



DRAFT: Report No. 50 Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)

Date: November 24, 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, Cheryl Carman*, Eric Ding*, Debbie Holzman*, Judy Kirsh*, Evelyn Michaud*, Sheila White*

Regrets: Susanna Donato (AIC), David Jones*, Superintendent Peter Gamwell, Trustee Theresa Kavanagh, Jacquie Pinard (AIC), Michael Wilson*

Guests: Tracey Heard, Co-Chair P/J Music Committee, Trustee Jennifer McKenzie

Note: The symbol * denotes a Voting member.

1. Welcoming Remarks:

ACA Chair Sheila White welcomed the group and invited everyone to introduce themselves. She noted that David Jones (Co-Chair) had sent his regrets at the last minute.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Sheila requested a change to the agenda to allow one of the guests to leave at the break. She requested that New Business be moved to 3A, right after the Co-Chair's Report. All agreed.

3. Co-Chair's Report:

There have quite a few meetings of the executive committee since the last meeting, mostly concerning the extremely upsetting news received by Co-Chair David Jones in mid-October, that the Arts Awards, normally scheduled for presentation to Board in October/ November would not be allowed to be presented, because of the new Governance structure, at either the full Board of Trustee meeting or at Committee of the Whole.

After much discussion and exploring of options for this year, the Executive Committee decided to present the awards at an outside venue, Thyme and Again. Sheila spoke of the very gracious help and support from the owner of Thyme and Again, and it is hoped that this presentation at Thyme and Again will garner a little more publicity than in previous years.

The evening will be Monday January 12, 2015, from 6-8:00 pm, in the upstairs gallery at Thyme and Again, on Wellington Ave. Since space is limited, it will be necessary for everyone to RSVP.

There will be a much fuller discussion of this under Item # 10.

3A. New Business:

- a) Tracey Heard, representative of the P/J Music Subject Committee told ACA that their organization will be sponsoring the Choral Fest for 2015, and it will provide training workshops for teachers; this training will allow teachers to work more effectively with their students. Choral Fest will be held over a couple of sessions and more information will be forthcoming.

Tracey then spoke of the Inuit Centre providing workshops for teachers to help them work on Inuit songs. Lastly, there will be a day event on November 27, held at Ashbury, run by the Music Coalition Educators. More info will be emailed. There was also a request for a survey asking elementary teachers to describe in which arts areas they would like more training.

- b) Judy Kirsh, Chair of the Marjorie Loughrey Grant Association, described the ML grant, (up to \$2,000 per grant), how many there are, its history and how important it is in the OCDSB. She noted that the OCSB (Ottawa Catholic School Board) has far more artists in the schools than the OCDSB, and that those artists are mostly funded by the school board, not by school councils or by groups like the ML Association. All information about the grants, applications etc, is on the ACA website.

She noted that there is a huge need for more funding, perhaps up to \$25,000 per year: that amount would allow up to 10 schools per year to access an artist in residence for a week. All ML grants are about active participation, not performances or integration with other subjects.

4. Approval of the October Minutes:

There were a few changes noted to the minutes concerning attendance and regrets. Moved by Ari to adopt the amended minutes: CARRIED

5. Business arising from the minutes:

a) Time Allocation Model (TAM):

There will be another discussion under Strategic Planning, after the break, but as an intro, Co-Chair Sheila White explained the Strategic Planning process that ACA undertook last spring. She noted that a re- working of TAM for the arts was high on the list of priorities.

After her intro, there was a very lively and passionate exchange of ideas about TAM. Discussion focused on how the minutes for the Arts were not enough to fulfill the curriculum requirements and were often supplemented by the Flex time. This was fine where Flex time was used for the Arts, but it was extremely variable by school. It was noted that Drama was often included in the English/Literacy minutes and Dance sometimes in Phys. Ed.

The discussion continued with a history of TAM and how, at the beginning, the Arts were not even included in TAM...so although the system is not very good, it is a beginning, and there should be some accountability because of it.

- b) Arts Awards: This will be discussed in Item # 10.

6. Superintendent's Report: N/A

7. Trustees' Report: NA

- 8. Arts Coaches Report: Sheila stated that Susanna had a family emergency, but she had kindly sent her notes. There would not be any discussion on the notes this evening, but questions should be saved for the January meeting.

9. BREAK:

Thank you to Debbie for the lovely brownies.

10. ACA Awards:

After a brief re-cap by Sheila why the presentation will NOT be in front of the trustees, the discussion focused on the event to be held at Thyme and Again. Evelyn Michaud has taken over from David as the chair of the sub-committee, which consists of Evelyn, David and Ari, assisted by Sheila and Judy.

The new venue allows for a greater community partnership, but has restrictions of size. The maximum capacity is 60, so everyone will have to RSVP. Letters will go out shortly to all the nominators, award winners trustees etc.

The presentation will be on Monday January 12, from 6 to 8:00 pm, and there will be light refreshments. There are 15 recipients and each will have 1 guest; everyone, trustees, ACA members and staff will be asked to RSVP by December 15th.

Since the email received by David from Board Services had suggested the new Governance structure was an issue as to why the awards could not be presented at Board meeting, Policy and Procedure documents governing Advisory Committees, ACA in particular, were looked into.

In doing so, another Arts Award was discovered...one which the ACA had not even known about. In Procedure PR.677.GOV, there is a Community Award for the Arts that should be selected by the Arts Advisory Community (perhaps that is a typo and should be arts advisory committee?) and it should be presented at a Board meeting in October.

It was suggested that perhaps next year, ACA could investigate holding the presentation BEFORE the in-camera meeting usually held before the public trustee meeting. That would be at 6:00 pm or so, a time many trustees would be able to attend. This option will be investigated in the future.

Sheila stated that she looked forward to seeing many ACA members on January 12, noted that it was before the next regular meeting and hoped that many of the trustees would be able to attend, since at this point, there were no other meetings scheduled for that evening.

11. Action Planning for Strategic Priorities:

The Time Allocation Model (TAM) was one of the top concerns and priorities for ACA, and alternatives to the current model were presented. Questions such as: should there be a TAM at all, alternation of Daily Physical Activity and Dance, the placement of Drama under English and the reduction of the English/Literacy minutes were discussed.

There was a lively exchange about which level of government mandated certain, programs and/or blocks of time and how the requirements of French Immersion were further weakening teaching of the Arts, particularly now that Math was mostly taught in English. Also discussed was the issue of hiring practices, since the hiring of long term occasional teachers, which leads to the hiring of full time teachers, is affecting the teaching of the arts in elementary schools.

To many ACA members, it felt as if the allocation of real minutes (not minutes on paper) from TAM was dependent on the Principal at any given elementary school, and could vary widely from school to school. There did not seem to be any real accountability by the principal/administrator to the parents or to senior admin, despite what was on paper.

A further exploration of how a motion might, or might not be presented to trustees, was discussed. That discussion will be continued in other meetings.

12. Adjournment:

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

Next meeting: Monday, January 26, 2015, in the staffroom at Fisher Park / Summit , 7:00 -9:00 PM

Upcoming ACA meetings: Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 30, April 27, May 25

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