



OCASC De. 9, 2021 DRAFT Meeting Notes

AGENDA Dec. 9, 2021

- Welcome and introductions
- Approval of agenda and [minutes from Nov. 18, 2021](#)
- 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)
- Discussion and new business items
 - a. OCASC reps on Parent Involvement Committee, COW, SEAC
 - b. Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO)
 - c. Looking to 2022 – Supporting school councils
- Breakout rooms / roundtable
 - a. Teacher Appreciation, what do councils do for teacher appreciation
- Adjournment

ATTENDANCE

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Bayview PS (Sarah Mitchell)
Bridlewood (Karen McIntyre)
Broadview PS (Meaghan Cunningham)
Canterbury HS (Susan Blackmer)
Castlefrank ES (Crystal Blais)
Chapman Mills (Arun)
Earl of March (Thomas Holloway)
Elgin PS (Malaka Hendela)
Glashan (Elena Chernikova)
GMS (Zhong An)
Hillcrest HS Carolyn Kropp)
Jack Donahue (Christine Moulaison)
Katimavik PS (Ralph Quapp)

Lakeview (Andrea Pasztor Bereziuk)
LDHSS (Lisa Brennan)
Longfields Davidson Heights SS (Debbie hammond)
Manor Park (Safina Dewshi)
Mary Honeywell ES (Meaghan A.)
My-Yen Yu
Ridgemont HS (Nancy Solange Dean)
Rockcliffe Park PS (Hart Shouldice)
Severn Avenue PS (Mark Warriner)
South March (Christine Moulaison)
Summerside Public School (Erica Roy)
Vimy Ridge PS (Intiaz Rahim)
Woodroffe HS, PIC member (Annette Dillon)

MEETING NOTES

Motion to approve agenda by Rockcliffe Park Hart S and seconded by Katimivik Ralph Q. Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes. Carried.

TO BRING BACK TO COUNCILS FOR INPUT:

- **PRO Grant:** PIC PRO Grant subcommittee is asking for suggestions asap. Next PIC meeting on Jan. 12th. Please send suggestions to Annette @ annettedillon@sympatico.ca. Please CC communications@ocasc.ca as we are keeping list of ideas and will post on our website for reference. See meeting notes for suggestions made in this meeting. What would your council/parents prefer of these three options?
 1. Pers school allocation
 2. Parent / Council Day or Conference – many topics such as council training and parent interest, and definitely training on Virtual presence
 3. A substantive thing – communication materials, community art project, parent engagement booklet, language translation
- **Motion to replace OCASC with PIC at COW** – Trustee Scott made a substitute motion which was passed and
 - PIC will be added,
 - there is a moratorium on any new additions, and
 - they will review the policy. All non-voting members will remain until the policy is reviewed.
 - OCASC seat remains.
- **Destreaming** – what are the pros and cons at your school. Currently grade 9 math is destreamed and will be expanding to all compulsory secondary courses. What does this mean for support to all schools, not just secondary. This impacts supports for learning in all grades.
- **Arts Representative – Arts Rep on councils** - 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
- **Question from other council.** How does your council appreciate teachers.
- **Membership form** completed to become a rep member. FREE 2021-2022 Membership FORM <https://forms.gle/8SNdTcRA9TMxyJYG8>



INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

COW – Committee Of the Whole (Christine M)

- COW DEC. 9th Youtube replay <https://youtu.be/pqh2YgoQNXs>
- Motion to amend Policy
 - Christine acknowledged and thanked all councils and individuals that sent in letters and did amazing written and spoken delegations at COW. The support was greatly appreciated and reinforced the value of OCASC. All this helped keep OCASC's seat at COW.
 - There was a substitution motion placed on the floor by Trustee Scott to:
 - add a new PIC non-voting member to both COW and COW budget.
 - There will also be a moratorium placed to adding any more members and
 - a formal review of the committee membership policy, it's non-voting committee members, their roles and responsibilities, and a potential change to those non-voting members will be asked to be completed by staff.
 - No timeline was set out for this work to begin or to be completed by.
 - OCASC seat remains unchanged
- Electoral Boundary option was chosen and will be voted on next meeting <https://ocdsb.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37191299>
- On Dec 1st, Organizational meeting with new trustee representations on committees etc.

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

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

- no meeting this month see discussion section below for discussion on PRO Grants
- New trustees at PIC Trustees Ellis and Jennekins.

SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) - Safina

- De-streaming
 - Destreaming has been presented very positively yet there are some concerns about the negative impacts de-streaming were presented by Dr. Maggie Mammon and points from meeting:



- Lack of differentiated learning is difficult on all students as all learning needs takes effort to accommodations and support
 - The teaching methods are critical for its success and there is large fear that teachers are not properly trained or supported through this and it has big impact on students
 - Classroom size, de-streaming is best with smaller class sizes which are not present currently
 - The rush in which new Math in grade 9 and 10 has been introduced is concerning. Ministry had not provided destreaming curriculum and at OCDSB be academic math is being taught.
 - Concerns at how OCDSB will be supporting the implementation of ministry mandated destreaming in math, but in future other subjects.
 - Learning Support Services will return to committee with more information
 - Malaka reinforced councils role in student achievement and well-being. Councils can ask Principals to share what this means students now and 5 years from now as de-streaming continues and is expanded. Can ask how school is being supported and what changes are being made. Asking the questions bring up needs and what each school requires for supporting student achievement and well-being.
- PPM 81 – Policy review on Speech Therapy which looks to streamline the process of receiving support. Currently there are two separate processes 1. OCDSB process and 2. Outside Agency or Community organization. They are not the same and therefore students and family experience varies widely. SEAV should put forth request to simplify this process.
 - Covid update – increases in cases at schools and one school is closed but no current plans for school closures.

AAC – Arts Advisory Committee

- 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.
- Nancy Dean happy to attend any council meeting to share information artsadvisoryocdsb@gmail.com
- AAC is seeking parent and community members to join committee <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gGBUshki17vblcZENKX2bLLaSf2ZztX9mhQGrA7INCY/edit?usp=sharing>



- New Trustee at Arts Committee is Donna Blackburn and still waiting to hear the of superintendent.

DISCUSSION and NEW BUSINESS

Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO)

Ontario's Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being

- Annette Dillion and Malaka Handela are PIC's PRO Grant subcommittee provided history and context.
 - Up until two years ago, PRO grant changed from individual schools applying for funds it now goes that BOARDS now get the PRO grant money and manage it as needed.
 - Last year PRO grant OCDSB was spent on Speaker Series councils could sign up for. List provided by board with speaker options or to arrange own speaker. Report from last year has not been received, so not sure what the uptake was last year. Did get feedback that councils were burnt out with respect to speakers and that the process was a confusion and inconsistent.
 - OCDSB PIC has \$78 000 to spend on Parent Engagement. It can spend that in what every way it decides. Could be all in one lump sum or as individual amounts.
 - PRO Grant funds must be spent by June 30, 2021
 - PRO frequently asked questions <https://pub-ocdsb.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=11047>
- They PIC are seeking input and suggestions. What to do with \$78 000? Contact Annette
 - SUMMARY three options:
 1. Pers school allocation
 2. Parent / Council Day or Conference – many topics such as council training and parent interest, and definitely training on Virtual presence
 3. A substantive thing – communication materials, community art project, parent engagement booklet, language translation



- Erika – money should go back to the schools, as it's been difficult to fundraise. In addition, please also provide comprehensive and simple instructions and parameters. Malaka clarified that PRO funds need to be directed to Parent Engagement, there is also yearly councils support funds of \$500 that has no limitation of how councils spend it.
- Canterbury HS – Susan B.
 - Feedback from last year's process was very uncomfortable, felt rushed, very competitive and stressful.
 - The lateness in getting information made it difficult to plan. The options given by OCDSB were not of interest to her school community and thought they tried to get a different speaker/activity, were very disappointed at not being able to find anyone in time and thus did not get benefit of this PRO Grant
 - School community was "speaker"ed out, had little capacity at this time to attend or coordinate anything
 - Many at meeting has similar experience and agreed that the process was not one they want to have repeated
 - Need clarity as the purpose of the grant – what is it PRO actually for? To keep that as the prime focus.
- Ridgemont HS – Nancy D
 - Please bring back Parent and School Council conference and provide virtually.
 - How can councils reach more parents, supporting that, language translation, communication tools, parent volunteers – support on coordination best practices
 - Council and school admin/staff collaborations
 - Community art projects to allow for connection again
 - Training on currently provided supports by the board, ie. Website, google account
- Meaghan – prefers to have central organization and coordination
 - No more speakers
 - Help councils with VIRTUAL presence. Tech training on websites, page, social media, email
- Safina – wants a council community day. Concerned with timing and does not want \$ to lapse. Wants OCDSB to do something soon.

OCASC reps on Parent Involvement Committee, COW, SEAC

Malaka shared that for personal reasons she is stepping down from representing OCASC directly with OCDSB staff presence, which means the OCASC rep at PIC, and COW Budget. Many council members supported Malaka and expressed sincere gratitude and thanks for all that she has done and continues to in her role as co-chair.

- **COW**
 - **Tom Holloway** (Earl of March PS) will be representing at COW with Christine Mouliason (OCASC Co-Chair) as alternate
 - **Christine Mouliason** (OCASC Co-Chair) will step into COW Budget committee

- **PIC** - Due to situation and circumstances at PIC, OCASC will be providing two new reps at PIC
 - **Christine Moulaison** (OCASC Co-Chair)
 - TBD

- **SEAC**
 - **Safina Dewshi** (Manor Park PS)
 - **Mourad Graid** (Champan Mills PS) Alternate

Teacher Appreciation, what do councils do for teacher appreciation

A school council wanted to give teachers appreciation gifts and were told by principal that they were not allowed to do so. They wanted to ask what other councils did to better understand what is possible.

- Malaka - Elgin PS- Council used to give teacher \$ and now it has redirected to teachers with understanding that anything purchased needed to remain at school and is for school benefit not personal.
- Christine - South March - her councils has a monthly recognition with%20-40a month. le: everyone got aa bag of starburst saying you are a star! with virtual had kids colour in a thank you sign that they held up in unison to thank staff. Principal has mentioned it's this token that makes a huge difference

- Safina - Manor Park – has a line item for recognition. Not monthly but event specific ie. Teacher leaving provide flowers, or most recently after TIC-TOC challenges, children were destroying bathrooms so council send something to caretaking staff. Principal has not had issues.
- Meaghan Allen -Mary Honeywell ES - Before COVID, our parents put on a lunch - potluck style - for teachers in appreciation.
- Meaghan Cunningham - Broadview PS - We have a teacher appreciation breakfast coming up next week - parents sign up to volunteer to bring/purchase items, Also - our council reimburses every teacher up to \$100 of expenses for classroom
- Intiaz Vimy Ridge PS - school is having staff appreciation breakfast before holiday break

Looking towards 2022

- OCASC would like to know what topics, issues you would like to take deeper dive into. Some suggestions through the meeting were
 - De-streaming – what is it, why is it, where to find curriculum resources and what supports are needed, present.
 - Fundraising in new reality

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 9:00 pm