

Ward 16 Council Meeting – January 17, 2013

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Greg Synowicki; Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Beaches Alternative: Sean Curran; Bowmore: Jennifer Hermanson; Duke of Connaught: Sara Tropea; Earl Beatty: Laura White; Earl Haig: Olga Ellis (P); Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Earl Haig: Hilary Gray; Gledhill: Andy McLachlan (P); Gledhill: Vincent Spadaro (VP); Gledhill: Mark Fowle; Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Gordon A. Brown: Marnie Peacock; Kimberley: Marlene Holder; Williamson Road: Evadne Macedo; TDSB: TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie; Community Member: Dean Rivard

(P) Principal; (VP) Vice Principal; (S) Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Fowle, Gledhill SAC Chair
2. Overview of Host School – Andy McLachlan, Principal
 - between 1915-1917 school was housed in 2 portables; by 1925, one room schoolhouse had expanded to 30 classrooms
 - in 1983 the Terry Fox Community Centre (large double gym and community room) was added on to the north end of the school
 - “community school” now home to number of City of Toronto supervised after school recreational programs; East End Children’s Centre/Family Resource Centre Drop-In; and, Gledhill Day Care
 - Gledhill is home to 500+ culturally diverse students
 - a dual track school, there are approximately 200 students in English stream and 300 students French
 - French Immersion Open House held last week; believe small turnout attributable to recent introduction of online registration option
 - other programs offered include Special Education: Home School Program, Resource Support, and Primary Behavioural Program as well as English as a Second Language
 - Gledhill is a proud Gold EcoSchool; initiatives developed in partnership with TDSB and Evergreen include a Footprint Garden, an outdoor classroom and a Schoolyard Master Plan; grant monies recently received will be used for tree planting and other schoolyard improvements; current school-wide goal is to embed environmental literacy in all classroom programs
 - school community also working with Toronto Public Health in support of children’s mental health issues through programs such as Stress It Out Kids
 - Gledhill School and Community Association (SACA) members support student learning in the classroom, on field trips, and through their involvement in school clubs/activities including Eco Tigers, Right to Play and the Breakfast Program (in partnership with Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), parent volunteers serve breakfast to 30-50 students, daily)
 - SACA host many community-building events including Family-Fest, movie nights, potlucks, etc.
 - SACA fundraising efforts provide parent educational workshops re internet safety, how to support your child at home; enrichment programs including Scientists in the Schools, U-Can-Do-It, drama programs, etc.; as well as donations to local charities, cancer research, Community Centre 55 and William J. McCordic (neighbouring school)
 - school alumni (including Principal McLachlan) visit school regularly and have donated bronze/silver medals; old report cards, etc. for the school’s archives, as well as bequests for new school library books
3. Update: Bill 115/Teacher Pause, Capital Plan Freeze, etc. – Sheila

RE Director’s Resignation

- plagiarism admission; very sad situation; especially difficult on family
- could prove to be interesting learning opportunity for students – *you break the rules and get caught; you pay the price*

- Spence leaves with a generous financial package which, unfortunately, has not been made public; believe total payout is considerably less than it would have been had Board dismissed him with cause and subsequently become embroiled in lengthy legal battle
- Donna Quan, former TDSB Deputy Director Academic has now been appointed Director of Education, Acting
- search for new Director of Education to commence shortly

RE Skilled Trades

- recent newspaper articles re TDSB construction and maintenance department mismanagement “unfortunate”; new TDSB Chief Facilities Officer (Angelos Bacapoulos) working hard to turn things around; monitoring mechanisms have been implemented; employees have been terminated; new head of construction has been appointed
- province’s recent decision to extend expired contract between TDSB and Skilled Trades Council undermines TDSB’s attempts to modernize decades old agreements (as recommended by Price Waterhouse Cooper audit); letter from TDSB Chair Bolton to Minister of Education Laurel Broten, attached

RE Bill 115

- CUPE negotiations with province superseded CUPE negotiations with TDSB
- expect Bill 115 will be repealed; not sure how elementary/secondary teachers’ unions will react
- do not know if and/or when teachers may reintroduce support of extra-curricular activities
- Council members expressed concerns that if parents start providing extra-curriculars in teachers absence, the province/teachers will no longer feel that they are needed to provide this service

*of note, as Sheila’s daughter is employed as a teacher at TDSB, Sheila is precluded from participating in any negotiation discussions

RE TDSB Capital Plan Freeze

- has no effect on implementation of FDK; building will be limited to specific requirements (i.e. classrooms with washrooms; no consideration to be given for any domino effects)
- in Ward 16, funding for desperately needed additions at George Webster, DA Morrison and Secord has been decreased, significantly
- parent groups at Crescent Town, George Webster, DA Morrison/Parkside and Secord have been mobilized; “It’s Not Fair” Fair (media event) scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on January 28th at Secord ES; in addition, representatives from each of the 4 schools will depute at Planning & Priorities Committee Meeting to be held at TDSB offices (5050 Yonge Street) at 7:00 p.m. on January 30th
- Program Area Review (PARC) process for Ward 16 schools located south of Danforth Avenue still on hold

*critical that Ontario taxpayers hold elected government officials accountable for above decisions

4. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine Dorton

- working with 32 Spokes on event geared to Middle School students re cycling to school; planning event for Spring 2013; activities to include workshops re bike safety, bike maintenance, etc.; participants will plan bike route from one school to another, then travel it together; “welcome” party/picnic to be held at destination school; volunteers needed for a wide variety of jobs; NB* event currently in the works for students at Kimberley/Glen Ames; Bowmore and Gledhill have also expressed interest, but to date neither have committed; Catherine to provide more details re volunteer needs
- also working with 32 Spokes on Ward 16 school bicycle rack audit; NB* bicycle racks cost approximately \$1500; installation criteria very specific (i.e. racks must be installed in asphalt, must be in highly visible location, etc.); Earl Haig got new bicycle rack in 2012
- arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; 1-hour “travelling stewardship show” to teach students about trees available Spring 2013
- working with Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to promote Ward 16 arboretum project and to recruit high school student volunteers; students will earn Community Service hours for participation; 2 recruitment sessions planned for Spring 2013

- Emerald Ash Borer expected to destroy 18% of TDSB tree canopy; TDSB hopes to save 5% by inoculation; cost to TDSB to cut down and remove remaining ash trees estimated at \$15-20 million; TDSB planning to replace diseased trees with diverse species to ensure that, in future, no one type of tree comprises more than 5% of entire TDSB tree population
- Council members expressed concerns re Longhorn Beetle, Pine Beetle, and an invasive vine that appears to envelope trees and smother them; Catherine to investigate further
- understand that City of Toronto will commence green bin collection from schools between January-September 2013; more details to follow; of note, (1) some Ward 16 schools have arrangements with neighbourhood residents re green bin collection; and, (2) vermicomposter at Earl Haig has proven to be very effective method for composting
- reminder: schools interested in planting small food gardens in Spring 2013 should be planning now!
- reminder: Foodshare's Great Big Crunch event will be held March 7th at 2:30 p.m.; 2013; students and teachers are encouraged to learn about healthy eating and local/global food systems while following our food's journey from seed to harvest to market to table; due to Ontario's devastating shortage of apples, Great Big Crunch 2013 will include all locally grown crunchy fruits and vegetables; grant monies available to help subsidize food costs; for more info, contact Catherine
- Beach Community Energy Co-operative(BCEC) > renewable energy cooperative based in the east end of Toronto; planning community-owned solar rooftop array at Kew Beach Public School; Feed In Tariff (FIT) application has been submitted; membership drive on now; for more info, visit www.Facebook.com/BCECInc or contact Catherine
- for more info re any of the above, and/or to share your green/eco ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca

5. Superintendent Report – none

6. Trustee Report – Sheila

- Extended French Program, currently operating at Glen Ames, will move to Bowmore in September 2013**
- while Program Area Review (PARC) for all Ward 16 schools south of Danforth Avenue had been promised for Fall 2012; provincial freeze on TDSB Capital Plan put process on hold; as a result, community was not consulted before decision was made; sincerely apologize for how this has played out
- Sheila to attend SAC Meeting at Balmy Beach on January 23rd
- Sheila to provide details re Board decision to move Extended French Program from Glen Ames to Bowmore (i.e. numbers of students affected, dates decisions were made, etc.)
- proposal that EYCI become a dual-track English/French high school in September 2014 still in its infancy; more info to follow

****CORRECTION****

Extended French Program currently operating at Glen Ames will NOT move to Bowmore in September 2013; more info to follow at next Ward 16 Council Meeting

7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate Wallis

- Wards 2 and 3 Joint Forum re Bill 115 to be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 29, 2013 at Lambton-Kingsway Junior Middle School, 525 Prince Edward Drive; keynote speakers include Annie Kidder, People for Education and Kate Hammer, Education Report – Globe and Mail; for more info, contact Kate
- for unbiased info re education, Bill 115, etc., visit www.peopleforeducation.ca
- parent representatives now included on Vice Principal Interview Committees; parent voice is important in building good relationships with administrators; also reflects importance of parent/community involvement/partnerships; in order to participate, interested parents must first complete a 1.5 hour training session; training session will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 5, 2013 at TDSB, 5050 Yonge St.; for more info, see attached
- 3rd Annual School Council Chair Appreciation Dinner to be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 21, 2013 at Montecassino Hotel, 3710 Chesswood Drive; 2 representatives from each SAC invited to attend; excellent event run by parents for parents; for more info, see attached

- fundraising inequities continue to be of concern at PIAC; understand Inner City Advisory Committee members planning to make fees/fundraising deputation at TDSB committee meeting on January 30, 2013; more info to follow
 - Council members expressed concerns re control over centrally administered “pot” of fundraising monies, i.e. who will make spending decisions, who will decide who gets what, the need for transparency re administration of funds, etc.; other suggestions included *in kind donations* (i.e. clothing, school supplies, etc.)
 - for more info re any of the above, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com
8. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy
- Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed immediately; 5-6 parents from various schools within the Ward contacted Cathy in November to indicate their interest in this position; all parties were encouraged to attend December 4th FSLAC meeting; more info to follow
9. New Business
- Williamson Road now on Twitter; all Ward 16 schools asked to let Cathy know how they can be followed, i.e. on Facebook, on Twitter, website address(es), etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

February 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Earl Beatty Jr & Sr PS, 55 Woodington Avenue