



# OCASC April 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: April 22, 2021  
Location: Zoom  
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

## **Attendance :**

Schools In Attendance : (27)

OCASC Reps In Attendance: (27)

Additional participants (Schools to be identified) (1): Engy Masieh OCDSB

## **Guests and non-school reps ()**

### **1. Call to order**

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

Introduction: Changing number 5 from agenda to ....

Malaka – Co- Chair – Seeking a keynote from OPH invited to May OCASC meeting. Co-chairs are asking OPH direct, have a back up plan to have other reps from the Health Field in Ottawa and Dr. Etches also may be an option.

### **1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Move to approve agenda: Blake (Broadview), Second, (Henry Larsen)

Move to approve Minutes: Blake (Broadview), Second, (Henry Larsen)

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

**Parent Involvement Committee: (Malaka)** New PIC Chair Martyn chaired the most recent PIC meeting. It was a work planning session. Board staff provided a presentation on theoretical engagement. Discussion on work planning options, targeting groups that aren't always engaged. Malaka and Martyn have proposed to consider benchmarking PIC against other boards. Eg Sharing resources from PIAC in Toronto, webpage and livestreams.

Sarah Young parent from OCASC presented as a delegate. (Sarah Young) It was an interesting experience. Malaka invited Sarah to OCASC and to present at PIC. It was tough to share experience as a parent eg. How much to share, and how much response to expect. Concern is regarding secondary school plan for 21-22. There needs to be a more structured plan. Parent group has been sending letters to the board and the minister of education to help develop a more structured plan for the secondary high schoolers. Hoping to have more courses per day like other boards in the area. 2 or 3 days per week there is literally no structure. Has created a 2 tiered system of learning. Those who chose OCV 5000 secondary schoolers have had significantly more instructional hours. Every day 9-3. In the month of April high school students, her children only had 2 days of school. 9-1PM. Trying to push the mental health crisis and need for a better educational model.



# OCASC April 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

**Committee of the Whole (Christine)** Vera Etches attended the last COW meeting. Expressed interest in having parent councils to get the word out about vaccines and testing rolling. Christine expressed opportunity for OCASC to help with that action. Following morning Christine emailed Dr. Etches office regarding getting more information. Her office responded directly to the OCASC. The meeting was the week before Easter, before the shut down was planned. Christine asked about why Trustees were pulling kids from school but schools were still open. What can COW provide to parents about the situation that can re-assure parents.

Christine had a follow up text exchange with the trustee who had removed his children from class, but efforts to communicate after the meeting were not successful.

Christine asked about improving mental health access for students for both OCV and classroom students.

Malaka – anyone who can amplify the message of positive choices is very important. There is an important role for Parent Councils there.

Special meeting: April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021. Special COW meeting. Human Rights policy and to support new hiring practices. 56 amendments were reviewed. Meeting ran from 7PM to 11PM, adjourned. Next meeting will complete amendments from 36-56.

**Extended Day Program (EDP) (Blake):** No Report, last meeting was cancelled.

**Special Education Accessibility Committee (Safina):** No Report

**Arts Committee (AC) (Nancy)** Moving along with recommendations to the board. Lead the way, guest speaker topic, what it takes to have good learning. A couple of years back there was a survey of what is helpful to learn. Recommendations were, smaller class sizes, bottom up curriculum, straight from student feedback, and incorporating a creative mindset into curriculum. Committee will tie in concerns with Human Rights Policy into strategic plan. Will present to arts committee in May and to the Board in June. For Music – board is looking for ways to build more music delivery into the program across the board. No guarantees due to covid but trying to get more instruments into program. No direct board budget. No consistency between schools. Committee is asking about reporting on spending. Working on establishing an arts person on each council. The board can support age appropriate projects across the board through arts leads. Last Monday of the month for meetings. Anyone interested can join contact Nancy a [communications@ocasc.ca](mailto:communications@ocasc.ca)

SPECIAL NOTE: Please submit council budgets to [communications@ocasc.ca](mailto:communications@ocasc.ca)

## 5. Communication around COVID-19 Between Board and Parents:

Issue - Outbreak declared during Easter Monday. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday individual cases. Good Friday covid dashboard updated. Parents reached out to Justine Bell. Superintendent responded over the weekend with template response. Covid dashboard continued to report new cases. CTV reported outbreak at that school Individual classes and individuals received quarantine letters. 6:30PM email from Principal on Monday to say OPH was on holiday so Principal didn't receive more info. Outbreak was declared but it meant that no further information would be shared. Following day school was open. But email sent to parents



# OCASC April 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

to say they had a staff shortage so they closed for the afternoon.

Last day of spring break principal announced that outbreak was over.

School community was left very angry with the lack of information.

Would have liked more proactive information. Reminders for best practices eg. Keep kids home. Set expectation that more information will follow. Have board inform before CTV.

This school had no cases, and then 10 cases.

David (Forest Valley, Emily Carr) Both schools locked down, emails flooded but no cases. No umbrella approach to communication for the board, seems to be either over or under communicated.

Elgin had a similar issue with notification through the dashboard instead of from the Board.

\*\*\*Recommendation to formally submit feedback to the board, teachers, or trustees.

Engy from OCDSB will get more information direct to Malaka re. Communication policy for cases and outbreaks.

## **Additional Notes:**

Malaka will report on the amount of new provincial money that will be committed to ventilation upgrades and other covid safety new projects.

Malaka's principal shared enrollment projections. Elgin has normally struggled with space. March and October, Board used to provide a report of student population at all schools. March and October. Principal provided to council at Elgin, will be returning to over crowding situation in the fall. Spacing protocols will be challenged with numbers.

Broadview has the same issue. All references at the last council meeting were about September. Daughters teacher sent a letter saying that she would not be working the week between Easter and the spring break. Due to exposure. Communication was direct from the teacher not through the board or OPH.

Numbers forced a bit for OCV families to return to in class because of changes for OCV offering. Reductions in special ed, at the meeting for parents in special ed not offered through OCV anymore. No French immersion for younger classes, middle removed and reduced quantity for grade 4.

Glebe CI: Unmitigated secondary in school disaster. Teacher withholding marks because there has not been enough time to properly support students with special needs. There is no way that graduating kids will be ready to attend university. Parent delegated at COW and no one has followed up or supported her situation at all.

\*\*REMINDER:



# OCASC April 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

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

Question: Natural forest area, issues about this space, 1 issue that has arisen, space is being used outside of school time. Forest creates a space between school yard and a trail. Neighbours also use the space. School staff and parents have offered to help keep the space cleaner.

REQUEST: Treasurer reports will have an itemized report along with budget can help to get a picture across the board [communications@ocasc.ca](mailto:communications@ocasc.ca) can get an idea of what councils are prioritizing. Goal is to condense so that it can be consolidated.

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.....9:00 pm**

**Next meeting: May 20, 2021 OCASC meeting is typically the AGM. Positions and shape of OCASC will be open to options and elections. Role of OCASC for the coming years and election coming up in 2022.**

**Membership: Please complete form at <https://forms.gle/tgF8hDQHGymnjkc6>**