

Minutes: Report no. 48 Advisory Committee on the Arts (ACA)

Date: Sept. 29, 2014

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

Members: Kelly Abercrombie (NAC), Ariadni Athanassiadis, Cheryl Carman (MASC), Susanna Donato (Arts Instructional Coach), Superintendent Peter Gamwell, David Jones, Evelyn Michaud, France Poitras, Sheila White, and Michael Wilson

Regrets: Trustee Theresa Kavanagh, Judy Kirsh

Guest: Pino Buffone

1. Welcoming Remarks

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Ariadni Athanassiadis THAT the Agenda be approved. –Carried-

3. Co-Chair's Report

ACA Chair Sheila White reviewed notes from end of last year and invited members and guests to consult copies of the documents for information.

Flyers and booklets were left for perusal.

The strategic planning sessions from last spring were successful. The priorities established from the sessions will be the focus of the next ACA meeting.

The upcoming trustee elections are important since there will be a large turnover as new trustees are elected for positions that will be vacated by current trustees leaving their positions.

ACA is need of people in the following positions: secretary, and baker.

4. Approval of May Minutes

Moved by David Jones THAT the minutes are approved. –Carried-

5. Business arising from May minutes

It was suggested that the year that the Arts Recognition Awards are for be included in the minutes for clarification.

6. Presentation by Superintendent Pino Buffone (Curriculum Services)

Superintendent Buffone reported that \$300,000.00 has been built into the board budget to be used every year for the arts.

The discipline of focus for 2014-2015 is drama and will focus more on professional learning than resource purchases.

An additional \$180,000.00 will be used this year for professional learning sessions for music, visual arts, and dance.

The goal of the program (VALL and DALL) is to connect internal arts expertise (leaders) with teachers (learners) who have expressed a need in the arts. Leaders share their knowledge and skills with learners in a collaborative and engaging way to help build the learner's capacity and confidence in using arts in their classroom instruction.

VALL (Visual Arts Leaders and Learners) will continue and be expanded this year to allow more opportunities for professional development.

7. After a break including treats by Sheila White the meeting resumed

8. Arts Coach's Report

Susanna Donato reported that the drama networks at the primary, junior, and intermediate levels were fully booked within one week of notification. Networks will start the second week of October. The majority of the programming is for teacher training. Leaders will share their knowledge of drama to help teachers teach creatively. The goal is to increase student success.

In January, 2015, Denis Cousineau (Secondary French Immersion Instructional Coach) will be collaborating on the networks. French teachers will learn strategies and techniques on how to use the arts with French language instruction.

The use of arts instruction has been successful in special needs classrooms (high needs). These students have benefitted from arts instruction in the classroom and shown that they can achieve wonderful things as a result.

The difference between networks and VALL and DALL was discussed. Networks are meant for instruction to large groups of learners where expertise is shared through modelling of how you would do things in a classroom with the students. Learners explore, try things, share ideas, connect, and collaborate. VALL and DALL are meant for small groups of 4 or 5 learners connected to 1 leader who meet at least 3 times to learn and share.

ACA members are welcome to attend and observe sessions this year.

Many teachers (learners) have sent photos of their classes working in the arts in their classrooms. They have provided important feedback to the instructional coaches on the positive outcomes of using arts instruction in the classroom.

9. Trustee's Report

Trustee Theresa Kavanagh was absent due to a timing conflict.

10. ACA Awards presentation

David Jones reported that 15 awards will be presented this year. It is anticipated that the presentations will be at the Committee of the Whole meeting in November. The date has not been confirmed.

It was noted that the timing of the request for award nominations and to whom it is sent is crucial to the success of the nomination process.

11. New Business

Michael Wilson gave details on the upcoming CODE (Canadian Council of Drama and Dance Educators) conference. It will be held for the first time in Ottawa from October 17-19th, 2014. This is a national conference held at the Delta Hotel including workshops, presentations by professionals, local talent and a masquerade ball. It is a great opportunity for everyone.

12. Adjournment

Sheila White adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 27, 2014 at Fisher Park/Summit Alternative P.S.

For information: ACA Co-Chair Sheila White, chair@ACAottawa.ca

ACA meetings for 2014-2015: September 29, October 27, Nov 24, Jan 26, Feb 23, March 30, April 27, May 25