

Ohpaho Secondary School Council

Wednesday February 18, 2026 / 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM / OSS Library

Agenda

- 1. Welcome & Call To Order**
- 2. Agenda Approval**
- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2026***
- 4. Council Activities**
 - a. Chair's Report - Council of School Councils
 - b. 2025-26 Goals:
 - i. Operating Procedures Review - See [OSS Council Website](#)
 - ii. Community Event - First Saturday or Sunday Playoff Game?
 - iii. Course - Effective Engagement in Your School Community
 1. Key Learnings
 2. Bi-monthly parent engagement topics:
 - a. February - Stress signals spectrum activity
 - b. April - School Culture
- 5. Principal's Report**
 - a. 2024-25 OSS learning Assessment Results
 - b. Draft Dress Code Policy - Update
 - c. November Learner Activity - Update
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Old Business**
 - a. Student Council - Update
 - b. Fundraising Society
 - i. First Meeting - April 15 @ 6:00 pm ?
 - ii. Executive
- 8. Upcoming Events**
 - a. Upcoming Meetings - Third Wednesday of the month - 6:30 to 8pm
 - i. March 18 (to be confirmed - parent teacher interviews)
 - ii. April 15
 - iii. May 20 (AGM)

Ohpaho Secondary School Council

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026

In Attendance: Sandra Jory (Chair), Leanne Martin (Vice-Chair) Tracy Schulz (Event Coordinator) Shelley Hamilton (staff), Dan Lake (staff), Barb Martinison (Trustee), Amanda Saunders, Tracy Reid, Kim Terry, Andrea Waterhouse, Shannon Caul, Chantelle Riddel Meaghan Hutzl, Aisha Qureshi

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Sandra called the meeting to order at 6:38pm and advised she would be taking the meeting minutes as Theresa is away.

2. Agenda Approval

Sandra asked to include New Principal Interviews under new business. No other changes were made and the agenda was accepted as revised..

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed and one change was noted related to the grant amount.

4. Reports

a. Council January Activities

i. Operating Procedures Review

Sandra advised a copy was included in the package emailed and requested any suggestions/changes be brought forward either by email or at the February meeting.

ii. 2025-26 School Budget Review

Dan provided an update as follows:

- Total operating budget of \$308K (excluding salaries).
- \$100K carried forward furniture and equipment - reviewing the needs of the school throughout the year as the funds will need to be spent this year (e.g. spending - cameras for parking lot, storage shed overhang needed to prevent water issues, new welders, wiring for outdoor sign).
- \$91K excess from prior year budget related to summer programs being put into extra staffing for current year with a 0.5FTE being added in the second semester.
- 955 student budgeted vs 921 actual students resulting in a reduced operating budget so re-looking at the budget to ensure spending is kept on track.

- 5 carts of chromebooks will be provided from the BGSD budget (not current year school budget).
- 71% of the total budget is remaining for the year.

iii. 2025-26 Goal Setting

1. Volunteer Survey & Community Event:

- Sandra advised a total of 21 people completed the survey and reviewed the results.
- Given the close results a Hockey Game Watch night will be put on. Tracy will review dates to bring back to discuss in February. A student market will be explored for the 2026/27 school year.
- The possibility of a community rummage sale was discussed.

2. ASCE Grant Use

- ASCA Course “Effective Engagement in Your School Community” was discussed and February 9 date decided upon. Sandra will look into registration and will send out registration details for all who want to participate once received.

b. **Principal’s Report**

i. Draft Dress Code Policy - Update :

- Dan will be sharing with staff and will provide an update at the February meeting.

ii. Learner Activity:

- Deferred to February meeting.

iii. Report

- Staffing update provided (Ms. Walton leaving, art teacher maternity leave)
- Theo Dykstra started as a new AP this fall.
- Class sizes for the second semester are being reviewed to determine if class splitting will be necessary - pupil teacher ratio goal is 27:1.
- Dan discussed updates on the Assurance plan as he has been working with Erin Tinsdale (Director at BGSD) on reviewing and analyzing 2024/25 test achievement results. Working is also being done with Erin, on the new literacy and numeracy courses for junior high students.
- New issues arising:
 - Kids are being excused from class by parents but are not leaving the school. A communication will be sent out.

- Vacations being taken by families for significant periods of time, which is disruptive to teachers (i.e requests for work and exam rescheduling). A communication will be sent out.
- Cell Phones:
 - Are becoming an issue with multiple requests being made by students to leave class to use the washroom (i.e. check phones).
 - Parents advised that some classroom use of cell phones appears to be allowed by teachers (or possibly unauthorized use by students of phones in the classroom).
 - Policy will be reviewed shortly and expectations will be sent out to parents before second semester.
- Award Night - Rescheduled to February 20 -committee has been formed and information/invites will be sent out shortly.
- January 27 is last day for classes for high school students
- January 29 -Activities are being planned for junior high students (dance party, movies, name that tune, open gym time, board games in 40 minute time slots).
- Grade 9 - high school planning will start in February -following spring break course selection will start, presentations will be done for Grade 9 parents
- Q3 CTF options - will be selected January 26/27.
- Parent teacher interviews - a discussion was held regarding the pros/cons of open interviews vs scheduled, and 1 vs 2 days of interviews.

5. New Business

a. Principal Retirement & Interviews

- Sandra congratulated Dan on his retirement happening at the end of school year
- Sandra has been asked as School Council Chair to sit in on for interviews for the new principal on January 26 & 27. Sandra requested feedback from parents on possible interview topics or qualities they would like to see in a new principal.
- Shelley advised that Mr. Cable (BGSD) also met with teachers to get an understanding of what teachers want to see in a principal.
- Some discussion on how well the staff has done integrating junior high and high school kinds into one school.
- A communication will be sent out to announce retirement and what happens next with hiring the new principal.

b. Trustee Report

Barb presented her report as follows:

- Elections happened in 2025 with 4 new trustees being elected.
- Committee meetings are every Wednesday, trustees also meet regularly with municipalities
- School Board Association conference attended in November.
- All schools are visited by trustees each year, these are currently underway.
- Grand opening of Calmar Collegiate in January, included a trade fair.
- ASCA conference happening in April - BG sends 3 parents.
- Council of School Councils meeting will be happening on January 26 (Sandra will be attending).
- Classroom size and complexity committee - currently awaiting results from GOA

6. Old Business

- Theatre Show - Update
 - Please promote ticket sales on social media and buy your tickets
 - Volunteers are needed for selling tickets on January 31/Feb 1 at the Independent.
- Student Council
 - No update
 - Cancellation of the school dance was discussed, not enough student interest to move ahead.
- Fundraising Society - Insurance
 - Sandra advised that insurance is not necessary upon set-up but is strongly recommended by BGSD once funds are being handled.
 - Sandra will start drafting by-laws for a new society and will organize the inaugural meeting before the end of the school year.

7. Adjournment

Sandra adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM



OHPAHO SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNUAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR

2025-2026

Nov

- Review and update operating procedures and website.
- Outline and discuss 2025-26 goals.
- Outline possible use of ASCE Grant.

Jan

- Overview of 2025-26 School Budget.
- ASCE Grant - Decision.
- Finalize 2025-26 goals.

Feb

- Review 2024-2025 School Assessment Results.
- Evaluate progress on goals.

Mar

- Review 2026-27 School Budget.

Apr

- Review 2026-27 Assurance Plan.
- Recruit for positions for 2026-27 school year.
- Evaluate progress on goals

May

- Annual General Meeting- Elections.
- Presentation of Annual Report.

Legend

Red - Principal

Black - Council