



**General Assembly Meeting
Fisher Park Public School
Library, 2nd floor
250 Holland Avenue (at the Queensway)**

Wednesday, January 16th 2008
Meeting Start Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting End Time: 9:45 p.m.

This month:
**Budget 101 – Understanding the Funding Formula
&
How Our Community Helps Kids & Their Parents**

Speakers:
Michael Clarke, OCDSB
Rob Pozeg, YMCA
Jil Beardmore, Private Citizen

For Immediate Distribution
**Please bring this package to the immediate attention of your School
Council Chair or OCASC delegate.**

Meeting Calendar

All meetings are in the main board room at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board at 133 Greenbank unless otherwise specified.

Thursday January 16 th 7:30PM	Budget Committee
Tuesday January 22 nd 7:00PM	CCEE <i>440 Albert</i>
Tuesday January 22 nd 7:30PM	Education Committee
Monday January 28 th 7:00PM	Advisory Committee on the Arts <i>Fisher Park PS Staff Room</i>
Tuesday January 29 th 8:00PM	Board meeting
Wednesday January 30 th 7:30PM	Chair`s Committee
Tuesday February 5 th 7:30PM	Human Resources Committee
Wednesday February 6 th 7:30PM	Special Education Advisory Committee
Thursday February 7 th 1:00PM	Trade & Technology Committee <i>Trustee Committee Room</i>
Tuesday February 12 th 4:30PM	CCEE <i>Mezzanine</i>
Tuesday February 12 th 8:00PM	Board meeting
Wednesday February 13 th 7:30PM	Business Services Committee <i>Trustee Committee Room</i>
Thursday February 14 th 7:30PM	Secondary School Committee <i>Fisher Park PS</i>
Wednesday February 20 th 7:30PM	Education Committee

Thursday February 21st
7:00PM

OCASC
Fisher Park PS

Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils

Agenda for Wednesday January 16th 2008

7:00	25 min	Chalk-it-Up: Council to council advice/concerns/news
7:25	5 min	Chalk-BOARD. OCDSB Communications. Norah Vollmer
7:30	5 min	Approval of Agenda & Ratification of Minutes of November 18 th , 2007
7:35	30 min	Michael Clarke – Budget 101
8:05	15 min	Rob Pozeg – YMCA For Kids Program
8:20	15 min	Jil Beardmore – School Supply Initiative
8:35	25 min	New Business: Ratify Exec and Committee Positions Glebe Motion on establishing Lobbying Committee Rockliffe Park – Motion on soft caps
9:00		Committee Reports
9:30		Adjournment

Next meeting of the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils:

January 17th 2007
Location TBD!

OTTAWA-CARLETON ASSEMBLY OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Meeting of Thursday, November 15, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: 7:31 p.m., Ellen Dickson in the chair.

- The Chair thanked all those responsible for arranging the reception, tour of Board offices and use of the Board room.

CHALK-IT-UP

1. **Kirsten Devenny, Lakeview PS**

Reduced Supervision Minutes – As a result of this, Grade 4 and 5 students are being used as lunch monitors in the classroom, with a teacher in the hall. Playground area used is restricted to facilitate supervision by one teacher, with assistance from administration.

Reduced Office Staff – Grade 4 and 5 students are answering the phone.

What is the experience of other schools? Is training provided for the monitors? Can parents supervise playgrounds?

Responses:

Using parents as supervisors is a liability issue.

Counting on administration to supervise is a concern.

Future contracts are expected to contain further reductions to supervision minutes.

Contact: kirsten.devenny@sympatico.ca

2. **Susan Klimchuk, Berrigan ES**

Bussing Policy for Children of Daycare Providers – Raised at a Zone 3 meeting, the possibility of using factors other than distance and safety to determine transportation eligibility for children whose parents provide this service to the community. Is there interest within OCASC to pursue this issue?

Contact: susan.klimchuk@rogers.com

3. **Heather Fawcett, John McCrae SS**

Panel Presentation on Private Schools – Sponsored by the Asperger Parent Support Group, being held on Monday, November 26 at the Bronson Centre from 7:30 to 9:00

Contact: hfawcett@sympatico.ca or 613-230-6305

4. **Karen Strutynski, Rockcliffe Park PS**

Class size hard cap of 20 for JK - 3 – The hard cap has caused much reorganization and disruption at Rockcliffe Park PS. Is this true for other schools?

Responses:

We seem to be the only Board to make changes so late in the school year.

Many schools have had similar situations.

Contact: kstrutyn@rogers.com

CHALKBOARD

Cathy Dempsey, Assistant Treasurer of the OCDSB

School Council Financial Reporting

- The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) considers school councils to be agents of the Board when they are fundraising on behalf their schools. They have made it a requirement for the Board to include school council finances in the Board financial statements.
- School councils are required by Provincial Regulation 612 to present their financial information annually; it is simply a question of submitting this to the Board
- All school council finances are rolled into a single line, not reported school by school, as can be seen in the Board's latest financial statements (see http://ocdsb.ca/Board/Financial_Statements/2006/2006-08-31_OCDSB_FS-conso.pdf)
- If the auditors feel school council finances are not adequately reported they may issue a qualified, rather than clean, audit opinion which would affect the Board's credit rating for capital borrowing

Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer

School Council Communication Update now available. Highlights:

- Consultation on Programs and Program Delivery Structures at Secondary Schools
- Consultation on Safe Schools Policies/Procedures
- School Council Liability Insurance – Offer from Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)
- \$500 cheques – Money from the Ministry to each school council has gone out; contact her if you have not received it.

Contact: norah.vollmer@ocdsb.ca

Riley Brockington, Trustee

- Raising this issue to follow up on results of a zone survey (see http://www.ocdsb.ca/Board/Meetings/2006_Meetings/March_2006/Chair_Comm_Mar29_2006/9_Zone_11_Survey_Results.pdf)
 - Would like to request that all school councils discuss the idea of having a pilot project that would see elementary students wearing school uniforms
 - Would like to receive feedback on this idea, pro or con
 - Currently school councils can direct a principal to implement a dress code
 - Not aware of any public boards in Ontario that require uniforms
- Contact: riley.brockington@ocdsb.ca

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2007

Chalk-it-up item #4 had an incorrect contact email address; it should have read **alixamaclean@hotmail.com**

Moved by Jockvale ES, seconded by Berrigan ES that the agenda be approved and minutes be ratified as amended.

Carried.

PRESENTATION ON “BOARD PROCESSES 101”

BY TRUSTEE PAM FITZGERALD AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER MICHELE GIROUX

PowerPoint presentation to be posted to the OCASC website.

Contact: pam.fitzgerald@ocdsb.ca or michele.giroux@ocdsb.ca

OCDSB COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

The following positions were filled:

Advisory Committee on the Arts: Dan Rambo, Emily Carr MS

Budget: Kate Preston-Thomas, Lisgar CI

Education: Susan Klimchuk, Berrigan PS

Human Resources: Lillian Dinelle, J.H. Putman PS

School Year Calendar: Karen Strutynski, Rockcliffe Park PS

Secondary School Program Review: Anne Teutsch, Merivale HS

Technology and Trades: Anne Teutsch, Merivale HS; alternate Dan Rambo, Emily Carr MS

Moved by Jockvale ES, seconded by Woodroffe Avenue PS that all committee representatives be ratified for 2007/2008.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rockcliffe PS is giving notice that they will be bringing a motion to give schools discretion in implementing class size caps.

Glebe CI is giving notice that they will be bringing a motion to reactivate the OCASC Provincial Lobbying Committee. Anyone interested in working on lobbying is invited to contact Nina Stipich at nina.stipich@chsf.ca

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jockvale ES, seconded by Le Phare ES that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, December 20, 2007**

Date will be confirmed on www.ocasc.ca and www.ocdsb.ca

Executive Vacancies

The following have offered to stand as executive or committee representatives:

Tanya Weiner: Zone 11 LO
Lillian Thomsen: Arts Advisory Committee Alternate
Ellen Dickson: Budget Committee Alternate
Bruce Tate: Business Services
Gray Collette: Business Services Alternate
Gray Collette: School Calendar Committee
Stephen DeWitt: Human Resources Alternate
Beth Doubt, SEAC
Joan Hill-Keast, SEAC Alternate

Current Vacancies:

Vice-Chair; Recording Secretary; Liaison Officers for Zone 1, 2, 4 & 8; Community Council for Ethnocultural Equity (CCEE) Rep; Education Rep (Alt.); Character Development Rep.

MOTION: Glebe Collegiate Institute: On re-establishing OCASC's Provincial Lobbying Committee

WHEREAS inadequate funding has resulted in a significant (13.4%) decrease in the 2007 school budget allocations per student in 2007 and concerns were raised at the October 18, 2007 meeting of OCASC;

WHEREAS stakeholders feel this per pupil funding reduction creates negative impacts on curriculum and school programs thereby affecting the education of our students;

WHEREAS all members of the OCDSB community would benefit from OCASC's efforts in lobbying the provincial government to address critical budget issues and funding inequities impacting OCDSB schools;

THEREFORE be it resolved that:

OCASC re-establish its Provincial Lobbying Committee and encourage broad-based participation of parents from across the OCDSB

MOTION: Rockcliffe Park Public School – Motion on Soft Caps on Class Size

WHEREAS the Provincial directive to have a "hard cap" of 20 students in each class, Grades JK through 3, has inadvertently created a few undesirable side effects which negatively affect schools, students, parents, teachers, and principals such as:

- A. The creation of numerous split-classes (i.e., mixing two grades in one class) when, in some instances, the number of students would have allowed for full grade classes under normal circumstances. Some smaller schools are now experiencing split-grades in every class, and in some instances, there are even triple-split-grades.
- B. Disruption for the school and instability for the students when:
 - only a few new students are added during the first week of September, triggering a series of adjustments which result in students having to change classes and new teachers having to be hired to create additional classes during and up to the end of September.
 - schools and students sometimes have to wait up to six weeks for new portables to arrive and new teachers to be hired, which forces some students to have to get accustomed to a new classroom setting and a new teacher rather late during the school year. This is particularly troubling for younger, kindergarten students, who are already making a major adjustment to their routines and lives.
- C. Limited Space for portables in some of the smaller schools.
- D. Unnecessary Expenses for extra portables and extra teachers that might not be necessary in every case.

WHEREAS much of this could be avoided if the province were to institute "soft caps" instead, allowing principals some flexibility in keeping classes intact while still striving for the desirable 20:1 student-teacher ratio goal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCASC write a letter to the Minister of Education to mandate "soft caps" on primary class sizes instead of the current "hard caps," while still retaining the desirable 20:1 student-teacher ratio.

CHALK-IT-UP

We encourage councils to network. Members are invited to speak for up to five minutes on an issue of concern to their school council or on a matter which they would like to share with other members as a best practice or point of information or news. A blackboard will be made available for you to identify: your school, your name, e-mail address, telephone number and the topic you are addressing.

OCASC PACKAGE

OCASC sends a *single* printed agenda package to each school council in the Board. We also post the agenda on the OCASC web site for anyone to reference. Comments and requests can be sent to:

ocasc_chair@OCASC.ca

OCASC NEWS

If you are not on the OCASC e-mailing list and receiving *OCASC News* then please sign-up on our website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send any changes in council contacts to the Membership Secretary at: **ocasc_membership@ocasc.ca**.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees of \$35 can be paid at any OCASC meeting or sent via internal Board mail to:

OCASC

c/o the OCDSB

133 Greenbank Road

Attention: OCASC Treasurer

AGENDA NOTES

If your council would like to see an item covered with a speaker or a member discussion then please make sure to suggest this at the meeting under New Business or to any member of the Executive between meetings.

SPEAKING PRIVILEGES

Speaking privileges at OCASC meetings are generally accorded to school council representatives only.

MOTIONS

Councils will vary in how they interpret the importance of Assembly motions as well as the views that they hold. The Executive asks that all members try to keep trivial amendments to a minimum and to respect every council's opinion.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Details of any motion should be emailed to ocasc_chair@ocasc.ca for supportive advice on notice provision. Motions are however entirely up to Councils to propose as they see fit and remain their responsibility to craft and to present.

The "Whereas" section (or preamble) of a motion is up to those putting the motion forward for consideration, represents their own reasons for doing so and is not debatable. Councils may agree or disagree with the "Therefore" section or actual resolution for completely different reasons of their own.

Motions must be received by OCASC at least one week prior to a meeting for inclusion in the agenda package.

Changes to the constitution / bylaws require 28 calendar days notice.

OCASC EXECUTIVE 2006/2007

OFFICERS

Chair	Ellen Dickson	ocasc_chair@ocasc.ca
Vice-Chair	VACANT	ocasc_vchair@ocasc.ca
Membership Secretary	Tanya Weiner	ocasc_membership@ocasc.ca
Treasurer	Stephen DeWitt	ocasc_treasurer@ocasc.ca
Recording Secretary	VACANT	ocasc_secretary@ocasc.ca
Communications Officer	Lillian Thomsen	ocasc_media@ocasc.ca

LIAISON OFFICERS

Zone 1 -- West Carleton-March/ Stittsville-Kanata West/Rideau-Goulbourn	VACANT	ocasc_lo1@ocasc.ca
Zone 2--Kanata North/ Kanata South	VACANT	ocasc_lo2@ocasc.ca
Zone 3 – Barrhaven / Knoxdale-Merivale	Susan Klimchuk	ocasc_lo3@ocasc.ca
Zone 4 – Bay	VACANT	ocasc_lo4@ocasc.ca
Zone 5 – College	David Forster	ocasc_lo5@ocasc.ca
Zone 6 – Rideau-Rockcliffe/ Alta Vista	VACANT	ocasc_lo6@ocasc.ca
Zone 7 – Gloucester-South Nepean/Osgoode/Gloucester Southgate	Carrie Eaton	ocasc_lo7@ocasc.ca
Zone 8 - Orléans-Cumberland	VACANT	ocasc_lo8@ocasc.ca
Zone 9 - Rideau-Vanier/Capital	Gray Collette	ocasc_lo9@ocasc.ca
Zone 10 - Somerset/ Kitchissippi	Kate Preston-Thomas	ocasc_lo10@ocasc.ca
Zone 11 – River	Tanya Weiner	ocasc_lo11@ocasc.ca
Zone 12 - Innes/Beacon Hill-Cyrville	Stephane Poulin	ocasc_lo12@ocasc.ca

OCASC COMMITTEES

Secondary Schools Committee (SSC)	Juliet Hamilton & Nadine Clarke (Co-Chairs)	ssc_chair@ocasc.ca
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OCDSB COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Advisory Committee on the Arts	Dan Rambo; Lillian Thomsen (Alt.)	arts@ocasc.ca
Budget Committee	Kate Preston-Thomas; Ellen Dickson (Alt.)	ocasc_budget@ocasc.ca
Business Services Committee	Bruce Tate; Gray Collette (Alt.)	business@ocasc.ca
Chairs' Committee	Ellen Dickson	ocasc_chair@ocasc.ca
Children and Youth at Risk Advisory Committee (CAYARAC)	Carrie Eaton; Mary Ann Jenkins (Alt.)	cayarac@ocasc.ca
Community Council on Ethnocultural Equity (CCEE)	VACANT	ccee@ocasc.ca
Education Committee	Susan Klimchuk	education@ocasc.ca
Human Resources Committee	Lillian Dinelle	hr@ocasc.ca
Parental Involvement Committee (PIC)	Ellen Dickson Kate Preston-Thomas	ocasc_chair@ocasc.ca; ocasc_lo11@ocasc.ca
School Year Calendar Committee	Gray Collette	calendar@ocasc.ca
Secondary School Program Review Ad Hoc Committee	Anne Teutsch	sspr@ocasc.ca
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)	Beth Doubt & Joan Hill-Keast (Alt.)	seac@ocasc.ca
Technology and Trades Committee	Anne Teutsch; Dan Rambo (Alt.)	tech@ocasc.ca

The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils Working Together For Excellence in Education

The Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) is an umbrella organization for school councils of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB). OCASC was founded in November 1997 just prior to the establishment of the OCDSB. Both predecessor Boards had a history of active Board-wide school council umbrella organizations. All OCDSB school councils are entitled to membership in OCASC. The OCDSB recognizes the important role OCASC plays in strengthening the involvement of parents and the community in schools and Board decision-making.

OCASC's purpose is to seek an education of the highest quality for each child according to his or her needs. OCASC supports the development of strong school councils and brings the views and concerns of its member councils to the attention of the Board, the Ministry of Education and the public.