



OCASC March 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, ON
K2H 6L3

Date: March 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

1. Call to order

Call to order from Malaka Hendela (Co-chair) 7:03

Introduction: Not putting PRO Grant on the agenda because OCASC has not been involved in the roll out of the program.

OCASC have sent messaging to the Board about the concerns that have been raised by OCASC members. Specifically, about the timeframe not being possible to make decisions according to governance processes. Board has recently extended the deadline.

In the PIC update there will be a chance to talk about the PIC plan to engage parents. Forward looking, engaging each other. The goal is for OCASC to stop being reactive and fear based. The goal is to map out plans for next year and to decide whether items are subgroup or committee or OCASC items.

Comment: Martyn (PIC Chair) 2 modes of communication with Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), through PIC Chair, and Council Chairs will also be able to raise questions and concerns through OCASC PIC reps. Martyn will send an email to Council Chairs to introduce himself and the new communication channel.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Move to approve agenda: Jackie (OCV), Second, Crystal (Castle Frank).

Comment (Canterbury): can we discuss the board's plans for next year? Canterbury council would like me to bring our thoughts and concerns forward. A: Priority point of discussion for HS group.

Move to approve Minutes: Jackie (OCV) Second, Crystal (Castle Frank)

2. Parent Involvement Committee Update:



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Malaka and Martyn are the nominated reps. from OCASC. Over years, the role of OCASC on PIC has shifted. Martyn (Stittsville PS) and OCASC rep is the newly elected PIC Chair. Jackie Samuels (OCV) and OCASC rep is also an elected member of PIC.

In the past the reporting and consultation responsibilities have fallen to the OCASC reps at PIC.

With Martyn in the Chair role now, the communication with PIC has changed. There is now a direct line to PIC at OCASC meetings and in the network and OCASC can return to its original purpose of engagement and knowledge sharing. Recent advocacy role of OCASC has been very reactive and fear based as opposed to proactive and constructively fun focused. E.g. Fundraising, building communities, engaging with school and education.

Would like to add time goals, 3mo to end of this year, 6mo starting next year, and next year. What are these goals. How do we articulate and plan and how do we communicate it and to whom? Remembering that next year is an election year.

3. Breakout rooms designated by School Zone 1-12, and High School. (Individual group note takers) Main discussion topics: Goals for 3, 6, 12 mo. On Themes of Fun/Fear/Frustration

Breakout Report Back:

High schools – Discussion regarding promotion of a petition for Secondary Student families regarding discrepancy in learning opportunities for OCV students vs. In class students.

Malaka summarize: OCASC perspective and goal would be that there is a basic gap and need to address the gap in the ability to broadly communicate with secondary parents.

Zone 1: Challenges: Program engagement, speaker series looks a lot like other lists of speakers already seen. Would like to start to think what they would like PRO grant program to look like? Long term planning is hard in OCV. Parental engagement, board changed the plan for next year and forced decisions without engagement of parents. Issue specific to Stittsville.

Zone 2: Christine has notes.

Zone 3: Challenges: Council spending, ideas for engaging parents and families, beautification project at Emily Carr. Show kids that parents are still engaged. Nothing that would need board approval.

Zone 4: Merge with zone 3

Zone 5: N/A

Zone 6: Challenges: Frustration with lack of communication, real current info for decision making. Nowhere to go to sort out specifics to help with decision making. Can't reverse decisions. Stressors coming out. Parents not given enough time.

Zone 7: 4 General areas of discussion. Focused on positives, next 3, 6 and 12 mo. not much to



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change soon. 2. How to interact positively across councils to swap ideas, particularly councils from the common zone. E.g. Fundraisers can be proactively shared. 3. Discussion around whether parents understand what a parent council does. 4. How to interact with parents more broadly.

Zone 8: Just 2 reps, had a lot of similar conversations as group 3. Trying to survive this year. Planning is very challenging hopefully trying to get back to a semblance of normal in the next year. School wide endeavours canceled. Hoping that the event can happen next year.

Zone 9/10: Pretty good activity, getting a consistent message from the board was a challenge about fundraising. Up numbers for participants in the meetings of council but not much volunteering for activities. Not getting new people to join in activities because everything is virtual. People leading in person events kids are graduating so parent knowledge is leaving. Not competing for Pro grants because not interesting to parents and no bandwidth to get organized. Partnering is an opportunity to explore. Schools dream of spring/summer 21/22 is the plan for in person engagement.

Zone 11: N/A

Zone 12: N/A

What happens next?

Notes will be consolidated, summarized.

Look at notes together as a group. Opportunities for OCASC to plan together and what councils can take on themselves?

Topic suggestions from Chat:

- a) Board training workshop offered at the start of each School Year
- b) Develop a video "Info-mercial" about what School Council and PIC and OCASC are about and PIC force the School Boards to send it around
- c) Develop an online fun activity that we can end the year with
- d) Populating a link on the OCASC webpage that has links for free programs, apps, school-approved programs
- e) Developing a tech workshop for parents to engage with the OCV schools
- f) Developing an EDI workshop for the online world
- g) Fundraising sharing success stories

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

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Martyn (SPS) Malaka (Elgin St): PIC No updates. Next meeting is at the end of the month. HR consultation came to OCASC last month. Presentation is attached to Feb meeting minutes. Messaging coming out soon from the board. At the last meeting it was made clear that attending OCASC was not council engagement.

Committee of the Whole Christine (South March) HR process is coming at the COW meeting update. Staffing between OCV and brick and mortar schools is an issue. No time for parents to



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make decisions. Several delegations spoke out at COW about concerns. Board suggested reaching out to MPPS and asking for more funding. Frustrating to see that its being passed to the Province. Equity perspective is the priority, to balance quality education across the board. High school plan is a major priority too.

COW discussion will continue through the budget process.

Extended Day Program (EDP) Blake (Broadview): No EDP committee meeting this month.

Special Education Action Committee (SEAC) Safina (Manor Park): No SEAC meeting update

Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) Nancy (Ridgemont) Advocacy of the arts bringing recommendations to may/June board meeting. Next Wednesday night will be the next meeting. All are welcome.

General Discussion:

Q1: How is physical education being evaluated for OCV?

A1: OCASC would recommend framing questions as how council can support, help parents to understand learning curriculum at school.

Q1: Councils wanted to get a better understanding of what other councils are doing for fundraising activities this year and what they're spending their money on this year.

****REQUEST:** Council budget can help to get a picture across the board. Nancy will ask that Council Treasurers send a copy of 20-21 budget communications@ocasc.ca to provide an idea of what councils are prioritizing. Goal is to condense so that it can be consolidated.

Council Budget information should be publicly available information if there are concerns about privacy about sharing budgets with OCASC.

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

Next OCASC meeting is in the middle of adjusted spring break (April 12-16, 2021)

Propose to shift next meeting to the next week after April Break April 22, 2021, none opposed.

Move to adjourn: (Vincent Massey), Second, Laura (OCV)

Adjournment of Meeting.....9:30 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday April 22, 2021

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



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