



OCASC Meeting Minutes

Date: **Thursday, January 19, 2023**

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Attendance

Total Number: 30

Total Schools represented: 34

Member schools attending

AY Jackson & Bridlewood Community ES: Denise Nap

Bayview PS: Sara Parkes

Bell HS: Vivian Chan

Broadview PS: Meaghan Cunningham

Carine Wilson SS: Les Robinson

Castlefrank: Nicole Sturgeon

Connaught PS: Brian Chow

Earl of March SS: Tom Holloway (COW)

Elmdale: Kristin Honshorst

Farley Mowat PS: Divya Yashwanth

Glashen PS: Kyla McCandie Glustien & Natasha Richardson

Glen Oglivie: Amanda-Lyn Smith

Katimavik ES: Patricia

Lisgar CI: Milana Karaganis

Mary Honeywell ES: Meaghan Allen (Membership)

Mutchmor PS: Laurissa Watson

Pleasant Park PS: Lina Khattab

Ridgemont HS: Nancy Dean (Communications, AAC, PIC)

Stittsville PS: Casey Cunningham

Vimy Ridge PS: Intiaz Rahim

WO Mitchell ES: Margo

Non- Member Schools Attending

Henry Larsen -Melody

Jockvale ES: Caitlyn Prevost

Severn Ave: Ryan Southwood

Sir Robert Borden: Sharon Creasey

South March -Christine Warlde-Moulaison (Co-Chair)

Jessica Mills

Stephanie Pieri

1) Call to order

The Communications officer called the meeting to order at 7:09. Nancy Dean welcomed members and stated the land acknowledgement. Live Learn Play



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2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Motion to approve by: Tom Holloway/Earl of March

Seconded by: Melody Currie/Henry Larsen Approved by All

Amendments were made to the Agenda to include the following topics:

- Anti-Bullying – Requested by Casey Cunnighnam
- Access to Green Space for Class community excursions/PE – Requested by Kyla McCandie Glustien/Glashan PS
- WIFI reliability and computer access – Requested by Les Robinson

November Minutes: Motion: Divya Yashwant/ Farley Mowitt

Seconded by: Sharon Creasey/Sir Robert Borden Approved by All

3) Information items / Updates from committees

a) Executive update and information

- Drive Yellow Campaign
 - (a) Bus river shortage, Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) taskforce to recruit new drivers, and seeking parents and council help so engaging OCASC.
 - (b) OCASC discussion of three initial options to engage: OSTA present to OCASC; OSTA to attend individual council meetings; hold secondary OCASC meeting on the issue.
 - (c) Action: Christine Wardle Moulaison/OCASC Co-Chair to seek meeting with OSTA before February 16, to explore a virtual OSTA presentation. Kyla McCandie Glustien/Glashan PS also to attend.

b) Committee of the Whole (COW) -Tom Holloway

- Updates from December and January meetings:
- Purchase of 10 portals (\$2M total) approved unanimously following questions on air quality and portability. There are 280 portables across the district.
- New Riverside South Highschool Plan approved unanimously following questions on Indigenous engagement, equity lens, consultations.
- Motion to hire Jewish education/equity coach, one full time employee, given recent rise of antisemitism. Discussion and questions on other marginalized communities, closing existing knowledge gaps. What is a coach? Does the person require an educational background? Agreement person needs to be Jewish and that Board's Human Resources would work on job description.
- School Trustees individually shared their priorities for this term: staff morale; student achievement and wellness; issue equity; environment; equity justice (transgender); special need (hire teachers); and tech side of achievement.
- **2023-2027 Strategic Plan** - Strategic Plan TOOLKIT:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cGnOE1QYjtuZa--E71EUR5uW_lvLOk7EHnwmZj4Rfck/edit



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- Nancy Dean has sought clarification on February deadline, requesting that input be welcome later in the month.
- Opportunities to engage: January 18 in person event at Bell HS; February 2 virtual consultations; small group consultations through to February via invite and supported by a kit (including instructions and video).
 - a) Small group consultation kits foster feedback at either a group or individual level.
 - b) OCASC has not received a consultation invite/kit. Arts Committee did and Chair Nancy Dean will share with OCASC members for consultations within school councils.
 - c) To advance consultations, Group discussed taking two-pronged approach: 1) OCASC members engage within School Council, and 2) a one-time OCASC meeting (timing, to be informed deadline).
 - d) Action: Nancy Dean to share consultations kit with OCASC members; OCASC meeting specific to 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. (SEE ABOVE)
- c) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) -Nancy Dean
Updates from Nov & Jan PIC meetings;
 - NOV: New PIC members approved, Superintendent Duah discussed an expectation to form a sub-committee that would oversee the PRO grant application process and disbursement of funds. He noted that PIC had been delegated authority over the budget and that the process would be reported to the Ministry of Education.
 - Jan: Presentation on Education Foundation – Toonie Tuesdays, support to Board families in need in some shape or form (food and clothing access, bursaries, school supplies/backpacks). Referrals made by principals. Past support had included Autism swim classes. OCASC representatives are encouraged to contact Clarissa Arthur <https://www.educationfoundationottawa.ca/contact/> for presentation to councils.
 - Board presentation on Mental Health at next PIC meeting Feb. 22nd.
 - School council Professional Development Day Feb 8th. **Creating An Atmosphere Of Belonging At The School Council Table.** For more information and registration https://www.ocdsb.ca/our_schools/school_council/supporting_school_councils/news_and_updates/school_council_professional_development
Recent event with author Lisa Anna Palmer on creating leadership atmosphere. Nancy to share presentation.
 - Board Strategic Plan was discussed, with breakout groups discussing questions. Information on 2023-2027 Strategic Plan under consultation, schools council news, supporting school councils,
school council newsletter sign up:



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- **PRO grant** were not PIC on the agenda this meeting but Nancy spoke to Superintendent Duah and found out that information is coming soon, PRO will be around \$700 and administered like previously done by the ministry, where councils will apply for a grant up to \$700 and councils can collaborate.
 - Sharon Creasey/ Sir Robert Borden HS concerned about short timeframe as school council meets every two months. OCASC has repeatedly raised short timeframes as an issue in the past.
 - Kristin Honshorst/Elmdale PS reiterated concerns raised at November meeting: inequitable process, burden to apply for grants, seeking OCASC coordination. Elmdale parents are interested in grant writing for other schools.
 - Question: **Can a portion of grant is given to meeting greatest needs?**
 - Christine Wardle Moulaison/OCASC Co-Chair: Some equity and Indigenous Councils will receive money and I will ask question.
 - Motion: Kristin Honshorst/Elmdale PS to lead development of a 2023 grant writing scheme supported by OCASC, school councils and/or interested adults city-wide.
 - Seconded by Melody Currie/Henry Larsen ES and Meaghan Allen/Mary Honeywell PS. All in favour.
 - Action: Christine Wardle Moulaison/OCASC Co-Chair to ask if a portion of grant can be given to meeting greatest needs, Kristin Honshorst/Elmdale PS to lead up 2023 grant writing supports for councils
- School Council newsletter and OCDSB website information
https://www.ocdsb.ca/our_schools/school_council/supporting_school_councils
New school council website,
https://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0019SXIHaK_7KAtja_ujOLzGH1pZXi8BaZ7l2L-fEwUrodDCOs6NrHo-tJHxx9OS2DkGKBeUaWwFrvQkZVJEE0pgiwso0YHsExpFevoEoqN0TE9Rdo_7MiDBvtEnIXevgCTp1sMMdK-EOAVjuUsc0viuXkHONMIJZnGOW24iGQAOP30FxGqNUjx0RMcl2YDoWbGDCy87IGSAiNCEYrPJYh9ZiSnvUgsUwc

d) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Saffina

- Board contributing an additional \$9M of its funding to Special Needs (above envelope received from the Province this year).
- Committee observes limited access to Educational Assistants, including inability to hire them, placing significant pressures on teachers, students etc.
- Trustee Nili Kaplan-Myrth communicated in email of January 18 that this is the time of year that public school board associations can submit questions, raise issues with respect to insufficient special needs support.
- For some audiences, interpreting provincial special needs products can be difficult.
- **Saffina** offered to send message back on need for improved readability of materials.



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- e) [Arts Advisory Committee \(AAC\)](#) -Nancy Dean
- Feb 6th – 2023-2027 Strategic Plan input meeting

4) Item for discussion/new business

School Council tips on third party collection of funds

- There was a query regarding options to collect funds from parents for school fundraisers. The following suggestions were provided: School Cash Online, Hot Lunches, Bambora, Sagota. The only issue with School Cash Online is that the school administration will need to set it up.

Anti-Bullying programmes

- Representative from Stittsville PS posed the following questions:
What is the role of the Principal/ VP? What is the board wide policy? Is there a school budget for anti-bullying prevention education/ programming? What are elementary schools on this council implementing as far as prevention education? How do schools ensure consistency when the administration leaves (Principal/VP)?
- The Co-Chair commented that there are requirements and procedures but how these are implemented in each school varies. There is not a specific anti-bullying policy, but it is included in the new Safe School's policy. The Principal of Stittsville PS should be able to speak to this policy and how the specific anti-bullying component is implemented at that school. There was also a suggestion to consider a programme called the Third Path which speaks to the idea of increasing connections within schools so that people have additional safe people to go to if they are in trouble. The Principal of Stittsville PS should be able to speak to the implementation of this programme as well.
- Additional references were provided in the chat (i.e. speakers and resources).

Community Excursions/PE Programmes in neighboring recreational spaces

- Some schools, such as Glashan PS, do not have any outdoor green space for students for recess or for PE classes. In the case of Glashan, students are taken to a neighboring park for outdoor PE. The park is close to the school but not within sight of the school. Recently, the school has been required to apply a restrictive field trip policy to these outings, the implication being that each PE class must have a higher ratio of adults to students for each PE class. This makes it very difficult for the school to allow students this outdoor PE time as they don't always meet the required ratio. The lack of outdoor PE is considered detrimental for these students development particularly in the context of covid and not having been able to participate in outdoor physical fitness activities for a long period of time. The parent council and the Principal are lobbying the Superintendent and the Board for change but are concerned about the time it is taking.
- The Co-Chair informed the group of another policy related to community walks that her school has utilized for community exploration. She will meet with the Glashan PS



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representatives to better understand the differences and to see if it could be applied in the Glashan case.

WIFI Reliability and Computer Access

- The representative of Cairine Wilson SS brought the issue to the attention of the members for discussion and review. There have been numerous connectivity issues that has impacted the ability of students to utilize computers and to properly participate in planned learning activities. Regular internet outages are being reported with no clear response.
- It was decided that each school representative would poll their respective parent councils to get a better understanding of the scale of the issue. Is it widespread throughout the OCDSB region or is it something only a few schools are experiencing?
- Once polled, Les Robinson agreed to put together a delegation to address the issues at a high level.

5) Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Motion by Natasha Richardson/Glashan PS and seconded by Melody Currie/Henry Larsen.
Approved by All