



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

Date: March 30, 2015

A meeting of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE on the ARTS was held at Summit/Fisher Park Public School, Ottawa, Ontario, commencing at 7:10 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Members: Carl Bovell (Intermediate Music council Chair), Trustee Erica Braunovan, Cheryl Carman*, Eric Ding*, Susanna Donato (Arts Instructional Coach) Debbie Holzman*, David Jones*, Evelyn Michaud*, Trustee Lynn Scott, Sheila White*, Michael Wilson*

Regrets: Judy Kirsh, Peter Gamwell

Guests: Jillian Pelletier (Cedarview Middle School visual arts teacher), Vanessa Sutton and Yolande Laroche (OSO), Keith Penny (OCDSB trustee), Carolina Borquez Holch (Connaught Public school teacher), Sophie Reussner-Pazua (NAC Music Education)

1. Welcoming Remarks:

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

2. Approval of Agenda:

Two amendments were made:

- i) Insert T.A.M. before the break
- ii) Item under new business
Moved by Michael Wilson
CARRIED

3. Co-Chair's Report:

Since the last ACA meeting, the ACA executive has met and continue to follow up on communication with school councils re letters which have been/will be sent out to all the OCDSB elementary school councils. The purpose of the letters is to spread the word about ACA, and to invite new members. ACA executive continue to work towards obtaining confirmation regarding OCDSB hosting this year's Arts Recognition Awards ceremony. The awards nomination forms can be found on the ACA website acaottawa.ca Further updates on Awards will be heard later in the meeting this evening.

4. Approval of the February Minutes:

Moved by Evelyn Michaud: CARRIED

5. Business arising from the February minutes:

NA

6. Superintendent's Report:

Susanna Donato spoke briefly for Peter Gamwell, who absent this evening as he is attending the World Creativity Forum in Oklahoma. The forum focusses on the role of creativity in our world today and in the future, as well as creativity in the education system.

7. Trustees' Report:

Trustees Scott and Braunovan reported that board staff is working on the allocation of teaching staff which must be completed by March 31st as part of their budget process.

Funding from the Ministry of Education is down and costs are up. Information will be available on the board website within a couple of days.

Staffing accounts for 60% of the board budget and does not include non-teaching staff. The remainder of the budget (40%) will be decided in June.

Carl offered a suggestion that the board require new staff being hired for elementary school positions have an education in the arts as part of their background. As there is no rotation between subjects at the elementary school level, children have contact with only one teacher, and therefore that teacher should be comfortable teaching the arts.

EQAO testing was discussed and its focus is test scores and the arts are not a focus.

It was suggested that the connection of neuroscience and the arts be pointed out (ex: music and math).

It was then commented that the arts are valuable on their own.

Michael Wilson informed us that students entering the University of Ottawa education program in September are being asked to pick a cohort (this will be experimental). One of the cohorts will focus on innovation and creativity.

8. Arts Coaches Report:

Susanna gave a quick summary of the K-8 workshops in drama this year (DALL) which are led by secondary drama teachers. The last VALL workshop is in May. Some of these workshops are now being offered in French

Arts coaches are also working with MASC, connecting with Salamander Theatre.

Creating stronger partnerships within the board.

Environmental issues and initiatives workshops.

There is a planned dance day at the end of May where students will perform.

Incorporating arts in curriculum in various subject areas, making those links rich and engaging.

Chinatown on May 31st partnering with Eric Ding.

Creativity workshop and French immersion workshop in June.

9. Time Allocation Model: Carl explained what the TAM is and how it works. From an arts perspective, it puts constraints on music programs. ACA has discussed this topic in the past and reviewed some other models. Sheila invited people to work with Carl on TAM options and a proposal.

9. BREAK:

Thank you to Evelyn and David for the many treats.

10. Communication with parents and school councils:

ACA will keep building on communicating with school councils. Meetings are open to those who wish to attend. We want to have parent voices represented at ACA and people are encouraged to join. Suggestions are welcome.

Ottawa Symphony Orchestra has free music presentations at the National Arts Centre for families and students. It was suggested that OSO contact OCDSB communication staff (Diane Pernari-Hergert) to have this news placed on the board website.

11. Proposals of ACA request to the board:

Sheila invited people to work on TAM to help move this issue forward.

Trustee Lynn Scott informed us that for the next three years, finances will be tight for the OCDSB. The work that the instructional coaches have been doing will have a lasting impact and therefore is money well spent. We will be doing well if we are able to keep what we have now.

Any proposals made to the board need an obvious link to the OCDSB strategic plan. Some areas of focus may be well-being; and emotional and mental health. There is still time to propose something for next year

12. ARA awards update:

Nominations for Arts Recognition Awards are due June 12, 2015. Nominations should go to Susanna Donato. David Jones still has not received confirmation about the venue for the reception next fall.

13. New Business:

Eric Ding told a short story about how his grade 3 class did a production of Macbeth which involved an array of arts (dance, art, and music) to make it happen. This production inspired parents and students in all sorts of ways. Eric went on to say that people are inspired by a product of the arts that they can enjoy.

Eric has been working with the Chinatown BIA to make Echoes of Ottawa happen on Sunday, May 31st. This initiative will showcase talent from youth in grades 7 to 12 in all Ottawa schools. Music will be showcased during this initial project. It is hoped that all of the arts will be represented in May, 2016. Flyers for the event have been sent to all secondary schools in Ottawa, where arts department heads have been asked to distribute them to all interested students.

Vanessa Sutton from the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra informed us about the education programs the OSO has. There are tickets for "Symphony in the Schools" and everything is free. Vanessa introduced us to her new colleague, Yolande Laroche, who is in the Governor General's band, and the University of Ottawa Orchestra. Yolande gave an overview of Symphony for Schools, which is a series of free concerts for grade 5 and 6 students and their teachers. Students are introduced to strings, winds, and brass instruments. Presently, there is funding for grade 5 students to attend performances from April 29 to May 1st. A teacher's guide is available as a teaching tool for students. Students learn about performance etiquette (such as when to applaud), how to understand music, and the role of various instruments in a symphony orchestra. Well known melodies and composers will be heard to help students understand and relate to music. The venue is at 440 Albert Street. Schools must take care of the transportation of their students.

14. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Next meeting: Monday, April 27, 2015, in the staffroom at Fisher Park / Summit, 7:00 -9:00 PM

Upcoming ACA meetings: May 25, 2015

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

