

OGLA Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81011084156>

48 attendees:

Ereney Shouda (PDSB), Martha Biagi, Germaine Falzone, Kuldeep (DDSB), Elvira Rainone (YRDSB), Allison Wells, Tania Carducci, Tamara (RRDSB), Lois Ferguson, Lisa Butera-Fracassi, Andre Mattrasingh, April Bradley, Lisa Bennett, CJ Thom, Barclay Walker, Jenn Burleigh, Katie Long, Karen Majury, Vanessa Di Marcelli, Reg Varghese, Carla Aitken, Katie Albisser, Tiffany Roberts (RDSB), Tamarra Winter (UCDSB), Brenda Reil, Lisa Galay (HDSB), Janet McKay (Grand Erie DSB), Solange Saraiva, Wade Tower (SMCDSB), Karen Tobin (CDSBEO), David Pope (WSDSB), Janani Pathy, Judy (HCDSB), Jennifer Ford (HPEDSB), Patti Marino (EDU), Tracy Hunter (UGDSB), Michele Pierce (OCSB), ALCDSB, Melissa Baker-Cox (LDSB), Renee Hober Rose (WCDSB), Paul Denis (CECCE), Derek Abrams, Snez Bacanin, Claudine Longo, Sandy (RRCCDSB), Chad Vander Duim (BWDSB), Kuldeep Chahal DDSB, Kelly Ann Marks (Northeastern Catholic DSB), Cathy Beauchamp, Mike Sherman

Welcome

- Germaine Falzone (YCDSB) & Martha Biagi (DPCDSB)

Land Acknowledgement

- Ereney Shenouda (PDSB)



Website with Four Pillars that Ereney shared with us -

<https://www.fnmiprofessionallearning.ca/>

Minutes

- Tiffany Roberts (RDSB)

OUAC - Lois Ferguson (lois@ouac.on.ca)

Offers of admission and decisions are happening at this time of year. Students are sent an email, this year it is May 30, and there will be an email to guidance counsellors coming on Thursday May 29th. See links below.

[Email to Counsellors - French](#)

[Email to Counsellors - English](#)

Admission information service opens June 4 for students who do not receive an offer. This will be located on the main guidance page under "What's happening" and the "Search Programs" button will be called "Search OPEN Programs" (for any programs that are still open as of June 4. If the university does not have open programs then they will not have anything here. [Student Flyer](#)

OUAC REMINDER - It is REALLY important to have a guidance person at the board or school level to deal with OSSD status, grades reports, summer school, etc. should there be issues.

OUAC - NEW initiative in September - Over 21 students who are in group B the grades can't be sent electronically at present. This is so much work for the adult schools.

For the 2026 admission cycle - there will be a document upload feature specific for the students over the age of 21 to upload proof of registration, transcript reports, final grades. This should help with applications.

Lisa G - how is what OUAC will be doing different from what Adult Ed has been asking for? *You will be able to upload PDFs.*

Karen T - Could this be something that could happen for online courses that are being offered outside of the home school? *Right now, the non-homeschool can send the courses in a grades file or adding directly to counsellors online services (ability already there). Makes sense for it to come electronically.*

Carla - I'm on the Resources page and looking for the AIS poster. I'm sorry if I missed something. Will not be visible until June 4th? *See this link*

https://www.ouac.on.ca/docs/101/ais_flyer.pdf.

OCAS: Allison Wells (for Vanessa DeLuca)

Shared Calendar

Officially launching Thursday May 29.

It will be found on ontariocolleges.ca.

Shared calendar offers a single destination for high school and college partners to post, view, and promote events – from open houses and webinars to information sessions and high school pathway planning events.

- Further information about how to submit events will be sent out to partner portal users this Thursday when it launches. We ask that you Please check which events are already on the site before submitting a new event.
- The form to submit events to the calendar will be found on **OCAS.ca**
- At this time, the calendar is a basic version just to showcase all the events. Submitting an event to the form will not automatically invite colleges to the event. Instead, you will still need to continue your normal processes to reach out to the colleges.
- When submitting event we ask – where possible - to use a board email address rather than a google email address.

Ontario College Fair

The Ontario College Fair has been paused this year (Fall 2025) – in its place will be additional stops added to the college's information program tour. The Ontario College Fair website will be updated with this information.

Master List of Workplace Level College Programs

Colleges are working to create and verify a list of all available programs for this pathway. This resource will be for guidance counsellors and will be posted by September ahead of the next application cycle on ocas.ca in the resources page. In the future we hope to explore additional ways to make this information more accessible for students and families as well.

OCAS Help Centre – New Section

The Help Centre's new High School Partners section features information for high schools and school boards on using OCAS services, such as:

- Information about using the Partner Portal
- Using the eTMS to upload grades
- Information about using the Vouchers portal

OCAS Partners Help Centre: <https://help.ocas.ca/partners/en>

OUCA - Chris Coupland (coupland@queensu.ca) regrets

OSCA –Lisa Butera-Fracassi (lisa.butera-fracassi@tcdsb.org)

The Ontario School Counsellor Association (OSCA) has launched the 2025 survey to be shared with its members and across Ontario school boards through OGLA; it was designed to gather insights into the current opportunities, challenges and needs within the guidance teacher-counselling profession in Ontario. The results will help guide the development of improved resources and supports to better serve Guidance professionals in their school communities. The survey is time sensitive and should be completed in one sitting, as it will time out if left inactive. So I know how busy you are at this time of year but I really encourage you to take some time to complete the survey and share it with your guidance colleagues. While membership is not required to participate, we hope non members will consider becoming OSCA subscribers to stay connected and informed.

The link is as follows:

[OSCA Survey](#)

OSCA subscriptions

Board Guidance Leads would have received an email from OSCADesk last week with some details about the upcoming OSCA conference along with instructions on how to renew your board subscriptions. Just a quick reminder- school boards can take advantage of a special group rate. Bulk Board subscriptions are only \$45 per person (plus HST), which saves you \$10 off the regular rate of \$55. You can find everything you need on the OSCA website under “Subscribe Now-Bulk Board Purchases” Once payment is made online, you will receive a receipt along with a payment bypass code. This code can be shared with your Guidance colleagues so they can easily renew or start a new subscription. Boards are encouraged to keep track of who has used their code.

**Subscriptions must be renewed by October 1st for the 2025-2026 school year to receive the member rate.*

The link is as follows:

[OSCA subscriptions](#)

OSCA/ACOSO 2025 CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE!

November 9th and 10th, 2025

Hilton, Mississauga Meadowvale

Theme - Leadership Starts Here: Empowering Leaders, Inspiring Change

Keynote Speakers- Drew Dudley & Neil Pasricha

Further Information - <http://osca.ca/osca-acoso-annual-conference/>

Registration Link: <https://osca.ca/product/2025-conference-registration/>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - Patty Marino (patricia.marino@ontario.ca)

- Core Education Fund was released on Friday- Core Ed Fund (previously GSN) 4.7 B dollars added to support students outside of classroom (guidance, mental health, librarians, also equipment). There may be a webinar in mid- to end of June to unpack the details of the funding.
- Confirmed funding - experiential professional learning for guidance and entrepreneurial education and elementary guidance. [Education Funding for schools - 2025-26](#) Additional funding will be shared in the coming weeks.
- Skilled Trades guidance day - 450 people attended May 6th. Many new people were in attendance including grades 7 and 8 guidance teachers

Questions provided to MOE from members (in advance):

Paul Denis (Conseil des écoles catholique du centre-est) - Can updates on math testing, exit surveys, if guidance counselor experiential learning fund in renewed would be great).

EXIT SURVEYS - *Creating Pathways to Success - still under revision and no new memo or procedures have been provided. Status quo. Exit surveys are meant to be a way for board to monitor career life planning for students, what they are getting out of it and what they need. To be determined if EDU will be collecting info in the future.*

FINANCIAL LITERACY - *no info yet. Memos to directors are shared in June.*

REPLACEMENTS and SUBSTITUTIONS - *re: NAC2O substitution for history. Ontario School 2024, section 6.1 does not have a direct substitution for this course. The learning is not the same as CHC2O. NAC2O is not designed to be a replacement for CHC2O. If a student is going to take senior courses, it is recommended that they take CHC2O.*

2023 and earlier - Group 1 - intent in offering the groups was that the students would have a broad perspective (note FNMI studies is in here). If students took NAC2O instead of CHC then it could be a substitution (not a replacement). However, when we look at 2024 onward, nowhere in this STEM Group is NAC2O so it can no longer be a substitute for Canadian History.

Substitutions in general (6.2). - Principals can substitute up to 3 credits whether they are in the before 2023 diploma requirements or the 2024 diploma requirements. Designed to support the student or to respond to special needs or interests. INDIVIDUAL student basis. SO, when we are speaking about NAC2O a principal should not be substituting NAC2O for CHC 2O for the 2024 grade 9 cohort.

2024-25 cohort onward - EDIT added last week.

The following limitations apply to substitutions for compulsory credits:

- English as a second language and English literacy development courses may not be used to substitute for compulsory credits. They may be used, however, to meet the compulsory credit requirements for three English credits ([see section 6.1.1](#)).
- No more than one learning strategies course from the guidance and career education curriculum may be substituted for a compulsory credit requirement (this applies to students who entered Grade 9 in September 2023 or earlier).
- Credits earned for cooperative education courses may not be substituted for compulsory credit requirements.
- College-delivered dual credit courses may not be substituted for compulsory credit requirements.
- A locally developed compulsory credit course may not be substituted for a compulsory credit. These courses may be used only to meet the compulsory credit requirements they were designed to meet ([see section 7.3.1](#)).
- Senior English and math are compulsory for mature students per PPM 132: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students – Revised Mandatory Requirements " (see [section 7.2.4.2](#))

All substitutions will be noted on the student's Ontario Student Transcript.

NOTE: The above noted area was discussed at the meeting on May 27. The update on the website on May 30 no longer included the update herein.

If we are getting asked about a substitution for tech ed and the graduation requirement is a 9 or a 10 - At this time students should be given the opportunity to plan for the tech credits in their high school plan.

Grade 11 or 12 is different. As board leads, we should not be entertaining these questions at this time.

SAME THING FOR LEARNING STRATEGIES - not meant to be the course that is the "free pass" for students. It is not always for students who have an IEP and those courses should be used to support learning for a student. Change is required in shifting thinking for the counsellors and school success teams. Students have their secondary career to complete graduation requirements, this should be reviewed regularly as they have three more years to get it.

Judy - Patty, when will you provide the date for the webinar(s). June calendars are filling up quickly. *Patty is waiting to hear other info and will provide the date as soon as she can.*

Karen - Will substitutions for French, Phys Ed and History still be able to happen with the recent changes if there is an applicable compulsory credit to link them to?
IF the courses are not in the compulsory class list, then it is not a substitution any more.

Judy - Substitutions exclude Coop, even though part of STEM (according to OS K-12).

Karen - So substitutions will still be allowed on a case by case basis if current grade 9 students haven't met the graduation requirements by grade 12 - for example for French? *Substitutions are not allowed by the ministry but are provided by the principal. Compulsory lists have now changed.*

Kuldeep - Do you know If RELC (recognition of experiential learning credit) will be extended for Piloted boards? *There is an EL meeting today at 1 pm.*

Reg - website updated Friday - how are we supposed to know?
As a board leads of guidance, when I am looking at my graduation requirements for 2024 and onward, I don't see Guidance and Career ed, humanities, or social studies anymore.

Judy - School principals have approved substitutions of GLE for FSF for some in the 2024 cohort (current grade 10 who have already picked courses for grade 11), as the **OS K-12 was unclear and led us to believe Guidance was okay to use.** I know we are not alone. So, to clarify, we will inform the Ps that their school team must meet with all these students to revise their Gr. 11 and Gr. 12 course plan? *we will have to go back and fix it.*

Kuldeep - I'm concerned that some schools may have already made a GLE substitution for French. It's possible that some students have changed schools or boards and may already have this substitution in place. What is the appropriate course of action in this situation?

6. Diploma and certificate requirements and related procedures for secondary schools

On this page

[6.1 Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#)

[6.2 Substitutions for compulsory credit requirements](#)

[6.3 Ontario Secondary School Certificate](#)

[6.4 Certificate of Accomplishment](#)

[6.5 Granting of diplomas and certificates](#)

[6.6 Ontario Scholar Program](#)

6.1 Ontario Secondary School Diploma

To earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD):

- Students who entered Grade 9 in September 2023 or earlier must earn a minimum of 30 credits, including 18 compulsory credits and 12 optional credits with at least two of the 30 credits earned online
- Students entering Grade 9 in 2024-25 onwards must earn a minimum of 30 credits, including 17 compulsory credits and 13 optional credits with at least two of the 30 credits earned online
- meet the provincial secondary school literacy requirement
- complete 40 hours of community involvement activities

Note: Starting in September 2025, students enrolled in a Grade 10 mathematics course must successfully complete a financial literacy graduation requirement as part of the course.

Students who complete a specialist high skills major (SHSM) program as part of the requirements for their OSSD will receive a diploma with an SHSM seal ([see section 8.5](#)).

For more information on the OSSD requirements for students transferring between schools within Ontario, including those transferring between English- and French-language schools, [see section 4.3.1](#). For more information on the requirements for students transferring from home schooling, a non-inspected private school, or a school outside Ontario, see [section 4.3.2](#).

For more information on the requirements for students who began their secondary program before the 1999–2000 school year, see [section 6.1.7](#).

A student who is enrolled in an SHSM program in one school and transfers to a new school should be supported by the board, when possible, to complete the requirements for the SHSM program from the previous school.

6.1.1.1 Entry into Grade 9 in 2023-24 or earlier

For students who entered Grade 9 in September 2023 or earlier, the compulsory credits are to be distributed as follows:

- 4 credits in English (1 per grade)
 - the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) may be used as either the Grade 11 or the Grade 12 compulsory English credit
 - the Grade 11 course "Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices" may be used as the Grade 11 compulsory English credit
 - for English language learners, a maximum of three compulsory English credits may be earned from English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) courses. The fourth credit must be a Grade 12 compulsory English course
- 3 credits in mathematics (at least 1 in Grade 11 or Grade 12)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in the arts
 - the Grade 9 course "Expressions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cultures" may be used as the compulsory arts credit
- 1 credit in Canadian geography (Grade 9)
- 1 credit in Canadian history (Grade 10)
- 1 credit in French as a second language
 - students who have taken Native languages in place of French as a second language in elementary school may use a Level 1 or 2 Native languages course as the compulsory credit for French as a second language
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- 0.5 credits in career studies
- 0.5 credits in civics and citizenship

OGLA Awards - Tiffany Roberts

Thank you to the team of Melissa Baker-Cox, Lisa Butera-Fracassi, Lisa Galay, Michele Pierce, and Ereny Shenouda who read through 14 applications for the Joanne Twist Award and an all-time high of 114 applications for the Tom Tittel award. The team provided online feedback, met virtually, and contributed to a final round of voting. Just a note before the award recipients are shared - this list is confidential until Germaine and Martha can contact the individuals.

For the Joanne Twist award, the guidance counsellor selected is ELI FUNSTON, from the Upper Canada District School Board.

The five recipients of the Tom Tittel award are:

Rebecca Slater, Chatham-Kent Secondary School

Emma Moskalyk, St David's Secondary School

Divine Fordjour, St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School

Layla Gatto, Walkerville Collegiate Institute

Kalli Baker, Banting Memorial High School

Discussion from members:

1. Dates for next year
Oct 14, Nov 18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 24, Apr 21, May 26
Volunteers for Land Acknowledgement
2. Review of OGLA letter, re: substitution - We have written a letter to the ministry addressing the narrowed course options allowed for substitution with the new OSSD and are asking the ministry to review the substitution policy. OGLA members can complete their support in a google form, this will be used to indicate the number of supporters and it will not be name identifying.

Concerns with unclear direction were discussed. Current collective is to bring concerns to Minister by substitution letter and possible board senior executives.

LETTER SUBGROUP INTEREST

- April Bradley, Paul Denis, Tania Carducci, Lisa Galay, Vanessa Di Marcelli, Snez Bacanin, Wade Tower, Tiffany Roberts, Tamarra Winter, Kuldeep Chahal, Lisa Bennett

DATES for NEXT YEAR:

Oct 14, Nov.18, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 24, Apr. 21, May 26
9:30-noon.

PLAR SUBGROUP

Jenn Burleigh, Snez Bacanin, Melissa (Limestone), Vanessa Di Marcelli, Jennifer Ford, April Bradley, Kren Tobin, Tania Carducci, Lisa Bennett

3. (Jenn Burleigh- HWDSB)

Our board is interested creating a working group to create a standard process for the implementation and delivery of the PLAR program in secondary schools across Ontario. CESBA is responsible for supporting PLAR in Continuing Education programs and only supports secondary schools as an add on, not their primary focus. Is this something we could do or that folks across the province would be interested in doing?

4. Additional questions that were proposed are below. Members are asked to refer to the [April minutes](#) for updates provided.

- Reg Varghese (Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board) Status of NAC2O as meeting Grade 10 history OSSD requirement.
- Kelly Ann Marks (Northeastern Catholic District School Board) Do we have an update on the EXIT Survey questions?