

Mary Honeywell Elementary School Parent Council Meeting 2020-2021

Thursday, November 18th , 2021

Sarah Misseri

Angelina Nikkel

Julia MacEwen

Robert Crampton

Jessica Stairs

Jaclyn Katz

Rachel Sturgeon

Nivin Radwan

Michel Sturgeon

Elvan Kuzucuoglu

Stefanie Rowan

Pthandi Simpson

Meaghan Allen

Audrey Bauche

Courtney Hirota

Lesley Peterkin

MINUTES

Meeting started @ 6:38pm.

1. Welcome
2. Review of minutes

Minutes passed

3. Treasurer Report - Angelina

No change since the last meeting. Current Balance is \$14,510.27

4. OCASC Update - Meaghan Allen

See Appendices below

5. Trustee Report - Donna Blackburn

-Trustee Blackburn noted that OCSAC fought to be the chair of PIC and expressed support for the above-mentioned motion to remove the OCASC membership from the committee of the whole.

MHES Council members, however, expressed to Trustee Blackburn, their desire to have OCASC keep its seat on the committee of the whole.

Trustee Blackburn took note of the Council's opinion. The vote on the motion at the committee of the whole will be held in January.

-Barrhaven has received funding for a new high school in riverside south

High School gyms are opening up to support extra curricular events

Elementary gyms are opening as Covid vaccination centres

City of Ottawa will be doing a boundary review adding Barrhaven East and West for the municipal elections, there are 4 proposals that the trustees need to review for changing the wards for the trustees. All are available for review on the OCDSB website.

6. Policy Review - Appropriate use of technology - Julia

No concerns from the council

7. Wish List - Julia

\$10,599.25 total request from the school. A few duplicate requests were noted and adjustments were made.

We can only order from certain companies, it has to be through certain vendors

Motion: spend up to \$11,000.00 but only to be used for the items that were presented on the list.

Approved

Motion: spend the \$327.14 for Je Lis for one class that was missed originally

Approved

8. Wreath Fundraiser - Julia

We raised \$277.50 from the wreaths for school council.

Cheque will be dropped off to

Barrhaven Food Cupboard.

Motion to spend another \$500 max to support a family/families in need should they require it.

Approved

9. Principal Report - Nivin

COVID update - thanks for completing the screening.

Remembrance Day assembly went well.

Phys Ed is currently being held outdoors where possible, indoors only for inclement weather.

Library - kids can go in with small groups for work but books are currently only being checked out through the library tech.

Week in Review Building the Bridge - this is to help bridge the gap that was caused by virtual/online learning it is provided through the week in review that is sent out each week.

Question EQOA - we are doing it this year? Yes we are

10. Teacher Report - Jaclyn and Jessica

Remembrance Day assembly was held and put together by Mme Stairs and Mme Shea. Divisional Meetings are coming back to the school. Kinder, Primary, SPEC Ed,

Autism and Junior teams will meet separately to review what is going on in the classrooms, moderating school work etc.

Math: Some gaps are being noticed in the children's learning. Teachers are working on Assessment for learning Educator Data. Kids did a 25 question assessment. Feedback will be provided to Mrs Katz to help identify the gaps in learning. Teachers are also using "knowledgehook" to engage the students in math questions. They can play at home too.

Equity focus for October and November is on land acknowledgement and how to make it more personal for the students. Each class will be creating their own land acknowledgement to share with the school.

Equity focus in December will be talking about all the celebrations that occur in the holiday season.

Equity focus in the New Year will be on home languages

11. Round Table

Meaghan Allen: OCSAC recap. Meaghan would like to present to parents an update on what happened at PIC so other interested parents can be made aware. It was **decided that the Council officially communicates it's position to our trustee to say "Council supports retaining OCASC membership on the Committee of the Whole.**

The School is running out of office clothing for the students. **Motion: to spend \$200 for new clothing. Approved**

12. Next Meeting

- a. *January 13th, 2022 6:30pm – Meeting adjourned @ 8:00PM*

Appendix #1

OCASC and PIC Presentation

Hi, I'm Meaghan Allen, and I'm the School Council's OCASC Representative.

What does that mean?

OCASC stands for Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils, and it's just that: schools in Ottawa, who have school councils, send a member of their council to monthly meetings where we discuss topics ranging from fundraising help to issues with secondary school students accessing courses, special education advice, the Arts, and equality issues such as equal opportunities (like access to math manipulatives) and racism.

It's really a means of enhancing our children's education by sharing information and facilitating communication between our many OCDSB communities[\[1\]](#). OCASC has been serving the community since 1997. Membership is free.

Twice a month, the OCDSB holds a Standing Committee (a regular, permanent committee), called Committee of the Whole (COW)[\[2\]](#). These meetings consist of the twelve elected Trustees, who have voting seats at the meeting. Our Trustee is Donna Blackburn. Additionally, there are two student voices, and ten other education-related organizations (like the Elementary and Secondary school Teachers' Federations) who actively participate in these meetings, but have non-voting seats.[\[3\]](#)

OCASC has one of these non-voting seats to represent the voices of parents. Having a non-voting seat allows OCASC the right to participate and express their opinions freely which is essential and fundamental. Parents need to have the opportunity to put forward our concerns, without restrictions or governed-oversight, for our children and their education.

The next acronym to know is PIC, which stands for Parent Involvement Committee. Your first thought may be "isn't that what a school council is"?! The answer is kind of, and I'll get to that momentarily.

Since 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Education requires school boards to have a PIC. PIC is board-managed, government-funded, and the majority of parents on the committee have applied and been selected by the Board, as opposed to school councils and OCASC, where those positions are voted for.

On page ten from the Government of Ontario's "A Practical Handbook for Parent Involvement Committee Members"[\[4\]](#), PIC's mandate is to:

- ◆ support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being;
- ◆ provide information and advice to the board on parent engagement;
- ◆ communicate with and support school councils;

◆ undertake activities to help parents support their children’s learning at home and at school.

So, to me, PIC is a government-mandated, board-managed and selected organization, whereas OCASC is “just” parent-run. Additionally, PIC has a Statutory Committee with the Board (in accordance with the Education Act)^[5], and, as mentioned before, OCASC has a non-voting seat at the COW, the Board’s Standing Committee.

One of PIC’s mandates is to work with school councils (albeit, our PIC hasn’t engaged with our school council in at least the past five years), and OCASC’s is working with parents solely through school councils. PIC and OCASC can have overlapping view points and policies, but not always.

Currently, our PIC is undergoing administrative changes and are trying to become more involved. Recently, PIC went to delegate to COW, to ask to have a non-voting seat, like OCASC does. OCASC’s communication officer supported this, as it would “[i]ncrease the opportunities for parent/caregiver involvement, engagement and voice at COW...”^[6].

However, Trustee Boothby amended the proposal to have PIC replace OCASC at COW: her main reason was because of redundancy.

So, OCASC is at risk of losing its seat at the COW. This would mean that our school council, parent and community priorities may no longer be heard. We will no longer be able to affect change and policy in the same capacity that we’ve had for the last 23 years. If OCASC doesn’t have this seat, they would have to submit to delegate to the Board. This means that if parents and/or school councils have an issue they’d like to bring up, the Board would initially listen for a maximum of four minutes^[7] to perhaps discuss further.

OCASC also brings points discussed at COW to our communities to consult/discuss. Perhaps PIC would begin to do this, as it’s in their job description, however, OCASC speaks to parents, for parents without anyone else’s or any other governed-body’s agenda at heart. OCASC is unbiased. PIC is not.

Please help us keep our seat at the table, and write into our trustees. We work so hard for our kids and school. Our voices need to be heard. Julia and I have drafted an email for other concerned parents to use as a template to send to Trustees. I will be sending this to you, our school's council members, and later to our parents. I also plan on hosting a parent information night/session to explain, basically, everything I have here.

Thank you for your time. I’m ready and able to answer any questions.

^[1] Go to ocasc.ca for more information

[2] 9.3(a)I from OCDSB's By-laws and Standing Orders:
<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=2008575&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

[3] Check out Policy P.010.GOV for the full list of non-voting organizations:
<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=3046474&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

[4] <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/HandbookPIC.pdf>

[5] From Section 9.4(b) from OCDSB By-laws and Standing Orders:
<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=2008575&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

[6] From Nancy Dean's Delegation issue information submitted on 4NOV21:

<https://pub-ocdsb.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=11253>

[7] From Section 11.2(f) from OCDSB By-laws and Standing Orders:
<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=2008575&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

Appendix #2 **Policies Pertaining to PIC and OCASC**

Government of Ontario's Ministry of Education Links:

Ministry of Education's website about Parent Involvement Committee (PIC):

<http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/PIC.html>

Funding is here as well: The government currently provides boards with \$5,000 annual base funding and 17 cents per student to fund its PIC, as well as an additional \$500 per school council to support parent engagement activities.

Government of Ontario's Practical Handbook for Parent Involvement Committee

Members <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/HandbookPIC.pdf>

Government of Ontario's Regulation for PIC: O. Reg. 612/00: SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000612/v2#BK33>

Ontario Municipal and School Board Election Website: What Do Trustees Do

<https://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org/WhatDoTrusteesDo/SchoolBoardTrustees.aspx>

Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)'s Links:

OCDSB's Policy List

<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=569738&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

OCDSB's By-Laws and Standing Rules

<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=2008575&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

POLICY P.002.COM: BOARD-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=2847909&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

POLICY P.010.GOV: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ON BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=3046474&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

COW's minutes:

<https://pub-ocdsb.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=1e6a2040-0324-426d-9f83-95c6feeaba3f&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=27&Tab=attachments>

OCDSB's PIC Links:

PIC's website:

https://ocdsb.ca/about_us/enrolment_data/parent_involvement/parent_involvement_committee_pic

PIC's minutes and agendas are found in OCDSB's database:

<https://weblink.ocdsb.ca/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=18932&dbid=0&repo=OCDSB>

BUT here are the Minutes from October 13, 2021:

<https://pub-ocdsb.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=11288>

PIC's By-Laws and Standing Rules:

https://p13cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_55394/File/About%20Us/Enrolment%20Data/Parent%20Involvement/Parent%20Involvement%20Committee/item2.pdf

Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Link

<https://ocasc.ca>