



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

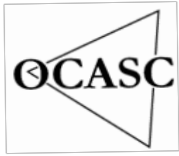
AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approval of agenda and minutes from last meeting
3. Presentation: Aliaa Dakroury of OCV Secondary School Council re: return to in person for Semester 2
4. Presentation: Jeannie Hunter OCDSB music teacher and advocacy representative for Capital Region Music Festival re: Music at OCDSB an update
5. Information items / Updates from committees
 - a. Committee of the Whole (COW)
 - b. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)
 - c. Special Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - d. Arts Advisory Committee (AAC)
 - e. Subcommittee: Parent Voice
6. Discussion items
 - a. Motion at COW to be voted on at next COW meeting Tuesday Dec. 9th - THAT sections 2.1 and 2.2 of P.010.GOV, Community Involvement on Board Standing Committees, be amended to include a Parent Involvement Committee representative on the Committee of the Whole **to replace the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC)**
7. Adjournment
8. Chat bonus – top 3 topics at your school council this month

Attendance:

94795553921
Amy Herbert
Annette Dillon
Bayview Public School (Sarah Mitchell)
Bridlewood Community Elementary School (Karen McIntyre)
Broadview PS (Meaghan Cunningham)
Brookfield H.S (Frank Parent)
Canterbury H.S. (Susan Blackmer)
Castlefrank ES (Crystal Blais)
Chapman Mills PS_(Mourad Graidia)
Community Education Liaison (SATE) (Tess Porter)
Dianne Vroom
Donna Owen
Earl Of March Alternate) (Ian Urbach)
Elgin PS Malaka Hendela
Glashan (Elena Chernikova)
Glen Ogilvie (Amanda-Lyn Smith)
Henry Larsen EL (Melody Currie)
Jeannie Hunter - Presenter (Music) (Jeannie Hunter)
John Young ES (Dwayne Routliffe)
Katimavik (Patricia McKeage)
Katimavik (Ralph Quapp)
Kim Loenhardt (She/her) -- Guest (KIm Loenhardt)

Krista MacIsaac
LDHSS (Lisa Brennan)
Lisgar CI) (Milana Karaganis)
Manor Park - (Safina Dewshi) also SEAC rep for OCASC
Manotick PS (Erin Duffin)
Maple Ridge (Amanda Hope)
Meaghan A.
Merivale HS (Joanna Yi)
Mutchmor (Laurissa Watson)
OCV Virtual School Council Aliaa Dakroury
PIC Vice Chair (Diana mills)
Ridgemont HS Nancy Solange Dean
Rockcliffe Park PS (Hart Shouldice)
Rosemary Young
Severn Avenue PS (Nadya Kushnerenko)
South Carleton HS (Michelle Sabourin)
Stittsville PS) (Martyn Reid)
Suzanne Seaman
Thomas Holloway
Trustee (Rob Campbell)
West Carleton High School (Zhiqiao Rees)
Zhong An (GMS) (Zhong An)



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

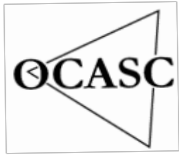
MEETING NOTES

Motion to approve agenda by Agincourt P.S – Amy H. and seconded by Henry Larsen – Melody. Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes by Henry Larsen – Melody, seconded by Amanda and Kim Louenhart. Carried.

TO BRING BACK TO COUNCILS FOR INPUT:

- **Appropriate Use of Technology Policy Review:**
<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37059829>
- **Electional Review -**
<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37191299>
- **PRO Grant:** If there are any suggestions for use of the \$, or feedback on how it was used last year (the speakers series) forward to PIC. Send to PIC@ocdsb.ca
- **Response to Board Trustee Motion (see discussion section) - Options**
 - Write letter to Trustees as council stating your councils preference and representation of voice on COW
 - Write letters as individual parents
 - Delegate as individual or council at the Board. To register for delegation <https://forms.ocdsb.ca/Forms/Become-A-Delegate>
 - For more information visit OCASC website <https://ocasc.ca>
- **Arts Representative** – councils are invited to appoint a parent to represent arts on their council. The Arts Advisory Committee will provide supports and information to assist parents in this role. Contact artsadvisoryocdsb@gmail.com
- **Share Music presentation** with councils to discuss music programs at your school presenter: jeannie.hunter@ocdsb.ca here is Link to slide show.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SSSeKzBbt7ZTEoigUFQn59Bz3SXvCvsfzVvNpMzhaLA/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Extra-curriculars** – Discuss possibility of including OCV students in home school activities
- **Membership form** completed to become a rep member. In order to support vote counts. Mainly vote about expenditure of funding. **2021-2022 Membership FORM** <https://forms.gle/8SNdTcRA9TMxyJYG8>



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

PRESENTATION - OCV Secondary School Council (grades 7 – 12)

LINK TO LETTER <https://ocasc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Lavergne-Letter.pdf>

Aliaa Dakroury shared letter OCV council sent to OCDSB staff and Trustees expressing their desire to return to in-person learning for semester 2, as well as participate in extracurricular activities at their home schools immediately. With only Trustee Bell responding they are looking for suggestions to raise awareness of OCV concerns.

OCV school council has decreased in size compared to last year, partly due to parents returning to their home-schools. She also commented on the strength of Principal and teachers.

Currently OCV students are not allowed to return to in-person, yet with each new lifting of COVID restrictions the inequality of student experience, academic success and well-being is increasing.

Some secondary students are not receiving the courses they need which they are offered in person and not through OCV, yet students are not allowed to join those classes. This is devastating for some.

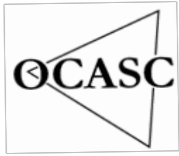
OCV students are also losing out on social interactions and opportunities to enhance their interests and would also like immediate access to the extra-curriculars available at their home schools.

Discussion: Many councils were unaware of concerns and empathized with OCV parents.

Suggestions.

Kim suggested Turn it into a petition, Aliaa is unsure if it will be supported and that it's late now.

Donna asked if any secondary students are changing boards to go to in-person and Aliaa responded that the students want to return to their home school to interact with their friends, their school and not just about returning to in-person. Malaka pointed out that it's strange that it's easier to change boards to get in-person than to return to your home school, though it's understood that it's the capacity of the schools that is reason for this inability.



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

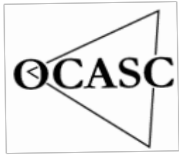
www.facebook.com/groups/ocasc/ <http://ocasc.ca>

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

Susanne shares empathy as her children were OCV last year and now as co-chair of homeschool and really tried to focus on bridging the gap and connect OCV students with home school. She ran into issues re: funding and the fact that students were no longer in the school therefore do not qualify for supports from fundraising at the school. Example in trying to arrange a Halloween school dance, where the in-person students could see the OCV students from their home school was issue to time tabling and activities could not be accommodated because of class schedules. It's disappointing because that is perceived to be easily overcome because It's so important for the well-being of students to see each other. Another concern though only one or two parents raised is that OCV students were "strangers" that there should be a form so that home-school parents could approve of the children in OCV who would be participating in a virtual event, so was concerned with what could happen with in-person shared even. Malaka – Thanked for feedback. Some schools' councils have had opposite experience where they wanted OCV to participate in activities. It's disheartening to hear that a parent council would exclude parents because as school entities, councils are responsible for carrying out obligations of the education act and the school board and the spirit and purpose of the strategic plan. As councils we can lose sight of that with the minutia of fundraising, event coordination, but parents are NOT supposed to be rejected. There were very public statements about having to keep links between the parties. Council acting to limit or reject funding to those who paid for is not equitable and is not how it's supposed to be. Perhaps some guidance is required, and perhaps PIC should be providing. This is a great forum to help each other if your council is living the experience where parents are split, and we can bring in speakers to help you facilitate conflict resolution.

Re: Extracurricular – Malaka pointed out that as school councils it's in your purview to advocate for inclusion of OCV students in these extracurriculars, sports, music etc. as they return.

Malaka suggested that with news that Province is suggesting that regular semester could be possible in February, OCV council could ask to be considered to re-enter then as reorganization planning will need to happen and delegate at COW. Aliaa also commented that the fear is having to reorganize in larger scale because parents may also want to go the other directions and some in-person may choose to go to OCV. Therefore, they said it can only be case-by-case. The concern is that Board directives do not allow Principals to make the decision and students are not being allowed their requests.



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

PRESENTATION: Music at OCDSB an update. Jeannie Hunter OCDSB music teacher and advocacy representative for Capital Region Music Festival

LINK TO PRESENTATION:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SSSeKzBbt7ZTEoigUFOq59Bz3SXvCvsfzVvNpMzhaL/edit?usp=sharing>

Discussion:

All commented on how excellent the presentation was

Donna encourages all to go back to our councils, to bring this issue to councils.

Malaka reminded all that councils have a mandate to be advise on the learning programing in your school. Councils have often funded the arts and particular music, like buying instruments (Ukeles) etc. Elgin council three years ago prioritized a significant part of their fundraising money to create a Ukele program and then the teacher was reassigned and there were no teachers who could teach, then COVID hit. Elgin had choir too and now we have nothing. She will bring it back to their councils. We can perhaps quantify the absence as we would for other subject areas like Math, this is the first time she heard of this.

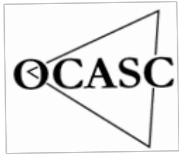
Severn Ave – What do elementary schools usually do for music?

Jeannie - K-6 it depends. Wind programs can start in grade 6. Now there is huge loss for k-4 to not sing, it's so natural. They can sing outside, but it's getting colder. This initial introduction that was so joyous has been impacted. Recorders are not available. Now Ukuleles are back, but teachers are not available to teach it. A long time ago to be a elementary teacher you had to have at least lever of royal music conservatory to teach.

OCV Aliaa – this echo what in Virtual as well, to deny the arts and the community of arts is really a loss. OCV will not be able to have BAND in this capacity

GLEN Ogilvie – Parent volunteer community supports so much of this, and not being allowed on the property to be participating has impact. Chair – Maybe instead of virtual movie night people can have a virtual sing-a-long night.

CHS – her elementary school no specialist and with work to rule, left a void and council fully funded an arts program for three years that ran over the lunch hours. They hired an arts teacher through the board. Points out that there is a huge equity disparity within the elementary



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

schools, schools with a specialist in the school students received so much more exposure to the arts, ex, musicals. It's so important to advocate for a return to what we had before. Their council pushed for more. She points out that different administration will communicate differently, and some principals will rally teachers while others do not want to pressure teacher on what to do with their volunteers or extra time.

Chair – PIC workplan has themes and one is about the POST covid environment. We need to get these types of items in awareness. We have had work-to-rule, rolling strikes and two years of covid. What we have seen loss, while board has just been trying to survive, we have lost music, teachers retired, social activities that help us connect gone. Need to regrow these and throw out old models that don't work. This needs addressing and we do not hear about this in other arenas.

We can bring our councils together here at OCASC to bring an idea or approaches to help bring arts back. Perhaps this can be a PRO grant possibilities as well.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

Malaka acknowledged special guests, Trustee Rob Campbell and in particular PIC Vice Chair Diana Mills, as we are interested in repairing impacts from the past couple of weeks.

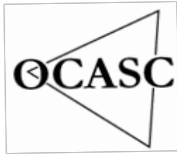
PIC - Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) OCDSB PIC Webpage:

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=167239>

PIC Vice Chair Diana Mills introduced herself and stated that PIC is looking forward to working with OCASC in representing parents and families at OCDSB. As she is new in role she looks forward to learning and growing in working with OCASC and how we can supplement each other.

- PIC workplan was passed last night and happy to share plan with OCASC and will also posted on website
- PRO grant information to be released in following weeks. Application is like previous years and encourages councils to begin preparations for application. PRO grant to be completed by June 30th and final report submitted by July 15th.
- Next PIC meeting is January 12 and all welcome to attend

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

- Malaka added that PIC struck a PRO subcommittee to determine how the PRO Grant will be implemented this year and what that will mean for councils. She, another PIC member, and Trustee in committee will bring recommendations to PIC as to how money will be spent, as it could be through councils or PIC itself.
- Malak also shared that the OCASC representative to PIC resigned at last PIC meeting and OCASC will need to discuss our representative to PIC. This rep does not need to be a OCASC member, it could be anyone OCASC nominates, including parents that were vetted through the PIC process. The only requirement is that OCASC members agree.

COW – Committee of the Whole

- General policy reviews continue
 - Appropriate Use of Technology Policy Review:
<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37059829>
- Electoral Boundary review: Has a risk of loss of Trustee to the urban schools. Consultation is still open.
<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37191299>
 - Katimivik PS – Patricia. Odd question but is my trustee the person that is in my electoral zone where I live or the person in the zone that my child's school is located? They are not the same.
 - Trustee is the person you vote for and the school Trustee is assigned to your school. Most of the time they are same person. The City of Ottawa reconfigured their electoral zones and so OCDSB reviewed the school zones and the Trustees attached to each zone.
 - A point of consideration all Trustees are equal obligation to all parents in the board under the education act.

SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee)

- Board is having EA staffing challenges, particularly for absences. There are not enough qualified people and sometime using unqualified EA, like someone that is known to the schools or lunch monitors. HR is looking at recruitment and retention strategies

AAC – Arts Advisory Committee

- Jeannie's presentation to bring awareness to the loss of arts and impact



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

- Invites all councils to appoint an ARTS REP on each council. They can represent the ARTS at their school with support of Arts Advisory Committee. Parent does not need to be an artist, musician, actor, dancer. It is great if person has passion for the arts. No other requirement except interest in required.
- AAC is seeking parent and community members to join committee
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gGBUshki17vblcZENKX2bLLaSf2ZztX9mhQGrA7INCY/edit?usp=sharing>

DISCUSSION ITEM – Board Motion

Malaka reviewed and summarized the motion made at the board. To watch replay of COW meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to82nJbDSXQ>

At our last meeting, brought to OCASC, the recommendation made by PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) to add PIC to the Committee of the Whole. OCASC made a motion to create a subcommittee to review and discuss. Committee agreed to delegate at COW the importance of have both at COW as voices are different, we complement each other.

At COW on Nov . 9th a few things occurred

- The minutes submitted by PIC were not reviewed by PIC and contained some inaccuracies and trustees had a discussion as to what that meant and there was challenge to the chair.
- Trustee Boothby amended the motion to replace OCASC seat with PIC that basically put our communities one against the other in terms of a choice for the trustees. This was not the intention of either PIC or OCASC. After discussion the amendment was passed.
- Further discussion and points of view and the voting on the Motion with new change that OCASC be replaced was deferred to Dec. 7th.

Since then, there has been lots of thoughts and discussion. On our OCASC facebook page people had been sharing thoughts and opinions and not sure where to take this

At Pic last night situation where Martyn and Malaka ended up in publicly across measures. She acknowledged that they may need to deal with some things privately and she apologized to Martyn and this community. She is glad he is still here, is disappointed but understands decision Martyn made last night.

Sharing Information • Facilitating Communication • Representing Our Membership



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

The Trustees are now where the decision lays. You as councils are the entities that matter. Your councils need to advocate for themselves if they need two voices or one,

If PIC is the voice, then councils need to advocate to PIC on how that voice is used as PIC has legislative responsibility

Challenge is that lots of discussion is happening without proper consultation and incorrect information. Trustees voting to defer because they felt they needed more information. There was no report from staff, and we do not know if there will be a report on Dec. 7th. We do not know where that information is coming from, nor how staff is supporting Trustees. OCASC exec has not been asked or consulted.

Glen Ogilvie – what was the reason for this?

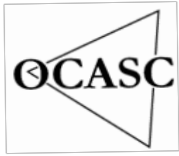
Chair – You can watch the replay of meeting, Trusteed Boothby and others supports only one voice at COW because COW meetings are already too long, busy and unruly and trying to limit voices to be able to more efficiently make decision.

Broadview- Megan – At Broadview, Many parents had not heard of PIC and were not aware of it's mandate and therefore felt that PIC does not play a significant enough role to speak to council voice or parents in general. Those that did know felt PIC and OCASC serve different purposes and can co-exist. OCASC is a much more accessible route. Their councils supports delegating again and supporting voice voices.

Chair – OCASC unfortunately cannot delegate for itself because there is perception of control and conflict of interest and that some of us are in it for something. OCASC offered to share the seat as well. If your council feels this way you will need to share this on your own to the Trustees and to the Board.

OCASC SEAT at COW

- Malaka and Christine, co-chairs, consciously at the beginning of their terms consulted with OCASC members on how they wanted that voice at COW to be used. Members wanted for that seat to be a voice with two-way conversation.
- to have OCDSB reports brought back to councils in timely fashion, to know what board was prioritizing. This way councils would be able to consult effectively and also share with Parents what is important for them to know about their education
- Use Facebook group to circulate things



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

- Bring reports and delegation to COW when needed, ie, funding concerns
- Anyone sitting there for OCASC would not be able to bring any political focus to this, but rather how to ask questions to get the voice of how a typical parent would understand and be affected. I.e.: how would councils execute things with the board, when are you coming back to councils to consult, or feedback back to Board when what is being represented at Board is not what is being experienced in the community.

OCASC Communications will share:

- Sample Council Letter to Trustees
- Supporting Document of Motion and reasons
- Sample Parent Letter to Trustees

Stittsville PS - Martyn Reid – Strongly suggested If you are delegating or writing a letter to Trustees to please not play on past of OCASC, but project to the future. Be clear about what does OCASC bring to the table that supports the future and BOARD goals. Tell them that your council wants the ability to inform and influence the trustees, PIC has own agenda because it takes in consideration all other parents not part of school councils.

Chair – suggested that OCASC could bring in facilitator to support community in any comfort

Mary Honeywell - Meaghan Allen – had Trustee Blackburn attend their council meeting and discussed her position with council. They had open discussion and though Trustee said that she would not be voting the way council would like her too. Mary Honeywell voted to publicly post a School Council position that they oppose the motion and support both PIC and OCASC seat at the table.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 9:00 pm



OCASC Nov.18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

133 Greenbank Road, Ottawa, ON K2H 6L3

TOP COUNCIL TOPICS THIS MONTH:

OCV	weird semester structure; and the in-person debate vs the online
Brookfield H.S :	how to recruit new member for the councils.
Henry Larsen EL :	Online fundraisers as we have a structure that will need to be replaced soon
South Carleton HS :	Covid management
Agincourt Rd PS	locker access being granted, our plans for an outdoor classroom and how to maintain the front gardens.
Broadview PS	fundraising and how we should allocate funds that have been raised to enrich student experience, and also getting some new library book bins for picture books so they are easier to browse.
First Ave	1) Fundraising options & how frequently they should be run. 2) PIC and PRO Grants and how they can be utilized. 3) Pizza lunches into schools and spirit wear
Canterbury H.S.	The lack of Board support for the arts in schools, the collapsing/cancellation of some classes.
Severn Avenue E.S.	facilitating outdoor education
Henry Larsen EL:	This is our second year doing an online Craft Auction
Bayview PS	it is all Fundraising; What to do with no funds (or some funds); how to raise funds.
West Carleton HS	Semester structure, EQAO, volunteer hours etc.
Mutchmor	1) Fundraising 2) Parent volunteers in school 3) School Photos
Glashan PS	1) In-school sports (desires for teams) 2) Mixing of cohorts 3) Outdoor Improvements and spirit wear
John Young ES	We're working on our virtual Christmas/Holiday Tea.
Katimavik :	Last year we had a spring online fundraiser with Plantables. It worked well : https://plantables.ca/