katimavik); approved as presented.

Move to approve Minutes: Blake (Broadview), second Nancy (Ridgemont); approved as presented.

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

Committee Of the Whole – Christine (South March)

New Human Rights policy will be introduced at the board, has been expanded to include councils and OCASC, will definitely be including the voices of parents and councils in the policy.

Special Education Action Committee – Safina (Manor Park)

Presentation about New Human Rights Policy, presenter interested in presenting at OCASC.

Important for them to hear from voices that are not most often heard, also about how kids with special learning needs will engage. Will be using a lot of mediums internet, phone, virtual.

Report on suspensions has been provided. Only programs that have significant waitlists -ASD 27 on waitlist, Learning Disabilities Specialized Program 18 on waitlist. Elementary level but not waitlists at secondary level.



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No PIC update: Meetings don't normally happen in Dec

Extended Day Program report: Blake (Broadview)

Superintendent of Early learning gave facts about in August 6500 students registered Sept 1 2500, in flux, miraculous that the program ran. 2500 students across the board. With potential changes after Christmas. Digibot 99% complete for what the public deal with, allows the board to pull a lot of valuable data. Board will run an EDP program if 3 families request at 1 school. Have continued to run even when there is 1 child if families drop out. Even if it requires 2 staff. Significant short falls, staffing costs up v. funding coming in. ratios have gone up due to COVID precautions. Eg. Check In staff at the door. Budget will need to be reviewed next year. There will likely be a cost change next year. No waitlists for EDP or subsidized spots. EDP is much lower in urban areas. Some schools not running at all. Rural, lower maybe due to virtual schooling, transportation issues. Trying to focus on Equity and looking at how to increase subsidized spots if there is a need there. Depends on family and employment situations. Trying to work with other agencies about how to support families. Digibot works if English or French are primary languages. Reviewing ideas of meeting staff in the yard so they could help families to navigate the Digibot.

Arts Advisory Update: Nancy (Ridgemont)

Did not have a meeting in December. Always looking for new members, ask Nancy about the meeting times and dates. Christine can also help to get new volunteers connected with the various committees if there is interest. The more varying perspectives, the more effective the committees.

Discussion re. Board Committees:

Question from membership: What are the committees? And how do we know what they do, where they meet, and how often?

ACTION: Nancy (Ridgemont) OCASC executive will put the list of committees together for the membership of OCASC to review. All committees are listed on the OCDSB Website. Calendar committee will be starting up soon and is likely looking for new members. There are also school committees like the school improvement committee.

Andrea (Connaught) wondering if there is an EDP surplus left over from last year? What was it spent on? Blake (Broadview) Staff costs went up 100% for this year.

ACTION: Blake (Broadview) will take the question back to the committee.

ACTION: (All) Calendar Committee Monday Dec 14 2-3:30PM Zoom meeting if anyone will be able to attend. Please send interest to Christine (Ridgemont) If no one else is able to attend, Christine will be able to attend.

Breakout sessions/ Group Discussion:

Question: Safina (Manor Park) What types of equipment are in use at recess?



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Answer: Christine (South March) Equipment is allowed for gym classes, but not for recess and not allowed to bring their own.

Question: Andrea (Connaught) Raffle? Do we need a license?

Answer: Safina (Manor Park) we need a lottery license for sure before you can run. It's a City of Ottawa license.

Question: Andrea (Connaught) Board Licenses for virtual movie nights?

Answer: Martyn (Stittsville PS) Was looking into it, no answer yet.

ACTION: Christine (South March) looking into it.

Questions: Trivia night suggestions?

Answer: Blake (Broadview) Kahoot web app. Someone must build the base but it's a virtual game program that can be used.

Question: Erin (Manotick) Fundraising – can we use funds from last year? What can the funds be used on because they're carry over.

Answer: (Christine) Councils can carry over money as long as it has been documented and earmarked. Council can vote on changes. Best to spend on what the funds were raised for. As long as council approves what the funds are being spent on. As council can principals veto council decisions? Document in the minutes when/if changes are made. Andy (Robert Hopkins) Council tries really hard to have the teachers tell the parent council what they need rather than the parents deciding.

Question: Orla (Fallingbrook) Tips or tricks for getting answers from the Board? Trying to run a project on an outdoor classroom.

Answer: (Christine) You can reach out to Superintendent. Or Trustee because the project will benefit constituents. OCASC can look into contacts from the board for how to get in touch on the topic of outdoor classrooms. Andy(Robert) Has idea about wheelbarrows carrying outdoor tools for education including whiteboards. Will attach a photo in chat if he can find one. Marcia (Westwind) a Principals shouldn't be vetoing ideas that have been voted on by council but it helps if there are champions in the school and that the school sees as a priority.

Nancy (Ridgemont) – Value based data and suspension data from the school, councils can ask for that information from the Principal. Teachers are being taught something called the third path, program about conflict resolution and it's supporting a reduction in suspension cases. Ask schools about school improvement plan, wellbeing plan. Mental health is a major priority in the secondary schools. Safina (Manor Park) from SEAC when schools are talking about tools to use as an alternative to suspensions. The root of the behaviors needs to be addressed. Shift to manage root of behaviors as opposed to reacting to the negative behaviors. If school suspensions are going down, are school exemptions going up? If a youth is exempted from school due to a safety risk. Big deal at SEAC due to a variety of behaviors due to special education needs. Nancy (Ridgemont)How to allow students to have more of a say about their learning. Andrea (Connaught) doing a reading group with teachers. Nancy (Ridgemont) K- 3



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discretionary suspensions have been stopped. Nancy (Ridgemont) Looking for interesting ways to get parents to talk more with each other, especially at high school level. (Marcia) Would also like to find ways to get the parents connected with the teachers.

Blake (Broadview) – The Board is trying to find a way to reach the families where they are. Trying to figure out how blind spots can be covered.

Question: Rosy (Bayview) Does EDP get closed before the school? Is it considered the same or separate in COVID protocol?

Answer: Blake (Broadview) Will ask the EDP committee.

Question: Is Facebook Group information kept private?

Answer: Christine (South March) There is a quick questionnaire, families need to provide information before they're given access. This is how the school can maintain privacy for members.

Marcia (Westwind) Recommending maintaining online access for meetings. Christine (South March) Hybrid recommended for the future. Options for online and/or in person.

Questions can be sent to communications@ocasc.ca or on Facebook group.

Adjournment of Meeting.....8:46 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021

Membership: Please complete form at <https://forms.gle/tgF8hDQHGymnjckc6>