



Report No. 47 Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)

Date: May 26, 2014

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: Ariadni Athanassiadis, Carl Bovell, Susanna Donato, David Jones, Heather Flinn, Superintendent Peter Gamwell, Debbie Holzman, Trustee Theresa Kavanagh, Judy Kirsh, Evelyn Michaud, Sheila White, Michael Wilson

Guests: Superintendent Pino Buffone,

Regrets: Jacquie Pinard, Wendy Hartley

1. Welcoming Remarks

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

2. Approval of Agenda

There was a friendly amendment to have the Arts Instructional Coaches report moved to item 4 Moved by Judy Kirsh THAT the amended agenda be approved. - Carried -

3. Chair's Report

Sheila reported that she would be presenting the Annual Report at the Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on June 3 and distributed copies of the report to everyone. The June Social is Mon June 9 at the Mill St Pub at 5:30 pm and everyone is invited to attend.

The ACA awards new deadline will be Friday June 13, and it is hoped that the extension may help generate more applications.

There is granola from Raisin Artists on sale, for \$20 per bag, and all the proceeds go towards getting Visual Artists in the classrooms.

The dates for ACA meetings next year will be the last Monday of each month, at 7:00 pm, in this same location.

The executive Committee will be meeting one more time to look at the results of the Strategic Planning sessions and plan for next year.

4. Arts Coaches Report

The AICs have had an extremely busy and successful year. The focus of the \$300,000 extra funding this year has been on Visual Arts, and there have been over 450 teachers who have benefitted from the extra workshops over the past 3 months.

The coaches are now working on helping the teachers use Visual Arts and Dance to support the instruction of Math. There appears to be a huge demand for links to the rest of the curriculum and they will work on creating programs that will help in that way.

The VALL project got off to a late start, and remained small, but, although small, was very successful. It will be continued and linked to secondary schools working with their feeder schools as well.

Susanna mentioned that there are schools which really try to make the links between the environment and the arts, and the ICs are also working in this area to broaden the scope of those kinds of programs.

5. Special Presentation by Superintendent Buffone

Superintendent Buffone thanked Arts Instructional Coaches Susanna Donato and Jacquie Pinard for their excellent work throughout the year. He noted that the cycle of \$300,000 extra funding for the arts would continue and would be spent on resources and professional learning. He would ensure that all the monies would be well spent and none not used. The VALL project had been an offshoot of the Blue Sky discussion and next year the focus will be on Drama. There will be an inventory in the autumn, and then the allocation of resources would be decided. The pilot project of the mentoring system would continue in Drama, as well as the use of workshops; they would try to keep the Visual Arts project going as well. There was a short discussion about the use of mentoring and how it could be improved and after a question, the group was assured that the Arts Instructional Coaches positions were secure.

6. Trustees' Report

Trustee Kavanagh stated that the trustees were convinced that the Instructional Coaches are a vital part of the educational system in all the curriculum areas, but that they are crucial in the Arts. She made a link between the arts and the area of physical activity, and spoke about a recent conference, the Global Summit on Children and Physical Activity, that she had just attended.

One of the advantages of Instructional Coaches is that they can help teachers think and work outside their normal "boxes" and comfort zones; the ICs help teachers integrate both the arts and physical activities into daily activities in the classroom, areas often seen as extras to the core curriculum. She also noted that both arts and physical activities have been shown to improve the test scores and achievement levels in all areas.

7. Approval of April minutes

Moved by David Jones THAT the Minutes be approved -carried-

8. Business arising from the minutes

It was noted that the Executive Committee would be discussing the results from the Strategic Planning Sessions and would come up with ideas and a tentative timetable for next year. This would be presented at the September meeting.

9. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Peter Gamwell was recently awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award by the Ontario Public Supervisory Officer Association, for his work in driving artistry and creativity through leadership.

Chair Sheila White congratulated Peter for his constant work and in particular for this well- deserved honour.

10. Election of ACA Executive Committee

The chairing of the meeting was, at this point, handed over to past Co-Chair Michael Wilson.

Co-Chairs: David Jones and Sheila White were acclaimed as Co-Chairs.

Sheila noted that is looking to step down from that position in January, as her other commitments are currently very heavy

Vice-Chair: The position of Vice-Chair is officially open

Secretary: Judy Kirsh said she would be the Secretary and work on the Executive Committee, but she will be absent for the Sept and October meetings.

Web Master: Debbie Holzman will continue in that role.

Sheila thanked Michael and returned to chairing the meeting.

11. ACA Awards

David Jones spoke briefly about the awards and said that although he has already received at least 13 nominations, he encouraged everyone to actively solicit more nominations. Ideally, there should be at least 1 nomination from each school.

The deadline for nominations is Friday June 13.

There was another discussion about communications channels within the board, and suggestions were made to help individuals work around the roadblocks of the OCDSB's communications system.

12. Adjournment

Sheila adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm and reminded everyone about the June Social at the Mill Street Pub on Monday June 9.

Next Meeting

Monday, September 29, 2014 the staffroom at Fisher Park / Summit P.S