

SUBMISSION TO OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

RE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACA

February 14, 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The ACA is pleased to celebrate this year as the 25th year of its existence (1987 – 2012). Our celebration include a re-dedication of the painting, by former Canterbury H.S. visual arts student Martin Golland, that was originally commissioned as part of the inaugural ceremony for the arts excellence awards, under the umbrella of the Ottawa Board of Education in 1989. We have designed a 25th anniversary banner that will hang periodically throughout the calendar year, 2012, in the main lobby of the Greenbank administration building. In June 2012, we culminate this academic year with a celebrative reception on June 12, to which all current trustees are invited.

BACKGROUND:

In 1987, under the guidance of Trustee Marjorie Loughrey, the Ottawa Board of Education established the Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA) as a community led and directed Committee to provide policy and program advice from the community, regarding all aspects of arts education in OBE schools. This kind of community committee in the arts was the first and still only advisory committee of its kind in Ontario. When the OBE and CBE amalgamated in 1998, the ACA was re-mandated to continue to represent the community of the OCDSB. The Committee includes in its membership anyone within the City of Ottawa who wishes to be involved in policy decisions in arts education that affect all the arts in all schools. OCDSB staff are welcome to all general meetings, however, the agenda is set and controlled by community volunteers.

The main activities of the ACA include regularly advising trustees on current issues that might affect arts education policy including preparing and presenting an annual report of the preceding year of important issues and background information. The Committee holds monthly public meetings where important topics are explained, discussed and even debated in focused “Salon” sessions. We currently have and maintain our own web-site (www.acaottawa.ca) and

continue to facilitate two-way communication between policy makers and all members of the community who wish to participate.

CURRENT STATUS:

The main ongoing projects that currently involve ACA include advising the Education Committee on all matters relating to the arts, making presentations to school councils, organizing and presenting the annual arts achievement awards and maintaining an ongoing directory of community arts resources available for schools. At the moment, we are involved in the structure and progress for the current Blue Sky Discussion (BSD), that the Board has launched as an innovative way to gauge and solicit citizen opinion on the state of all the arts in all our schools.

CONCLUSION:

Since its inception, the ACA has helped focus enlightened arts education policy, first, for the original schools of the OBE and now for all schools of the OCDSB. We invite all trustees to join in the celebration of our 25th continuous year with the hope that they will continue to find value in our vision, insight and wisdom, in contributing to the finest arts education policy possible in all of the arts, for all our students, in all our schools.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: List of major initiatives, 1987 – 2012