

Western Regional Computer Advisory Committee

<http://www.westernrcac.org>



Friday, May 28, 2004

Niagara Falls, Ontario

Present:

Brian Sandrin LKDSB

Lorenzo Pinazza WECDSB

Laurie Kraftcheck HPCDSB

Bill Martell BGCDSB

Darlene Williams AMDSB

Maggie Crane AMDSB

Marilyn Legault HWDSB

Dan Walker HWDSB

Daryn Bee TVDSB

Leslie Atkinson TVDSB

Rob Scott GEDSB

Scott Little TVDSB

Bruce White TVDSB

David Fife TVDSB

Vince Vecchio TVDSB

Patricia Cruickshank WECDSB

Dennis Munn DSBN

Kerry Withrow BWDSB

Stewart Nutt BWDSB

Doug Peterson GECDSB

John Lavery HWDSB

Rose Mousaly WECDSB

Introduction: Welcome to all of our new members.

John Lavery

Many thanks go to Dennis Munn and his staff for the excellent annual general meeting hosted by District School Board of Niagara. It was a phenomenal experience. The Treasurer will send flowers on RCAC's behalf to Dennis Munn's assistant for all her work in organizing the events of the AGM.

Treasurer's report:

Kerry Withrow

The RCAC balance to date is \$1571.51. All of the regions have paid their one hundred dollar annual membership fee other than Waterloo Catholic DSB and Niagara Catholic DSB. A letter will go out in the fall to remind boards of their financial commitment. Perhaps members can bring their cheques to the first meeting in the fall.

OSAPAC report:

Doug Peterson

An OSAPAC Update newsletter was passed out prepared by Doug Peterson. OSAPAC had a very good year. They licensed a number of significant titles that have been shipped such as Smart Ideas, Star Office, and Clicker 4. Write Out Loud, Co-Writer, and Publisher 2000/2002 are on their way as well.

A Fireworks and Flash workshop put on by Macromedia in conjunction with COCA was a success. There is a PD session June 2nd in Barrie. There will be another session in July in the Owen Sound area and a session in the Guelph area on August 25th as well.

Macromedia wants to ensure that their products hit the ground running so these workshops have been a vehicle for them to in-service teachers and coordinators across the province.

There is now a learning repository for Ontario Educators on the OSAPAC website. You will be able to go to the site to find a title and then search for learning materials that have been prepared to teach that application. There is a new field on the site as well where you will be able to see what resources are available for each software application. There will be an upload section for teachers to upload to directly. Someone from that particular board will receive an email and will be asked to look over the resource and approve it. This will be followed by an approval process through the OSAPAC committee. Once final approval is given then it will be made available to the public.

Those completing the online OSAPAC survey have identified the following areas for the next session of negotiations:

Desktop publishing for the Mac, Technological Studies, Multimedia clips reflecting Canada's diversity, Computer Network Management software i.e. LAN School, Teaching and Learning Materials supporting currently licensed titles, and Mathematics – Data Management.

Macromedia has committed to sponsor another PD session through OSAPAC for Western RCAC and COCA.

Brian had a question regarding Finale. When they did a network install it asked for a registration. No one had that come up but most boards are doing a local install and not a network install. When you install Finale locally you are asked to put in a registration code that you find on the jewel case. Daryn suggested that there is a free plug-in for browsers called Scorch that might help.

Thames Valley DSB is using NetSupport School and is having success with it.

There is an upgrade to Smart Ideas which takes the Windows side to Version 4.2. It is posted at www.smarttech.com.

There is a three day workshop the third week of July with a fourth day added where Macromedia brings in all their products. The resource package is worth about \$400.00. That time of year is problematic for many people therefore late August might be a better timeframe. Stewart will get a new date and post it for RCAC.

December 10th: OSAPAC has made a commitment to finance a workshop. A session on graphic organizers might be a session that everyone would find of value and of interest. A cap needs to be placed on numbers so that the session is efficiently organized. Members are to submit names and numbers directly to Doug Peterson regarding that session.

Workshop Committee Report

John thanked the present committee of Brian Sandrin, Mike Penner and Lorenzo Pina zza on the fine job that was done this year with professional development for RCAC members.

One especially successful workshop was the Leadership Workshop that Clive Card and Stewart Nutt directed. Doug talked about a workshop called 'The Lonely Runner'. This workshop helped people with the cutbacks that were happening and how they managed to continue to cover all the bases with less staff.

Possible Workshops:

Leadership Skills, Team Building

Relationship Building in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Students at Risk.

2005 Annual General Meeting:

Lambton Kent will host next year's AGM.

SWOEO Report

They have not had a full meeting at any point in time this year. John will produce a year end report of RCAC that will go to the members as well as the Superintendent group. Look for this in early July. He sent out an email to some of the RCAC board superintendents reminding them of Symposium and setting aside monies for that event.

COCA Report

Marilyn Legault

There are various sub-committees with COCA and one looks after a repository of learning resources. Meaningful integration of information technology into the curriculum is the most difficult part of ICT. COCA is trying to get a repository of learning materials that would complement the learning resources that OSAPAC and other boards have created. They are looking specifically at integration around the Ministry documents, initiatives and technology. They are looking at the ISTE template to accomplish this and are interested in recruiting other groups that would be willing to work on this collaboratively. ENO/REO, ECCO are also involved. The financial commitment for teacher release time is approximately \$1,000.00. Anyone interested in participating can contact Marilyn Legault.

Discussion took place around the fact that the wheel is being reinvented at each board. There isn't a provincial focus or direction in the order of standardization of curriculum documents being written around technology and curriculum integration. There still exists a problem in the province of Ontario where a student can go through their entire educational career and never touch a computer. The Boards have allowed this to happen. We as leaders need to get in front of people and show them how effective technology can

be used to enhance learning. TVDSB produced a rubric for IT for each school. The schools use that rubric to look at how they spend their IT money. HWDSB keeps data on how their computers are being used and how much they are used. In some cases computers are being used but they aren't being used effectively. How do we measure how what we as technology leaders are doing is being translated into effective classroom instruction?

Dan Walker asked whether OSAPAC would consider commissioning writers to write supporting documentation. The Committee has had the discussion but at the moment it is not the mandate of OSAPAC.

Symposium 2004 Update Report

There is one keynote speaker confirmed. His name is Robert Sawyer and he is the Canadian Dean of Science Fiction. Sixteen workshops will be confirmed by mid-summer.

Our target audience is the Administrator. It is up to principals to identify lead curriculum teachers in their schools to attend Symposium. Workshops need to be promoted for the administrators and not the classroom teacher. Presenters need to be clearly directed that the session is aimed at leaders and administrators and not the classroom teacher. The session needs to delineate for the principals what they need to look for in a classroom to see if technology is happening effectively.

If you are interested in helping with Symposium please contact Doug Peterson.

Symposium Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer submitted a detailed report. \$23,125.60

2004-2005 Membership

Members not returning:

Leslie Atkinson has been promoted to vice-principal

Stewart Nutt is retiring after 17 years.

Dan Walker is retiring.

Executive Elections :

Daryn Bee made the motion that Kerry Withrow continue as treasurer. Doug Peterson seconded the motion. All for...none opposed. Kerry is the treasurer for 2004-2005.

Rob Scott made the motion that Rose Mousaly continue as secretary. Brian Sandrin seconded the motion. All for..none opposed. Rose is the secretary for 2004- 2005.

Dan Walker made the motion that Rob Scott be the new Executive Member. Dennis Munn seconded the motion. All for...none opposed. Rob Scott is the new Executive Member for 2004-2005.

Rose Mousaly made the motion that Daryn Bee continue as webmaster. Lorenzo Pinazza seconded the motion. All for...none opposed. Daryn Bee is the webmaster for 2004-2005.

Rob Scott will assist Daryn Bee in being the webmaster.

Executive Positions for 2004-2005:

Chair: John Laverty

Treasurer: Kerry Withrow

Secretary: Rose Mousaly

Executive Member: Daryn Bee

Executive Member: Rob Scott

Symposium Chair: Doug Peterson

Webmaster: Daryn Bee and Rob Scott

OSAPAC Member: Doug Peterson (just completed year 1 of a 2 year appointment)

OSAPAC candidates to replace Stewart Nutt:

- Kerry Withrow
- Daryn Bee

John Laverty will make the decision on this position. The successful candidate will be contacted by the end of the month of June. They will formally take over in February but will assist at the summer session.

Proposed dates for 2004-2005 Meetings:

September 10, 2004

Location: Lamplighter Inn

December 9, 2004: Symposium

December 10, 2004

February 18, 2005

April 1, 2005

Annual General Meeting

May 26, 27, 2005

Host: Lambton-Kent District School Board