



OCASC Meeting Minutes

Date: **Thursday, February 16, 2023**

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Attendance

Total Number: 28

Total Schools represented: 29

Member schools attending

AY Jackson SS (Denise Nap)
Bayview PS (Sara Parkes)
Bell HS (Vivian Chan)
Bridlewood (Denise Nap)
Broadview PS (Meaghan Cunningham)
Cairine Wilson S.S (Les Robinson)
Canterbury HS (Debbie Gomes-Schultz)
CES (Denise Nap)
Earl of March (Tom Holloway)
Elmdale PS (Kristin Honshorst)
Farley Mowat public school (Divya Yashwanth)
Glashan PS (Natasha Richardson)
Glebe CI (Lisa Greaves)
Jack Donohue PS (Elena Pushkareva)
Jockvale Elementary (Caitlyn Prevost)
Lisgar CI (Milana Karaganis)
Mary Honeywell ES (Meaghan Allen)
Mutchmor (Laurissa Watson)
Pleasant Park PP (Lina Khattab)
Ridgemont HS (Nancy Solange Dean)
Severn Ave PS (Renee Warriner)
South March (Christine Moulaison)
WO Mitchell ES (Suzanne Tubb)

Non- Member Schools Attending

Nepean HS (Michelle Milne)
Sir Robert Borden (Sharon Creasey)
Roch Carrier ES (Paris Akhshi)
W.E. Gowling Public School (Stephanie Pieri)
Steve McLean (Wendy Knight)

Guests

Ryan Southwood
Broadview PS (Michelle Milne)

Guest
Donna Owen



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1. Call to order

The Communications officer called the meeting to order at 7:12. Nancy Dean welcomed members and stated the land acknowledgement. Live Learn Play

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Agenda: Motion to approve by: Natasha Richardson / Glashen PS

Seconded by: Lina Khattab / Pleasant Park PS

Approved by All

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

- Follow up WIFI reliability and computer access – Requested by Les Robinson

January Minutes: Motion: Kristen Honshorst / Elmdale PS

Seconded by: Sharon Creasey/Sir Robert Borden

Approved by All

3. Information items / Updates from committees

a) Executive update and information

- **Parent involvement** - Alternative Advisory Committee sent an email to OCASC and PIC after contacting with 5 school councils and noticing they there is a huge lack of engagement and huge amount of exhaustion. They are wondering if other counsels are experiencing the same. This topic will be brought up to PIC to support and enhance parent's engagement strategies.
- Key points discussed:
 - Some people were enrolled in school council to improve quality of education and communication while most of council's main purpose is to organize activates for fundraising.
 - Some emphasize the importance of cross district partnership that facilitate council activities and lessen members' exhaustion. Especially as there are a lot of new members who lack knowledge and experience.
 - Members of school councils are suffering lots of pressure as there are lots of committee and they have to attend and participate in different meetings in addition to being a member of school council.



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- Creating an atmosphere of belonging at the school council was discussed to emphasize the importance of developing and recruiting parent's involvement despite of any obstacles related to language, disabilities, and race.

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

c) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) -Nancy Dean

Updates from Nov & Jan PIC meetings;

- Mental Health Resources and information at next PIC meeting February 22, 2023
- PIC Work plan on the agenda What should PC be working on and in what they should be involved?
 - PIC communication strategic plan with parents
 - Helping parents to be part of their children education – how education system works, report card systems.
 - Learning in school – what they are learning and what they are not learning.
 - Helping people navigate the school system and reaching out to.
 - Funding
 - Resource support specifically for parent engagement
 - Administering grants
- 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_ujOLzGH1pZXi8BaZ7I2L-fEwUrodDCOs6NrHo-tJHxx9OS2DkGKBeUaWwFrvQkZVJEE0pgiwso0YHsExpFevoEqN0TE9Rdo_7MiDBvtEnIXevgCTp1sMMdK-EOAVjuUsc0viuXkHONMIJZnGOW24iGQAOP30FxGqNUjx0RMcl2YDoWbGDCy87IGSAiNCEYrPJYh9ZiSnvUgsUwc

d) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Saffina

e) Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) -Nancy Dean

- Feb 6th – 2023-2027 Strategic Plan input was submitted



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4. Item for discussion/new business

a. PRO Grant & OCASC initiative

- i. A poll was made including following questions: Have you received information about the Pr. Grant, and how have you received it? How many people were actually able to connect with their councils before deadline
- ii. Deadline for PRO grant submission is February 20, 2023. Application submitted by 20th will receive grant next week.
- iii. late submission will be accepted. If you did not meet deadline there is a very small risk that money would be gone. Suggestion to send an email stating that you cannot submit application on time and request for an extension of time to pic@ocdsb.ca
- iv. Some of the members share their PRO planning events in order to help and give ideas for those who are in need.
 1. Multicultural event, mental health event, anti-racism event, cultural food, webinar for parents with diversity on anti-racism.
- v. OCASC initiative - Further Kristen is still available if any school needs help or still did not receive application form.
- vi. PIC PRO Grant ideas from Toronto Public School Board
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-NGw9YEXZR3FR9LoB3RJbN3saJ4ykRMm9Ki0nhXQXY/edit#gid=0>
- vii. Another link for Grant thematic areas
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16mktRwatYxCZ-z9cXM9sg8rwmsC4_XqOfMmNuWpkY-s/edit#gid=0

Requirements for PRO grant application

1. Project name:
2. Expected start date of project and expected end date of project (If it is a one-day event, please ensure that the start and end date are the same)
3. Which eligibility criteria does the project align with? (Select all that may apply from the list of Eligibility Criteria above)
4. Will the project involve School Council members?
5. Anticipated number of participants or attendees
6. Please provide a brief description on the project goal(s)
7. Please provide a brief outline of the project objective



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8. What is the intended outcome(s) of the project?
9. How will you achieve the project's outcome(s)?
10. How will the project be evaluated?
11. How will you collect quantitative and qualitative data to measure impact?
12. Provide the name/details of the facilitator/speaker
13. What is the cost for the facilitator/speaker?
 - i. 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.

b. Gr. 9 & 10 removal of final exams- requested by Debbie

She was wondering if Board is intending to stick to these decisions and remove Grade 9 & 10 exams. This subject has to be discussed at the board level.

This procedure will create stressful environment for Grade 11 students as they will take exams for first time ever and these grading are important for their enrollments in universities and colleges.

Members were suggesting that the board should offer opportunities for Gr9 & 10 students to benefit from 8 days vacations in a useful way such as doing volunteer hours, having workshops on how to write exams.

OCDSB Parent / caregiver school climate survey will be from March 1st to March 24th where parents can express and share their thoughts. It is advisable for school to have an evening where parents can participate, ask their questions and share their concerns.

https://www.ocdsb.ca/our_schools/inclusive_safe_and_caring_schools/bullying_prevention_intervention/school_climate_survey/faq

C.WIFI Reliability and Computer Access

- To be revisited



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5. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

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