



# OCASC February 2021 Meeting Minutes

[chair@ocasc.ca](mailto:chair@ocasc.ca) [www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/) <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, ON  
K2H 6L3

Date: February 18, 2021

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

Item: time

1. Welcome and Introductions 7:00
2. Approval of Agenda and January Minutes 7:10
3. From your executive: (including COW, SEAC, PIC and other committees) 7:40
4. School Council Funds Survey 8:15
5. OCDSB Speakers Series 8:30
6. Breakout sessions 8:40
7. Adjournment of Meeting 9:00

## 1. Call to order

Call to order from Malaka Hendela (Co-chair) 7:00

### 1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Move to approve agenda: Bayla (Steve McRae) Second (Canterbury)

Move to approve Minutes: Martyn (SPS) Second Susan (Forest Valley)

Welcome to guests;

Justine Bell, (Trustee),

Engy (OCDSB),

Carolyn Tanner (Guest Speaker)

## 2. Guest: Carolyn Tanner Human Rights Policy Consultation

Link to [PRESENTATION](#):

Link to information on board website:

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=36429793>

### Carolyn Tanner

Human Rights and Equity Advisor

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

[carolyn.tanner@ocdsb.ca](mailto:carolyn.tanner@ocdsb.ca)



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[consultation.humanrights@ocdsb.ca](mailto:consultation.humanrights@ocdsb.ca)

## Discussion/Q&A

working to identify systemic discrimination, oversee investigation and resolution of complaints and concerns.

-Student complaints normally escalate through the school. The goal is to develop a human rights policy that will allow community members to bring human rights forward in a way that feels safe and will support resolution.

Carolyn's position is arm's length from the board.

Q1: What age would you start the consultation process with the students?

A1: Focused on gr. 9-12, considering gr.7-8. Reached out to teachers in social justice classes to see if it can be built into the class. Parents may be engaged for class levels that are younger.

Q2a: High percentage of refugees living in temporary housing in local hotels. Challenge for council to engage parents so new to Canada, how to engage them in these consultations.

Q2b: Procedures to be a part of consultation, will the work look at the fundamental engagement points of parents solving individual issues. Because it could miss aggregate data because of individual points of contact. Self-advocacy is at the forefront. How do we make it so that a parent doesn't have to advocate for themselves? How will it be transformative rather

A2ab: Question is a result of not having the human rights advocacy support. What we expect to change is to have consistency and ideally universal design, ways to bring the accommodation process forward, decisions to be consistent, procedures that can be consistently applied. Issues of discrimination and harassment. and accommodation are decided in different ways and not necessarily consistent. Goal is to have a clear and transparent process. Goal is to move away from a place where students need to justify and demand rights.

Comment re. Q2: Should build in measurement and evergreening. Important to measure how it's working.

Q3: Younger kids do have awareness, maybe versions for younger kids could bring interesting perspectives.

A3: Could be a joint meeting or parents with children? Could be built into the curriculum.

Comment re. Q3: Younger students, could provide the best answers about what could be best to help them.

Q4: What is the working group referenced in the presentation?

A4: Internal working group. Policy Analyst will receive all of the feedback from the consultations. The policy and procedure will be drafted for review from consultation groups.



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Comment re. Q4 Suspension report, this policy could be a part of how we engage with the students to address the over representation of specific groups in the highest number of suspensions.

Q5: How to engage students who are coming from much more challenging home situations.

A5: Certain positions in the board will bring some students who have engaged extra support services in order to get some feedback.

Comment re. A5: It would be valuable to have contact with students in the schools.

Comment re. A5: Human rights hard to identify, mental health is not clearly diagnosed always. Often kids from under privileged families may not have access to services that would provide diagnosis. When students don't have diagnosis it's very hard to advocate for services.

Q6: How will this process intersect with the formal human rights advocacy process.

A6: Still to be clarified.

Comment re. A6: Please make sure that this isn't an exercise in paperwork. In the role that Carolyn is in, we could be talking with her in the capacity of representing all of our schools and the roles that our councils play so we can be a part of the solution if the consultation is real. Systemic change takes time, policy is performative, putting the change into practice is what takes time. There is momentum in the board to do this. OCASC is not a committee of the board. We meet to discuss communication and collaboration. Councils need direction in accessibility and open to break down barriers from more families. We could certainly use a lens to bring to our organizations. We're entities under the education act. There are some big questions of equity between councils and schools about what resources are available and what councils can support and what schools with no councils miss out on.

Q7: Wondering where documentation is of the past 20 years' worth of Human Rights claim cases?

A7: Twenty years of research, not just Ottawa specific, in general, many same patterns exist in outcomes.

Comment re. A7: Always a danger that in this group you have a lot of very active parents, vast bulk of parents will not engage, important to target those who need the help the most, and not the ones who are coming forward with ideas and are already accessing services, the very vocal advocates can drown out those who need the support the most.

General Comment: Who has the right to say what's best? Reference to book The Dark Horse, success through the pursuit of personal happiness. How we can have the right to pursue our own happiness in different ways. E.g. Valuing alternative pathways, markers of success are not that every student comes through gr. 12 and goes to universities.

General comment to close from presenter: Interested parents can monitor on the webpage. Carolyn will put the contacts into an email.

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



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## Committee Of the Whole – [Christine Moulaison](#) (South March)

Special COW and COW budget, reviewed budget from last year. Board expecting 17M deficit ended up 28M not shocked due to circumstances. Board hoping to recover 10M unanticipated from Prov. Talked about what will and won't be covered next year. Next year will likely not have covid boost to funding. Brick/Virtual schooling numbers and structures will influence the budget for next year.

City of Ottawa now has divided into more school zones, board has to go through to look at zones to make sure that all zones are covered within trustee zones, all zones should be covered by 12 trustees, constituent numbers should be about equal. Kanata will likely be one of the bigger zones for constituent numbers. Numbers and budgets are in the agendas for COW on Board website.

## Special Education Action Committee – [Safina D](#) (Manor Park)

Major takeaway Board was developing a toolkit for teachers to support students with exceptionalities, for students in the regular classroom, kits are for teachers. SEAC got to see the resource at the last meeting. This tool would be incredibly useful for parents to be able to advocate for their students. Some sort of virtual school may be available next year. Request for SEAC to participate in support for students in virtual schools. Also reviewed what supports are in place for the students who need extra supports when brick and mortar students switch to online due to lockdowns. Email input can go to safina via email.

## Parent Involvement Committee: ([Martyn](#) / [Malaka](#))

Induction training for new representatives. Martyn will participate in the Provincial PIC of PICS. Youth Advisors consultation about how to support Skilled trades and when to introduce as a viable option and when/and how to promote. Surveys French and English will be distributed.

PRO grant – speakers list – more information will come out in March. Engy hoping to send info next week.

Want to know how parents have been getting information from the board. Common themes in feedback to board; lack of timely information, families learning more about and unease about kids going back to school 50/50 split.

## Extended Day Program report: [Blake D](#) (Broadview)

There is no longer has a surplus after this year, have needed more staff, and collective agreements were negotiated recently. Ratios have been going up. Rates will be going up next school year starting next month by about 10\$/mo. PA days 2\$/day increase. Chair will stay for the rest of this year and will stay into next year. Presentation of fees and where they came from. No waiting list for subsidized spaces and could take more. Enrollment is down 40% this year. Digibot program for enrollment is at 99% will get some good data for participation and enrollment trends. Will put email in chat for questions or feedback.

## Arts Advisory Update: [Nancy Dean](#) (Ridgemont)

Right to expression was raised with Human Rights representative. Moving forward with



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roadmap project. If there is an opportunity to get input from councils about arts education at your schools. More info to follow from Nancy.

## Closing Discussion:

OCASC Survey and Special Brainstorming Meeting coming up: Topics include what councils can raise for and spend money on, and what the board is meant to spend on. Councils can share last year budgets. We can ask questions about what we've seen in the budgets. Councils can access budget information from each other. Nancy will set up a meeting to discuss. The goal is to try to bring together information about fundraising, the impact of pandemic. Are there gaps? Are there equities? Will invite treasurers to come.

Propose to close unless formal business.

Motion to close: Blake (Broadview) Second Dwayne (John Young)

Questions can be sent to [communications@ocasc.ca](mailto:communications@ocasc.ca) or on Facebook group.

**Adjournment of Meeting.....9:12 pm**

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 18, 2021**

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