

Ward 16 Council Meeting – March 24, 2011

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m.

Minutes from Ward Council Meeting – February 3, 2010 accepted.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila

2. Overview of Host School

Duke of Connaught Junior & Senior PS – Lenna Kosovski, Principal

- Duke of Connaught was built next to the historic Ashbridge House on land that had been the orchard of the Ashbridge Estate in 1912
- Woodfield Senior School was added in the late 1950s
- the Junior and Senior schools combined in 1989 to form Duke of Connaught Public School
- Duke of Connaught offers programs in early French Immersion (beginning in SK) and extended French (beginning in Grade 4)
- as a Model School for Inner Cities, Duke of Connaught seeks to address the needs of the whole child; students have access to vision and hearing screening, nutrition programs, enrichment programs, etc.
- Duke of Connaught is part of Toronto Schools on the Move (TSM) which aims to establish a culture that supports a healthy active school environment through increased physical activity and improved healthy eating habits
- as a full service site, the school also offers a variety of community-based services for all ages (infants to seniors) through Applegrove Parent-Child Drop-in, Woodgreen Child Care, and S.H. Armstrong Recreation Centre
- Duke of Connaught has a fabulous sports program; teams include alpine skiing, badminton, cricket, football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, wrestling, water polo, etc.
- co-curricular programs offered at Duke of Connaught include the arts and culture (Learning through the Arts; band, strings and vocal music); leadership; literacy; math, science and technology (LEGO); recreation and leisure; social and global issues (ECO), etc.
- parent engagement is strong; parent volunteers run breakfast/snack/hot lunch programs for approximately 100 students each day; School Council members are active on a variety of school sub-committees
- school demographics are changing; the first language spoken by many Duke of Connaught students is now Mandarin or Cantonese; school neighbourhood is becoming more gentrified

3. Growing Success – Nicole Aloise, Instructional Leader – Equitable and Inclusive Schools

- *Growing Success* is a new assessment, evaluation and reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education through consultation with parents, students, teachers, principals and faculties of education for use in all Ontario schools
- its aim is to level the playing field; all schools will share the same educational expectations
- document was implemented in Ontario schools in September 2010
- its purpose is to improve student learning (not rank, compare, label or separate)
- its fundamental principles are: (1) to be fair, transparent and equitable; (2) to support all students; (3) to be carefully planned; (4) to be clearly communicated; (5) to provide ongoing and varied opportunities for feedback; and, (6) to promote self-assessment
- six learning skills and work habits: responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative and self-regulation, will be reported on for all grades (i.e. Grades 1-12) on Progress Report Cards and Provincial Report Cards
- students will be assessed and evaluated on knowledge and understanding, thinking, communication, and, application; levels of achievement for these performance standards will range from 4 to 1
- students in Grades 1-6 will receive letter grades on Report Cards; students in Grades 7-12 will receive percentage marks on Report Cards
- for **Grades 1-8:**

- a new Elementary Progress Report Card will be issued in October/November – its focus will be on learning skills and work habits; on assessment for learning, feedback, and steps for improvement; on establishing a positive tone for communication with students and parents; and, on students progress toward achievement of the curriculum
- a revised Provincial Report Card will be issued January/February, and at the end of the year – its focus will be on learning skills and work habits; and, student achievement levels
- for **Grades 9-12:**
- a revised Provincial Report Card will be issued October/November, January/February, March/April and June for semestered schools; and, October/November, March/April and June for non-semestered schools – its focus will be on learning skills and work habits; and, student achievement levels
- policies re late and missed assignments; and, cheating and plagiarizing will be developed by individual Boards in keeping with Ministry guidelines
- for more information, please see GrowingSuccessParents2010[1] document attached
- NB* parent resource booklet re *Growing Success* is available in at least 14 different languages for parents whose first language is not English
- NB* classroom teachers and school Principals will provide parents with appropriate resources, including verbal translation services for reporting documents and/or parent-teacher interviews, as required
- NB* *Growing Success* reporting document is only available in English

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

- continuing to “get to know” Ward 16 school admin, staff, and parents, as well as the needs and desires of each school community
- continuing to build relationship with TDSB EcoSchools team
- at this time, many schools are planning Earth Day activities and/or gardening initiatives
- very busy writing grant proposals; deadlines March/April/May (i.e. Metro Green Apple, WWF)
- Ellen reported that corporate grants are also available (i.e. RBC); will provide Catherine with more information
- as Director of Communication for Kew Beach Power Association, Catherine has been involved in establishing its Constitution
- goals for 2010-2011: (1) to establish one project, big or small, for each school; (2) to establish some formal means of communication (i.e. quarterly newsletter) for all Ward 16 schools

5. Superintendent Report – Anne Kerr, Superintendent FOS SE5

- Roula sends her regrets; currently attending a conference in California
- start of 3rd term very busy for Ward 16 schools with ongoing staff development re *Growing Success* and 2011-2012 staffing allocation plans (Principals and Superintendents are doing their best to ensure that kids win)
- staffing allocation process complex; school and Board administrative staff exhaust all available options before implementing any change; average TDSB class size is 20 students
- Sheila added that restrictions on class sizes imposed by Ministry of Education have always been very difficult for parents to understand/accept; end of September is a very emotional time for everyone
- Shannon indicated that communication re staffing allocation process is critical; process itself should be transparent; changes should be clearly communicated in terms of the child’s best interests
- surveys have gone out to parents of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) students to determine need for before/after school care (cost approximately \$32/day)
- Futures Conference: Innovation in Global Education to be held May 2-4, 2011 at Allstream Centre; keynote speakers include Stephen Lewis, Veronica Lacey and Roger Martin; for more information, see <http://www.tdsbfutures.com>

6. Jim Spyropoulos, Coordinating Superintendent – Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community

- preparing response to report of Achievement Gap Task Force which has identified that 25% of TDSB high school students do not graduate; of those, the largest numbers are students of Aboriginal, Black (African heritage), Hispanic, Portuguese and Middle Eastern backgrounds
- TDSB data also shows that in proportion to their numbers, these students have the lowest test scores (EQAO), the lowest rates of credit accumulation through secondary school and the highest dropout rates; they also have the lowest rates of school attendance and the highest rates of suspensions

- in addition, these students belong to families with low income levels and reside in some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas of the city
- for more information, see AchievementGapReptDraftMay172010 document attached
- next student census and parent surveys will go out September/October 2011; data collected will help to (1) shape future TDSB programs; and, (2) close the achievement gap

7. Trustee Report – Sheila

- 2011-2012 School Year Calendar has been forwarded to Ministry of Education for approval; tentative dates as follows: 1st day of school – September 5, 2011; last day of school – June 28, 2012; Christmas Break – December 26, 2011-January 6, 2012 (inclusive); Mid-Winter Break – March 12-16, 2012 (inclusive)
- One Stop Media proposal to put TV monitors in schools on hold as Trustees have requested more information; NB* if approved, TDSB will earn 10c to 15c per student; Sheila firmly believes that “our kids are not for sale!!”
- Ward Council Meeting reformat – Sheila would like to convene a meeting in early May to discuss this issue further; all Principals and SAC Chairs to be invited; more people = more ideas
- number of Ward Council members expressed concern re need for reformat and/or timing of this meeting; Lilian, Principal - Norway suggested that members consider Joyce Epstein’s Framework for Parent Involvement (see attached) before implementing any changes; another Council member suggested that perhaps someone in Parent and Community Involvement at TDSB conduct a survey to determine the meeting format which might best serve members’ needs
- other suggestions:
 - > re membership: every School Advisory Council (SAC) send a representative; every Ward Council member “bring a friend”; Principal and SAC Chair of host school chair their own meeting
 - > suggestions re meeting agenda: overview of host school; school success stories; special presentation at members’ request; Superintendent report; Trustee report; etc.

8. Ward 16 Representatives: PIAC/FSLAC/SEAC – Sheila

- Bob Spencer, parent at Kew Beach, has agreed to be the Ward 16 Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Alternate Representative
- Lenna Kosovski, Principal at Duke of Connaught, has agreed to discuss Ward 16 French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Representative vacancy with parents of Duke of Connaught’s French Immersion students
- Ward 16 representative for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is also needed
- for more information about these and other TDSB Parent Advisory Committees 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

9. New Business

- none

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 2011
 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 Selwyn ES

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.