

Ward 16 Council Meeting – February 3, 2011

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes from Ward Council Meeting – December 2, 2010 approved.

1. Environmental Update – Catherine Dorton, Ward 16 Environmental Coordinator

- working with Richard Christie, Program Coordinator EcoSchools, to support both TDSB and individual school environmental initiatives; planning visit to EYCI, a Platinum EcoSchool
- meeting with school Principals and caretakers, School Advisory Council members, as well as interested teachers and parents to deliver Green Globes Reports (results of environmental audit conducted by Jones Lang LaSalle in 2010), and to find out what environmental initiatives are underway and/or planned at each school – appears to be a lot of interest in school gardens
- promoting relationships between like-minded school communities (i.e. Earl Haig and Secord re common interest in hot lunch programs)
- writing grants to secure funding for a labyrinth/outdoor classroom at Kew Beach; and, a non-disposable lunch program at Secord
- Janice (Principal, Kew Beach) thanked Catherine for her grant writing efforts on behalf of Kew Beach Sustainability Committee; as grant writing can be difficult, Catherine’s expertise is wonderful asset to TDSB in Ward 16
- Kew Beach Sustainability Committee currently working on community bond program to help fund solar project
- Leslie (Malvern) suggested that Catherine might be interested in working with Bruce Day, Team Leader – Grounds, on a Memorial Garden at the school; will discuss further with Catherine at upcoming Malvern SAC Meeting (March 1)
- Catherine’s contact info to be added to www.trusteesheila.com and Sheila’s TDSB websites
- Catherine to prepare message re Environmental Coordinator role, etc. for Ward 16 school newsletters

2. Neighbourhood Link Support Services – Lorie Fairburn, Development and Marketing Manager and Hermia Corbette, Youth and Newcomer Manager

- Neighbourhood Link Support Services is an independent, non-profit social service agency working primarily in East Toronto which promotes the independence and dignity of people within their own community
- with the help of its friends (United Way of Greater Toronto, Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, City of Toronto and private donors), Neighbourhood Link Support Services is able to address the needs of diverse populations with supportive housing, senior care, employment assistance, newcomer support programs, community dinners and youth services; volunteer opportunities also available
- Neighbourhood Link Support Services would like to explore partnership opportunities with Ward 16 schools which would best support unique needs of each school community
- Lee Ann (EYCI) asked if Lorie/Hermia would be willing to come out to an EYCI SAC meeting to discuss an “adopt a senior” program and/or the possible ways EYCI students might earn community service hours at Neighbourhood Link Support Services
- Heather (Secord) asked that Lorie/Hermia provide her with additional information re programs currently offered so that she might promote/refer Secord parents and/or their children to Neighbourhood Link Support Services for assistance/support
- Lorie, on behalf of Neighbourhood Link Support Services would also like to ask that Sheila consider nominating them for the Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Award (\$50,000) for the work that they do to improve the wellbeing of children by addressing the challenges posed by poverty, disability, racism and other sources of social exclusion; nomination deadline: April 18, 2011; will follow-up with Sheila in coming weeks

Neighbourhood Link Support Services – 3036 Danforth Avenue, Toronto, ON M4C 1N2;
416-691-7407; www.neighbourhoodlink.org

3. Certified Organic Fair Trade Coffee – Susan Fowler, The Remarkable Bean

- Fair Trade Coffee is a cooperative formed in response to the low wages and sweatshop-like working conditions that many coffee plantation workers endure; Fair Trade Coffee guarantees a living wage for farmers (at least twice as much as they would receive if they were to sell their coffee on the world green bean market)
- Fair Trade Coffee's partnerships with small yield coffee farmers promote environmentally sustainable farming; through its emphasis on organic, mixed crop, shade growth and chemical production, Fair Trade Coffee farmers will not only be able to produce high quality coffee, they will be able to do so without destroying the natural habitats of local birds and wildlife
- fundraising with The Remarkable Bean Fair Trade Coffee is simple, ethical, educational, responsible and profitable
- for each 1 pound bag of coffee sold for \$15.75-\$17.95, school will make \$4 profit
- in addition, The Remarkable Bean will donate \$1 for each 1 pound bag of coffee sold to the Rotary Club of Toronto Beach; monies will be used by Rotary International to support children in underdeveloped countries
- fundraising program can be long or short-term, and there is no minimum order
- Kew Beach currently serves The Remarkable Bean Fair Trade Coffee at their weekly café (Wednesday mornings, 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the school lobby); cost - \$2 per cup, \$1.50 when you bring your own
- Janice (Principal, Kew Beach) noted that this is a great way to get community members involved in their local schools

The Remarkable Bean – 2242 Queen St. E., Toronto, ON M4E 1G2;
416-690-2420; theremarkablebean@bell.net

4. Superintendent Report – Roula Anastasakos and Anne Kerr

- *Growing Success*, the new provincial assessment, evaluation and reporting policy documents reflect (1) the best and most current knowledge on how to improve students' learning; and, (2) the best practices and techniques teachers use to collect and share information about students' learning with students and parents
- Elementary Provincial Report Card 1 will go home with students between February 11-17, 2011; exact issue dates for secondary school report card will vary by school, please contact your school directly for more information
- elementary provincial report cards tell how well your child has reached the expected level of achievement; letter grades are used for Grades 1-6 and percentage marks for Grades 7-8 for each subject and strand of the curriculum where instruction has been given
- elementary provincial report cards report on your child's Learning Skills and Work Habits as identified on the Elementary Progress Report issued in November 2010; teacher comments will focus on your child's strengths and next steps for learning improvement
- secondary school provincial report cards list student's courses, percentage marks for each course, course median mark, credit earned, learning skill and work habits, teacher comments, classes missed and times late
- Anne (Superintendent) noted that this is first year of implementation for *Growing Success* and, as a result, both the documents themselves and TDSB staff expertise will continue to develop in coming months
- Linda (Principal, Kimberley) noted that language on new report cards is easier to understand and there is much more space for teachers to write "good stuff"
- Janice (Principal, Kew Beach) noted that new report cards start with assessment of child's learning skills and report cards are now 4 pages, rather than 2 pages in length
- Leslie (Malvern) commented that new report cards are much easier to read; also suggested that as many report cards will not go out until February 14/15, this issue be brought forward for further discussion at March Ward Council Meeting
- Kindergarten registration is now underway at all TDSB schools – please spread the word in your respective school communities
- Leslie (Malvern) wanted to know about TDSB policy re student cell phone use in schools; she indicated that many parents are concerned about TDSB staff taking cell phones away from students when at school as this is parents only means of communicating with children during school day
- Roula/Anne (Superintendents) advised that current TDSB policy states that students are not allowed to use their cell phones, Blackberries or other communications devices in classrooms or hallways during the school day

- Lee Ann (EYCI) suggested that TDSB consider shutting down wireless service in schools as is done in hospitals, airports, etc.
- Roula/Anne noted that student use of cell phones at school is not going away; schools/parents need to teach students about appropriate use
- Joel (Gledhill) suggested that cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. be permitted in classrooms, and that students be taught when, where and how to use them appropriately; that perhaps TDSB should develop a “terms of use” policy for all communication technologies
- Lee Ann (EYCI) noted that high school students have just submitted college/university applications; understands that there is a second deadline date; would like to know more; Roula/Anne to look into and report back at March Ward Council Meeting; will contact Lorna McPherson
- of note, Ontario University Application Centre (OUAC) website, www.ouac.on.ca indicates that while university applications are due January 12, 2011, applications received after that date will continue to be processed and sent to the universities; and, as some universities have different deadlines, students should ensure that their application is received by OUAC in time to meet any requirements and/or stipulated deadlines
- of note, Ontario College Application Services (OCAS) website, www.ontariocolleges.ca indicates that the Equal Consideration Date (date applications must be received to be considered on an equal basis with all other applications) for programs commencing in Fall 2011 is February 1, 2011; and, that after this date, applications will continue to be considered on a first-come, first-served basis; for more information, students should contact the Admissions office of the college to which they wish to apply

5. New Principal/Vice Principal Selection Process – Sheila

- each year SAC members meet with current Principal and Trustee (when available) to draft a Principal/Vice Principal profile; document is then forwarded to Superintendent
- when school is changing Principal, Superintendent, Trustee and parent rep with meet to draft a school statement of needs
- interviews of new applicants to be held February 22, February 24 and March 1, 2011
- new process includes parental participation on interview committee (NB* this is not for the placement of candidates at a specific school but to determine which candidates may be added to the board-wide Transfer/Promotion list)
- successful applicants added to board-wide Transfer/Promotion list
- Transfer/Promotion Meetings begin April 28/end June 23; Superintendent meets with TDSB staff to match candidates on Transfer/Promotion list to schools’ statement of needs
- Superintendent will then meet with Trustee and parent rep to discuss how chosen candidate matches school’s statement of needs
- finally, chosen Principal/Vice Principal candidate will meet with Superintendent, Trustee and parent rep to discuss vision for school
- of note, as this is pilot project process will continue to be developed in coming months/years
- Kate (Earl Beatty) reported that she participated in interview process after attending a brief training session; believes that parents bring new perspective to process; felt that parental input was valued; noted that this is an important community-building process

6. Council Reformat – Sheila

- current format - Trustee “talking head”; would like Council members to consider something more parent-run similar to School Advisory Council with a Chair (perhaps alternating), a Secretary (Sheila’s Constituency Assistant), Committee Representatives, etc.
- Sheila and Cathy to attend upcoming Ward 10 Council Meeting where parents run meetings and Trustee is simply “invited guest”; hope to learn how to make Ward 16 Council Meetings more engaging; Sheila to provide feedback at March Ward Council Meeting
- perhaps starting point for Ward 16 Council would be to identify goals, annually; to discuss further at March Ward Council Meeting

7. Choosing Ward 16 Representatives: PIAC/FSLAC – Sheila

- Ward 16 Representatives for the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) are still needed

- for more information please go to www.tdsb.on.ca select Parents then select Parent Involvement; or, contact Cathy MacKenzie at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca or 416-395-8413

8. New Business

Swim programs available at Malvern CI and Monarch Park CI

- see flyers attached; for more info contact Sharon Gomes at t.gomes@sympatico.ca

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 24, 2011

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Duke of Connaught Junior & Senior PS