

Ward 16 Council Meeting – March 29, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Adam Beck: Maria Bettas-Protopapas; Adam Beck: Sharon Gomes; Balmy Beach: Lenna Kozovski (P); Balmy Beach: Emma; Bowmore: Lilian Hanson (P); Bowmore: Peppi Kondilis-Minos (VP); Bowmore: Kyle Duncan; Crescent Town: Emma Nichols (VP); Duke of Connaught: George Patsopoulos (P); Duke of Connaught: Susan Lai (VP); Duke of Connaught: Brian Svenningsen (VP); Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Duke of Connaught: Angie Law; Earl Haig: Liz Hayes (P); Earl Haig: Karen Finley; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; EYCI: Karen Hume (P); EYCI: Roberta Bergman (VP); EYCI: Darren Gani (VP); EYCI: Mario Tenentes (VP); EYCI: Debra Catsaris; EYCI: Marie Coulter; EYCI: Phuoy Huynh; EYCI: Khalid Javaid; EYCI: Justin Mathewson; EYCI: Kim Brodie-Pavlovich; George Webster: Nancy Steinhauer (P); George Webster: Waveney Job; George Webster: Subbalakshmi Manohar; George Webster: Aim Mujib; George Webster: Vidya Shah; George Webster: Jacqueline Smith; Gledhill: Andy McLachlan (P); Gordon A Brown: Kim Jensen (P); Gordon A Brown: Olga Ellis (VP); Gordon A Brown/Selwyn: Melanie Locke; Gordon A Brown: Donna Terry; Kew Beach: Sarah Nauman (P); Kew Beach: Bob Spencer; Kew Beach: Chris Roberts; Malvern: Line Pinard (P); Malvern: Vandra Masemann; Malvern: Leslie Rose; Malvern: Diane Wyman; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; Norway: Kristine Bowen; Parkside: Lana Cumberbatch (P); Parkside: Laurie Bowman; Presteign Heights: Alex & Zora Gusheski; Presteign Heights: Sofi Konstantinidis; Presteign Heights: Stacy Hatzinikolaou; Presteign Heights: Lina Kefsenidis; Secord: Lisa Moser (P); Secord: Anastasia Poulis (VP); Secord: Juanita Downey; Secord: Athiya Parveen; Secord: Diane Renault-Collicott; Secord: Heather Tormey; Selwyn: Paul Friberg (P); Selwyn/Gordon A Brown: Susan Ronan; Victoria Park: Marnie Peacock; Williamson Road: Andrea Hesse; Williamson Road: Sharon Norton-Robertson; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos (S); TDSB: Brian Harris; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Jim Spyropoulos; TDSB: Chris Spence; Cosburn: John Kirk; Cosburn: Stella Williams; ??: Devon Jones; West Glen: Mike Papthanasakis

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

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Welcome: Kim Brodie-Pavlovich, EYCI School Advisory Chair
2. Overview of Host School: Karen Hume, Principal EYCI
 - school established in 1927
 - 1450+ students currently enrolled at EYCI in Grades 9-12; 45% female, 55% male
 - 100+ teaching staff; 35 support staff
 - school community very diverse; 70+ languages spoken by students (English, Greek, Bengali most common)
 - programs offered include: Academics: advanced and applied; Arts: visual, musical and dramatic arts (2012 musical production Legally Blonde – May 10,11,12); Co-op/Apprenticeship Training; Credit Recovery: Strategies for Student Success; English as Second Language; Special Education: Intensive Support (Behaviour, Learning Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability); Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Manufacturing
 - co-curricular program includes: Athletics: male and female, junior and senior levels (NB* have swim team but no pool); Sound, Lights and Stage Crew; DECA Business Club; Environmental Club; Robotics/Cybernetics Team; Peer Tutoring, Student and Athletic Councils, etc.
 - computer literacy encouraged: access and services available for all students with networked labs and computerized school library
 - nutrition programs: nutritious breakfast, healthy snack and hot lunch, all prepared daily by parents/community volunteers
 - parents actively engaged in school activities – morning snack program, environmental initiatives (replacement of ancient trees), School Advisory Council, grad breakfast, commencement celebration, Friday Night Lights, etc.
 - Hager-Hull-Miller Alumni Association provides annual scholarship to recognize student achievement > academic, athletic, community involvement

3. Special Presentation – *Parental Engagement*:

George Webster ES: Aim Mujib, Jacquie Smith, Laurie Bowman

- Aim Mujib (George Webster ES School Council Co-Chair; TDSB Inner City Advisory Committee Community (ICAC) Co-Chair) shared personal story; arrived in Canada as refugee in 2006; became involved in children's school, now an active member of TDSB ICAC; encourages all parents to get involved in their children's education in order to promote success
- Jacquie Smith (George Webster ES parent/volunteer) provided overview of programs offered at George Webster ES which support students' and students' parents learning : Adult ESL; Parent Resource Drop-In Centre; Family and Literacy Parenting Centre; workshops on parenting, health and wellness; and, social events such as a Multi-Cultural Potluck, Movie Night, BBQ/Fun Fair, etc.; Paul Steinhauer Paediatric Clinic - launched at George Webster ES in March 2011, offers comprehensive medical services to students of George Webster and their siblings, children registered in George Webster's Parenting and Family Literacy Centre as well as students in neighbouring schools from particular programs or referral processes
- Laurie Bowman (Parkside ES parent; Model Schools For Inner Cities (MSIC) Cluster Parent Academy Committee, Cluster B3 Parent Co-Chair) provided overview of TDSB MSIC Parent Academy program - designed to help parents become effective participants in their children's educational and social development through parent-friendly seminars, workshops and/or study circles; all Parent Academy activities respect the diverse community which the Board serves and are provided, where possible, at no cost to participants; NB* Cluster B3 Parent Academy Conference to be held May 2012; for more information, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=263&menuid=38047&pageid=32091>

Kew Beach Jr PS: Sarah Nauman, Christine Roberts, Bob Spencer

- Sarah Nauman (Principal) and Christine Roberts (School Council Co-Chair) provided overview of Kew Beach parents' accomplishments: Walk and Wheel Wednesday - encourages children to not only be more mindful of the environment, but to be more physically active; Kew Café - runs every Wednesday between 8:15a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; provides parents/caregivers opportunity to start their day with a cup of fair trade coffee/tea and a sweet treat provided by local merchants (Kew Café proceeds fund school playground improvements); Kiss and Ride - runs Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.; children are walked from parent's car to school's main entrance to ensure safety; "school of fish" (financially supported by Beach BIA) - wooden fish on school yard fence remind community that everything put into City drains/sewers ends up in streams, rivers and lakes where it may harm local ecosystems; courtyard classroom - provides staff/students outdoor learning space furnished with landscape rocks and reclaimed wooden benches also purchased from local merchant
- Bob Spencer (Kew Beach parent; Beach Community Power Association member) provided overview of association and its mandate - to develop 50kW of solar power capacity on Kew Beach Jr PS school roof as community investment opportunity; of note, TDSB has already approved capital funding for 23kW of solar power on this site

Malvern CI: Line Pinard, Diane Wyman, Vandra Masemann

- Line Pinard (Principal) and Diane Wyman (School Council Co-Chair) provided overview of Malvern parents' accomplishments: Grade 9 Parent Handbook - comprehensive source of information for parents re Malvern CI; guest speaker events - focus on topics of particular interest to parents of teens; pool restoration - new roof, new change rooms/washrooms; put end to hazing ritual - staff, students, parents and neighbours worked together to change student mindset; for more info, see Malvern PowerPoint presentation attached
- Vandra Masemann (Past President, Red and Black Society; Chair, Cenotaph Committee; Chair, Malvern Archives Committee) shared her reasons for becoming involved with Malvern CI - to build sense of community/ belonging; to promote inclusivity; and, to energize others to support the education of our youth; provided overview of committees' accomplishments: Red and Black Society - currently working with school Garden Restoration Committee and Beach Garden Society to restore school landscaping and garden at main entrance to school; Malvern Cenotaph Committee – successfully raised \$44,000+ to restore/repair Malvern monument; Malvern Archives Committee - currently working with school staff members to create digital school archive

Secord ES: Lisa Moser, Anastasia Poulis, Heather Tormey

- Lisa Moser (Principal), Anastasia Poulis (Vice Principal) and Heather Tormey (School Council Co-Chair) provided overview of Secord parents' accomplishments: nutrition program - nutritious breakfast, healthy snack and hot lunch served daily with the support of Toronto Foundation for Student Success and local businesses/merchants (nourishes both the body and the minds of students and students' parents - parents plan, prepare and serve meals/snacks; welcome activities, social/cultural events, skills workshops, etc. (meets parents' needs and increases parent engagement in children's education)

Chris Spence, Director of Education

- students, students' parents, school staff and school community must all work together to promote student success; benefits of parent involvement include: student achievement, student attendance and student attachment; for more information, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/Director/docs/Trustee%20CM%20Ward%20Forum%20March%2029.pdf>

4. School Reports – none

5. Environmental Coordinator Report: Catherine Dorton

- Lights-Out campaign to run April 2012; builds upon school Earth Hour initiatives; tracking sheet enables students/staff to record every time they turn off the lights; participating schools eligible to receive 1 of 3 prizes
- Arboretums project > goal: to restore neglected TDSB tree canopy by cataloguing, caring for, and studying trees on all Ward 16 school sites; will work with students to create tree maps; will build curriculum and stewardship resources for staff/student use; first meeting with staff at Duke of Connaught scheduled for April 2012; engagement by all parties (school staff, students and parents) critical to success of this project; to date, 2 grants (\$10,000 and \$2,000) have been received to help fund this project
- One Plant per Classroom initiative > fun, simple activity which promotes healthy learning; 3 Ward 16 schools will share grant monies with another 3 Ward 16 schools to advance this initiative
- Catherine is always available to meet with staff/parents who are interested in promoting “green initiatives” in their respective school communities; for more information, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca, or 647-708-3595

6. Superintendent Report: Roula Anastasakos, Brian Harris, Beth Butcher

- welcome: Brian Harris (replaces Anne Kerr who retired in February, 2012); regrets: Beth Butcher
- special welcome to Chris Spence, Director of Education and Jim Spyropoulos, Coordinating Superintendent Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community
- Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) will roll out at Crescent Town ES, Earl Beatty Jr & Sr PS, Parkside ES and Presteign Heights ES in September 2012
- Pupil Area Review Committee (PARC) processes currently underway for Gordon A Brown MS and DA Morrison MS; public meetings to be held during May 2012; for more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/brighterfutures
- paediatric clinic at George Webster now servicing 900+ families; on April 27th will launch telepsychiatry partnership with Hospital for Sick Kids

7. Trustee Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher

- special thanks to guest speakers and all those who prepared display boards to demonstrate how students' parents are effectively engaged in your respective school communities
- thanks also to all those in attendance for making this evening such a wonderful success!

8. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report: Kate Wallis

- PIAC mandate is to advise and/or provide feedback to the Toronto District School Board on matters related to parent and community involvement
- PIAC aims to be a reflection of all groups to ensure that human rights and equity policies are upheld
- PIAC works with the TDSB and other educational institutions to encourage greater parent involvement
- PIAC is constantly seeking ideas and input from all school community members

- PIAC has contributed significantly to the TDSB's new Principal/Vice Principal selection process
- for more information, contact Kate at lkwallis@primus.ca or 647-406-5317

9. FSLAC Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher

- NB* Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed; contact Sheila or Cathy for more information

10. New Business:

The next Ward 16 Council Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 15th at Bowmore Road Jr & Sr PS, 80 Bowmore Road. The "theme" for this meeting will be *Community Use of Schools* (i.e. facilities, permits, etc.)

Please forward all questions/concerns raised by your respective school communities on this issue to Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca as soon as possible so that they may be shared with our speakers/special guests in advance of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.