



Report No. 51 Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)

Date: January 26, 2015

A meeting of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE on the ARTS was held at Summit/Fisher Park Public School, Ottawa, Ontario, commencing at 7:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Members: Trustee Erica Braunovan, Cheryl Carman*, Eric Ding*, Susanna Donato (AIC), David Jones*, Judy Kirsh*, Evelyn Michaud*, Trustee Lynn Scott, Sheila White*, Michael Wilson*,

Regrets: Ariadni Athanassiadis*, Debbie Holzman*, Superintendent Peter Gamwell, Jacque Pinard (AIC),

Guests: Christine Irvine, Ottawa Symphony Association, Kathy Goodsell

Note: The symbol * denotes a Voting member.

1. Welcoming Remarks:

ACA Chair Sheila White welcomed the group and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda:

There will be two items under New Business: a short presentation by Eric Ding, our student senate rep, and one from Christine Irvine, from the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra.

Moved by Judy Kirsh to approve the agenda. CARRIED

3. Co-Chair's Report:

There have been quite a few meetings of the executive committee since the last meeting, which was late November, and these mostly concerning the Arts Awards Evening held at Thyme and Again. Sheila thanked the team, consisting of Evelyn Michaud, Ariadne Athanassiadis, Debbie Holzman, David Jones, and Judy Kirsh. Considering the unusual circumstances, and very late notice that the ceremony would NOT be in front of the Board of Trustees, the team worked extremely hard to make this a very elegant and effective ceremony. There will be more discussion of this event under Item # 11.

Sheila thanked Judy Kirsh and Michael Wilson for making a presentation to the CoW on Tuesday January 20, 2015. Sheila noted that Tina Fedeski, of the Leading Note Foundation, and a community member of ACA, will be working with the OCDSB to run workshops for teachers on the PA day Friday Feb 13. It is part of a longer workshop series, but open to staff from OCDSB. There is an on-going partnership with the Leading Note that has been growing in the past couple of years.

4. Approval of the November Minutes:

There was one change to the minutes. The acronym for the Catholic board is now OCSD

Moved by Cheryl Carman to adopt the amended minutes: CARRIED

5. Business arising from the November minutes:

This will be covered under Item # 11.

6. Trustees' Report:

Sheila welcomed the new ACA Trustees: Erica Braunovan and Lynn Scott and asked them to introduce themselves.

Erica Braunovan introduced herself and brought forward a couple of questions about arts, the community and the board. She was looking for information to pass on to her constituents.

One project involved an art exhibition and how to involve youth and how to work on mental health issues. There were questions about the timeline involved, about connecting with secondary students etc. Arts Instructional Coach Susanna Donato suggested that the person contact her and she would connect them with the Support Services group at the board.

There was a brief discussion about the links involving the arts and mental health. There are important positive connections between them and there is much research showing how the arts can be effective in helping with mental health issues.

The second project involved the Chinatown BIA. They would like to create a gala event, perhaps next year (timeline to be determined) and they are willing to financially sponsor the event. The gala would involve presentations from all the arts, and they were looking to work with the board to set this up. AIC Susanna Donato once again volunteered to be the official contact for this.

Lynn Scott introduced herself and spoke a bit about the importance of arts and arts teaching in her life. She went on to ask: how can we make sure all students in every school get involved with the arts? There is lots of research about the whole child, and how important the arts are to that development.

She noted that it is important for ACA to have input into the strategic plan and urged everyone to participate in the on-line discussions.

She also said that the board has been working on governance reform and there is much that needs to be clarified in some areas involving advisory committees. There are quite a few advisory committees, and although they do good work, some do not actually advise the board. There needs to be more clarification and convergence in many areas, particularly as to how the committees report to the trustees, how often, when they report, and in some cases, the structure of the committee itself.

Sheila welcomed the new trustees and thanked them for their input and questions

7. Superintendent's Report: N/A

8. Arts Coaches Report:

Principal Denise Poirier (from Curriculum Services) introduced herself and noted that she is a keen supporter of the arts. She noted that the system is working on developing "capacity" in staff, via the networks, mentoring and partnerships within the community.

To further the development of staff in the arts, the OCDSB is working with University of Ottawa to offer an Additional Qualifications (AQ) course in the arts, for interested OCDSB staff. They are hoping this will start next September.

Arts Instructional Coach Susanna Donato continued and spoke about the work they are doing this year and how they are adapting the networks and programs to accommodate all levels of learning. They are trying to offer sessions in intro, mid and advanced arts expertise. They are also investigating offering sessions in 2 out of the 4 arts areas at any one time.

The AICs are working with the ECO schools and are helping them to make connections with the arts; they are also working with MacSkimming Outdoor Ed to help create programs on a regular basis and are collaborating with Learning Support Services on mental health issues and how the arts can be integrated.

The VALL and DALL sessions are continuing and are extremely effective.

9. BREAK:

Thank you to Evelyn for the treats, all of them: Plan A and Plan B. They were all excellent.

10. Report on Presentation to Board

Judy Kirsh and Michael Wilson reported on their presentation to the board on Tues Jan 20, 2015. The written submission (with appendices) is presented at the end of the minutes. Judy explained that she sends in the written

submission, maximum of 2 pages before appendices, but that what she says at the meeting is a verbal version, often less technical and with more emphasis on certain areas. It is hoped that the trustees will have read the written submission, and therefore have a little more of the background before the actual meeting.

ACA presents as a delegation and hence is allowed a maximum of 4 minutes, and then the trustees can have 3 questions. The questions on Tuesday focused on input to the strategic plan, a statement about the value of the arts, and a question from the former trustee to ACA, Theresa Kavanagh, about the importance of the Arts Instructional Coaches.

All in all, it was felt to be a good introduction, particularly for the 6 new trustees as to who ACA is, and what some of our concerns are for the arts in the OCDSB.

11. ACA Awards:

David Jones reported that the award ceremony took place at Thyme and Again and that it was a “very classy” event. Considering that this was the first time the awards had NOT been presented in front of the board, and that we were not informed of that decision until at least mid-October, David was thrilled at how well the “team” pulled together. Kathy Goodsell, one of the Award recipients, echoed David’s comments, said that it was lovely to be greeted with a rose and she enjoyed the event. She also echoed the concerns about the limited space for guests.

It was noted that perhaps the Co-Chairs of ACA should request a formal meeting with Trustee Shirley Seward and Trustee Christine Boothby, and see if the ceremony issue can be resolved far ahead of September. It was also noted that there are quite a few awards in different areas, and the trustees and board have to reconcile and coordinate how these are recognized.

12. New Business:

- A) Eric Ding said he a few friends wanted to promote the arts in the community and to offer all students the opportunity to showcase their talents in all the arts. They have already incorporated as a not-for profit organization under the Ontario Ministry rules, and the organization is called The Ottawa Youth Arts Association. They are looking for ways to reach out to students, to distribute information and coordinate auditions, and perhaps for some financial backing. AIC Susanna Donato said she and Curriculum Services would work with Eric and the organization.
- B) Christine Irvine introduced herself and said she is new to the Marketing position at OSO. She spoke about the program the OSO offers to schools and how it works. A handout about the program was distributed. AIC Susanna Donato noted that it is a program that the OCDSB encourages and she would work with Christine to help. Trustee Scott noted that bussing schedules vary and the timing of concerts is always an issue. It was concluded by all agreeing it was a very worthwhile program for the students.

13. Adjournment:

Sheila adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm
Moved by David Jones: CARRIED

Next meeting: Feb. 23, 2015, in the staffroom at Fisher Park / Summit, 7:00 -9:00 PM

Upcoming ACA meetings: Mar. 30, April 27, May 25

For information: ACA Co-Chairs David Jones & Sheila White: chair@ACAottawa.ca

APPENDIX:

Written Submission to the OCDSB Trustees : Judy Kirsh and Michael Wilson: Tues Jan 20, 2015

RE: Advisory Committee on the Arts: Past and Present

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

For 30 years ACA has provided advice, research and recommendations to the former OBE and to the OCDSB. Its main goals are to ensure meaningful Arts education for all students and to recognize excellence in the teaching of the Arts. Its on-going concerns focus on delivering first-class instruction in all the Arts to all the students in all the schools.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

History: The Advisory Committee on the Arts was created in 1987 by the former Ottawa Board of Education as an official advisory group to trustees. Initiated by OBE Trustee Marjorie Loughrey, it was designed to provide advice, to help inform policy decisions for Arts education and to monitor the state of Arts education within that Board. In 1998, it was re-constituted, with minimal changes to the original Terms of Reference (TOR), within the newly created OCDSB.

Terms of Reference: In 2011 the Terms of Reference were revised to update the membership requirements. The important distinction of voting and non-voting members was retained. At ACA meetings, everyone is welcome to attend and share ideas, but only voting members may vote on substantive issues, for example, policy or budget recommendations to trustees. (The mandate, objectives and membership rules of ACA are attached as Appendix A.)

Objectives: ACA objectives are formally stated in the TOR, but our mission can be stated succinctly: *All the Arts, for All the students, in All the schools.* We believe that excellent Arts education should not be dependent on the school, the zone, the geographical location, or on any one Principal or any one teacher. It should be rooted in the very essence of the entire system.

Achievements: ACA has worked closely with trustees and staff on the Blue Sky Initiative; it has presented research on the benefits of Arts education for all types of learners and how it benefits many other areas; and it has made budget submissions based on research based rationales. (A more complete list of ACA's initiatives is found in Appendix B).

Recognition: ACA also publicly recognizes excellence in Arts education. For 25 years, ACA has presented annual Arts Awards to well-deserving teachers, volunteers and administrators within the OBE/OCDSB. There are over 20 categories, for staff in Elementary and Secondary, at the Administrative level, and for Volunteers. (The full list is shown in Appendix C, and the names of this year's recipients are in Appendix D.)

This year, due to unforeseen circumstances, the celebration was much smaller than usual. Next year, we hope to return to a larger venue so that all the trustees, senior administration and friends of the recipients will be able to join together and publicly celebrate excellence in Arts education within the OCDSB.

CURRENT CONCERNS:

Well-Trained Elementary Teachers:

ACA is extremely concerned with having Elementary teachers well-trained in the Arts in all schools. Although many K-8 teachers are expected to teach all subjects, there are many Elementary teachers whose only Arts training is the 1 mandatory Arts credit (110 hours) taken in their own grade 9 year and the training they received as part of their B.Ed.

At the Faculty of Education at University of Ottawa, that training is as follows:

1. Students in the Primary/Junior level receive 36 hours of integrated Arts education (3.5 hours per week for 1 semester, which is 1/3 of a high school credit);

2. Students in the Junior/Intermediate level receive 19 hours, and at the Intermediate level, those choosing an Arts subject specialty (currently only Music or Visual arts – no Dance or Drama) get a further 36 hours;
3. In the upcoming 2 year B. Ed, there should be double those hours over 2 years.

In the OCDSB, many teachers are expected to deliver all four Arts areas, Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, with all the curriculum expectations and skill sets, from grades 1 through grade 8.

Consistency Within The System:

A key component of the OCDSB Vision in the 2011-2015 Strategy Map is “to provide equity of access to programs and pathways for all students”. Having strong Arts teaching in some schools, or even in some classrooms within one school, may be better than nothing, but all students should have access to the delivery of strong teaching in ALL their subjects, not just, for example, in English, Mathematics or Social Sciences. More consistency in good teaching of the Arts, in all of the OCDSB schools, is needed to ensure equity for all students.

Subject Hierarchy:

The ACA believes that there is a hierarchy of importance placed on subjects within the OCDSB. In many situations, the Arts are regarded as a semi-optional frill, rather than an essential part of the curriculum. The Arts are often not valued for themselves, nor are they valued for what they do for the students. Additionally, they are not even seen as making any contributions to literacy and/or numeracy achievements, despite a large and growing body of research to the contrary.

“To develop a culture in which all people are welcome and challenged to be creative and contributing members” is part of the 2011-15 OCDSB Mission statement; to do that requires that the system itself welcomes and truly appreciates all subjects.

CONCLUSION:

ACA is dedicated to creating an environment that allows all the Arts to be encouraged and taught well in all classes in the entire system.

The newly released *Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement & Well-being, K-12: 2014-2015 – From Foundation to Success* says:

Our students will be resilient, globally aware, collaborative, innovative/creative, and goal oriented.

Our students will be critical thinkers, effective communicators, academically, diverse, ethical decision-makers and digitally fluent.

These are precisely the goals and well-documented results of a good Arts education and it clearly needs to be a significant under-pinning of the BIP. ACA will also be working to ensure that the Arts are an integral part of the OCDSB 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

APPENDIX A:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

OTTAWA-CARLETON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Approved 24 May 2011

1. MANDATE

- 1.1 Act as an independent advisory committee on Arts issues to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.
- 1.2 Support and encourage education in the Arts for students in the OCDSB.
- 1.3 Provide liaison between OCDSB and Arts institutions and organizations at the local, regional, provincial and national levels, the business community and the post-secondary

community.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Support strong and vibrant delivery of Arts education in all OCDSB school
- 2.2 Raise the awareness of principals and teachers of the importance of arts education in terms of academic and social development, and career potential
- 2.3 Promote the Arts in teacher education and professional development
- 2.4 Encourage the use of the Arts in delivery of the general curriculum
- 2.5 Promote communication between the Advisory Committee on the Arts, Arts teachers and school councils
- 2.6 Enhance opportunities for students in the arts through support for OCDSB cooperative education and school visits, tours, seminars and performances with professional artists, experienced amateurs, arts entrepreneurs and local and national arts organizations
- 2.7 Recognize excellence through arts awards

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership and attendance are voluntary. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers.

Voting Members

Arts/City/General Community 14

Up to 14 representatives from the general community, with an interest in arts education within the OCDSB. This may include representatives of city, community or national or cultural organizations, artists, or members of the general or business community who have an interest in arts education;

Parents/Guardians of students in OCDSB schools 4

Up to four who demonstrate an interest in Arts education and, to the extent possible, including a balanced representation of elementary and secondary schools and geographic regions within the OCDSB jurisdictions.

OCDSB Secondary School Students and or/ Student Trustees 2

Up to two with an interest in Arts education

Total Maximum Voting Members 20

Non-Voting Members: Ex-Officio OCDSB Staff members; Program support teacher; Representative from Arts Canterbury; Representative from other Arts programs (if designated); Teachers representing dance, drama, literary arts, media arts, music and visual arts at both the elementary and secondary level; Representative of Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association; Non-Voting Lifetime members: a maximum of four 4; OCDSB Trustee(s): a maximum of two, as may be designated by the Board; Superintendent or designate.

Total Maximum Non-Voting Members 20

APPENDIX B: INITIATIVES OF ACA, 1987 – 2015

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- 1987 – 1989: The solidification of Committee membership, vision and terms of reference in relation to OBE
 - 1989: The creation of Arts Achievement Awards and administration of the annual ceremony in front of the full Board of Trustees.
 - 1990: Worked in partnership with the Faculty of Education, University of Ottawa (FEUO), winning a grant of \$100,000.00, from the Ministry of Educations Transitions Years Fund, to

support in-service professional development in Integrated Arts, for interested teachers of the OBE.

- 1992: Creation of a catalogue of all community arts resources available to enrich arts experiences for students of the OBE.
- 1993: ACA initiated the first of several annual arts focus days in which OBE elementary students were given workshops by artists at the National Arts Centre.
- 1996: ACA established an ongoing partnership with FEUO to offer A.Q. courses in dramatic arts, P/J music and visual arts.
- 1998: ACA became a key partner in offering through FEUO an innovative A.Q. summer program in Integrated Arts, in co-operation with the National Arts Centre, the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Museum of Civilization.
- 1998: After amalgamation, the OCDSB continued the existence and work of ACA.
- 2000: ACA was a key contributor to the OCDSB process of a system arts review.
- 2005: ACA initiated the community service of presentations to school councils on how local communities can support the arts in schools.
- 2006: “Encore”, a program for the collection of community donated musical instruments for free distribution to OCDSB students, was begun and continued for 3-4 years.
- 2008: ACA created its own web-site at www.acaottawa.ca.
- 2009: Initiated the re-ignition of an arts review process.
- 2011: ACA made presentations to Education Committee and full board on equity issues, budget concerns and teacher training.
- 2011: 25th anniversary celebrations occurred throughout the year.
- 2011: The Terms of Reference were updated.
- 2011: ACA worked with trustees to initiate the Blue Sky Discussion about the state of arts education in the OCDSB.
- 2011/12: ACA was a major partner in the Blue Sky innovative community discussion of arts education improvement.
- 2013: ACA worked with trustees to ensure extra funding for arts training for teachers.
- 2014/15: ACA continues to work on initiatives for PD in arts education within the OCDSB.

APPENDIX C: OCDSB Arts Recognition Awards
For Outstanding Service to Arts Education

Nominees: OCDSB staff (teachers, administrators, etc.) or volunteers

Nominators: Any individual or group may submit a nomination

Categories & Criteria:

Elementary: Dance, Drama, Literary / Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts or Integrated Arts

Secondary: Dance, Drama, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts

Event Awards – Elementary or Secondary:

For an individual or group who presented an exceptional performance or visual display in 2013-2014.

Arts Volunteer Award - Elementary and Secondary:

For individuals or groups who have made exceptional volunteer contributions to arts education. A volunteer is considered to be any individual who is not staff at that school.

Leadership in the Arts Award:

For an individual in an administrative or program leader position, in or associated with the OCDSB, who has made a significant contribution and exceptional commitment to Arts education.

Marjorie Loughrey Lifetime Achievement Award:

For an OCDSB employee or volunteer who has demonstrated continual and distinguished excellence in arts education during a career spanning a minimum of 25 years. Only awarded once to the same individual.

APPENDIX D: ARTS AWARDS RECIPIENT LIST: 2013-2014

Elementary Dance	Natalie Teasier (Stittsville P.S)
Elementary Drama	Damay Gagnon (Pleasant Park P.S.)
Elementary Music – P/J	Kathy Goodsell (Adrian Clarkson E.S)
Elementary Music – Int.	Leonard Ferguson (Katimavik E.S.)
Elementary Integration of Arts	Andrea Hallendy-Mallon (Elgin Street P.S)
Secondary Dance	1. Adam Smith (West Carleton S.S.) 2. Alison Hauch (West Carleton S.S.)
Secondary Drama	Cynthia Wood (Merivale H.S.)
Secondary Media Arts	Scott Hughes (Merivale H.S.)
Secondary Music	Keith Brown (Ottawa Technical S.S)
Secondary Visual Arts	Sheila Williams (Ottawa Technical S.S)
Elem. School Event - Concert/Play	“Beauty and the Beast” Graydon Miles (Steve MacLean P.S.)
Sec. School Event - Display	“Face 2 Face Exhibit” Irv Osterer (H.S/ Merivale Fine Arts Dept.)
Sec. School Event - Performance	Takis Zervas, (Merivale H.S.)
Leadership in the Arts Award	Angela Dagg (Curriculum Services)
Marjorie Loughrey Lifetime Achievement Award	Jeff Kanter (Nepean H.S.)