

Ward 16 Council Meeting – March 7, 2013

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Adam Beck: Sharon Gomes; Balmy Beach: Lenna Kozovski (P); Balmy Beach: Anne Pratt; Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Bowmore: Jennifer Hermanson; Bowmore: Ruth Lee; Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Earl Beatty: James Sheppard; Earl Haig: Barb Fine; Kew Beach: Stephanie Hurst; Malvern: Alyse Rosenberg; Presteign Heights: Nick Bougiouklis; Williamson Road: Beverley O'Brien (P); Williamson Road: Andrea Hesse; Williamson Road: Evadne Macedo; Williamson Road: Marlene Schmidt; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos (S); TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Lenna Kozovski, Principal
2. Overview of Host School – Lenna Kozovski, Principal; Anne Pratt, SAC Chair
 - site of Pine Avenue School; built in 1906, school had 4 rooms on 2 floors
 - new school, Balmy Beach Community School was designed by local architect and completed in 1975 (NB* all classrooms are located on south side of building)
 - Balmy Beach Community School is currently home to about 400 students in grades JK-6; most students come from English as first language homes
 - programs offered include Special Education: Home School Program (HSP) and Resource (Res)
 - highly engaged parent community works hard to support and/or enrich classroom learning for all students; events aimed not only at fundraising but community-building (i.e. annual “welcome” party, barbecue, pancake breakfast, etc.); School Advisory Council traditionally structured > many sub-committees, each with its own Chair
 - Balmy Beach Community Day Care, a non-profit, licensed child care is located on site; provides service to children aged 2 years 6 months to 10 years
 - school also shares space with Balmy Beach Community Recreation Centre; offers fun-filled programs for all ages
3. Update re Extra-Curriculars, TDSB Budget – Sheila, Roula

RE Extra-Curriculars

- February 2013 statement from TDSB on extra-curricular activities can be found at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10639&menuid=41024&pageid=34390>
- revised (February 2013) TDSB Operational Procedure (PR666) re parent groups supporting extra-curricular activities during labour disruption can be found at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/92/326.pdf>, Appendix A (p 18);
- NB*low/no cost programs offered to benefit students at the school between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. offered at discretion of school principal; permit is required, no permit fee is payable; school principal/designate will be person in authority (i.e. must be on site); Police Reference Check (PRC) and liability insurance are mandatory for operators of all programs
- student safety remains TDSB top priority; additional certifications may also be required depending on program being offered
- permit process/requirements perceived by many to have made it more difficult for parents/community members to become involved; this was not TDSB intent; as TDSB was not at bargaining table with teachers (conflict between teachers and provincial government), it could only respond to job action taken by teachers' unions as it was made public

- *motion*: Ward 16 Council strike an advisory committee to evaluate/make recommendations to facilitate parent/community member offerings of extra-curricular activities at all schools on a long-term basis
- Alyse Rosenberg, parent at Malvern CI volunteered to chair this Extra-Curricular Advisory Committee; interested parties are invited to contact Alyse directly at alyse3@bell.net or 416-698-9473
- *for consideration by Extra-Curricular Advisory Committee members*: recommendations should not preclude teacher involvement; extra-curricular offerings should be largely the same at all schools; standardized checklist of requirements to be created for coordinators of all extra-curricular offerings; Police Reference Check (PRC) application to be included with beginning/end of year package and/or school handbook sent home to all parents
- *questions*: (1) must PRC be exclusively for TDSB, is PRC conducted for another purpose acceptable? (2) if PRC must be exclusively for TDSB, can cash payment be made directly to school rather than by certified cheque to Toronto Police Service?

RE TDSB 2013-2014 Budget

- 2013-2014 staffing allocation approved by Board on March 6, 2013; staffing formula based on enrolment > secondary student enrolment decreasing, elementary student enrolment increasing and, as a result, secondary staff numbers must be reduced; for more info, please visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/about_us/media_room/Room.asp?show=allNews&view=detailed&self=34845
 - after March Break, school principals will be determining staffing needs for 2013-2014 school year based on projected enrolment figures; school principals to share staffing models with SAC before end of June
 - end of September, school principals/TDSB staff will reassess school staffing needs based on actual enrolment figures and realign as necessary; VP allocation determined by complicated formula; points allotted for Learning Opportunity Index (LOI) ranking, enrollment, etc.
 - TDSB to make additional budget cuts totaling \$27 million in June 2013
 - *budget issues of contention* (for Sheila): (1) \$9 million underfunding of FDK by provincial government; (2) \$27 million debenture called in by province 14 years in advance of due date; (3) utilization rate benchmark set by government moved from 85% to 95%; foregoing issues result in sizable structural deficit in TDSB budget
 - while TDSB would like taxpaying public to better understand its budget challenges, accurate info is not being clearly communicated
 - fundraising concerns > if tax dollars are supposed to fund education, why are SACs continuing to fundraise for classroom essentials, facilities improvements, etc? what can monies raised by SACs be used/not be used to purchase? does not appear that TDSB policies re spending of SAC fundraising monies are being followed consistently by all TDSB schools?!?; inequity results between schools, between wards, etc.
 - even though TDSB facility improvement budget has an approximate \$3 billion backlog, funds raised by SACs should **not** be used to maintain/upgrade school facilities (i.e. soap dispensers in school washrooms); Principals/SACs should contact Sheila ASAP with such requests
4. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine Dorton
- arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; grant monies still available for tree stewardship training; Tree Captains needed for each Ward 16 school
 - 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 to comprise more than 5% of entire TDSB tree population; tree seeds now available for planting; TDSB Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) continues to explore options for use of undamaged ash wood (i.e. furniture making, etc.); suggestions always welcome
 - working on ward-wide fundraising event for Spring/Fall 2013 (i.e. documentary presentation of Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya); funds raised to be used to improve tree canopy of all Ward 16 schools
 - TDSB funds environmental sustainability initiatives through sale of carbon credits; for more info re TDSB Go Green: Climate Change Action Plan, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/ecoschools/docs/FINAL%20Go%20Green%20WEB%20-%20202.pdf>
 - FYI, in February 2013 Bowmore joined the “Think Recycle” program, an initiative that encourages the safe and responsible recycling of electronic waste (i.e. cell phones, laptops, ink/toner cartridges, digital cameras, etc.); for

every 24 qualifying products collected by Bowmore community, Tree Canada will plant 1 tree; for more info, please visit <http://thinkrecycle.com/en/>

- 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 – Roula
- TDSB 2011-2012 Student Census results released February 2013; close to 90% of all Grade 7-12 students participated; building on relationships with partners in health and community sectors, TDSB will use census results to develop strategies and adjust supports to further strengthen schools and help every student to succeed; for more info, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=310&menuid=4410&pageid=3755>
 - results of 2012 Kindergarten to Grade 6 Parent Census expected to be released April 2013
 - in February 2013, The Learning Partnership recognized fifty-one outstanding principals from across Canada for their unwavering commitment to nurturing relationships and student success; of the 7 TDSB principals honoured, 2 were from Ward 16: Tammy Ross, Crescent Town ES and Thelma Sambrook, Bowmore Jr & Sr PS; congrats!!
 - planning now underway for 2013-2014 school year; FDK to be introduced at 5 more Ward 16 schools (Balmy Beach CS, Earl Haig PS, Gledhill Jr PS, Kew Beach Jr PS and Victoria Park ES); modular units to be added to existing school sites in order to accommodate increased enrollment
 - Director, trustees and ad hoc workgroup currently reviewing nature, function, mandate and resourcing of TDSB Community Advisory Committees (CAC); recommendations to be presented to Board in April 2013
 - *suggestion* > for more balanced perspective, workgroup conducting review should also include persons not currently associated with any Community Advisory Committee
 - *Fall 2013 Ward 16 Council meeting to address TDSB Community Advisory Committees
6. Trustee Report – Sheila
- French Immersion application deadline dates have passed; lotteries have taken place; program placements now being offered; NB* local placements are **not** guaranteed
 - FI placement process extremely complicated; now centrally managed
 - important to maintain balance between English and French programming in Ward 16 schools
 - Sheila, Roula and FI admin staff to meet to review FI in Ward 16 in March 2013
 - still awaiting Board decision re proposal to expand FI secondary school programming to EYCI
7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Catherine Dorton
- 3rd Annual School Council Chair Appreciation Dinner held February 21, 2013; unfortunately speeches ran too long and, as a result, time for forum discussion was too short; of note, only four Ward 16 schools attended > hope to increase Ward 16 school representation in 2014
 - PIAC encourages all parents to write Premier Kathleen Wynne, Education Minister Liz Sandals and their respective Provincial Members of Parliament re importance of happy teachers and return of extra-curricular activities; for more info and letter templates, please visit www.torontoPIAC.com
 - for more info re any of the above, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com
8. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy
- Sheila has met/continues to meet with Ward 16 parents interested in French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Ward 16 Rep position; Marlene Schmidt (Williamson Road) and Nick Bougioklis (Presteign Heights) have joined us this evening; next FSLAC meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 15, 2013 at 5050 Yonge St., Committee Room A; more info to follow
9. New Business
- school/community sharing:
Bowmore > 2 student teams competed at 2012 First LEGO League Ontario East Provincial Championship, “Tech Royalty” team won Mechanical Design Award; 2 teams competed at Kids’ Lit Quiz Canada Competition, Bowmore Team A finished second, Bowmore Team B tied for fourth
Duke of Connaught > “Mardi Gras Masquerade” fundraising event to be held March 23 at Baron Byng Legion Hall;

Sheilah Currie “Read Up” event planned for Fall 2013, more info to follow
 Earl Beatty > “2nd Annual Enchantment under the Stairs – Enchanted Luau” fundraising event held February 23, included both silent and live auctions
 Gledhill > “Trivia Night” fundraising event held February 22; low maintenance, relaxed atmosphere, lots of fun
 Glen Ames > student team also competed at 2012 First LEGO League Ontario East Provincial Championship
 Northern SS (Ward 11) > Principal’s weekly email to parents is short, sweet and informative, effectively engages parent community

- other:
 TDSB Continuing Education Learn4Life Spring program registration now open; for more info, please visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/programs/continuing_education/docs/Learn4LifeSpring2013webFINAL.pdf
- Canadian Red Cross First Aid and/or Babysitting Courses available; for more info, please contact Gregory Oulton, Coordinator Sales and Marketing – First Aid, Swimming & Water Safety at 416-480-0195 x2600 or Gregory.oulton@redcross.ca
- Money School Canada presents “Money Mentor\$ Workshops for Parents”; for more info, see attached

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

April 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Presteign Heights ES, 2570 St. Clair Avenue East