

Ward 16 Council Meeting – April 7, 2014

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Beaches Alternative/Kimberley: Lilian Hanson (P); Bowmore: Karin Eaton; Crescent Town: Tammy Ross (P); Crescent Town: Cathy McAleese (VP); Duke of Connaught: Beverly O'Brien (P); Duke of Connaught: David Darling; Duke of Connaught: Sara Tropea; Earl Beatty: Myrica Gratton; Earl Haig: Scott McPhee; George Webster: Kim Pividor (P); Gledhill: Andy McLachlan (P); Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Kew Beach: Sarah Crymble; Selwyn: Lenore Brooks; PIAC: Kate Wallis; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; Vicky Branco (S); TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Tammy Ross, Principal – Crescent Town ES
2. Overview of Host School – Tammy Ross, Principal – Crescent Town ES
 - school opened in 1973 on original site of Massey Estate
 - facility has undergone major construction in recent years
 - enrolment > 760 in Grades JK-4; 270 of which are Kindergarten students; NB*Grade 5 students now attend George Webster
 - culturally diverse school community; more than 90% of students first language is not English
 - Full Day Kindergarten was implemented in 2012
 - as TDSB Model School for Inner Cities, Crescent Town staff, parents, and school community are committed to providing increased educational opportunities and rich learning experiences for all students
 - EcoSchool certified – Silver (June, 2013)
 - students continue to work with City of Toronto staff to create and maintain protected wetlands area in parkland adjacent to school
 - daily snack program provided by Toronto Foundation for Student Success
 - programs offered: English as a Second Language (ESL); Home School Program (HSP); Early Reading Intervention (ERI); Reading Recovery; 3 to 3 Oral Language; Literacy Enrichment Academic Program (LEAP); Integrated Arts; International Languages; Neighbourhood Link Homework Help
 - extra-curricular clubs, sports, intramurals include: prefects, choir, cross country, track and field, etc.
 - many parents volunteer in classrooms and on excursions after completing a training workshop
 - School Council works alongside school administrators to promote student success
 - also located on site > Parenting and Family Literacy Centre; Settlement Worker services
3. Ward 16 Parent Conference Next Steps – Vicky
 - plans to be completed by June 2014
 - audience > parents/caregivers of all Ward 16 students
 - conference date(s) > event to be held on 4 evenings instead of 1 day and will be held in place Ward Council meeting; event will be promoted as something other than a Ward 16 Council meeting (exact name/meeting rebrand is yet to be determined); event will run 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; child minding and translation services will be also be provided free of charge
 - earliest possible conference date > November 2014
 - Cathy to provide list of proposed Ward Council meeting and conference/theme meeting dates at next Ward Council meeting; probably looking at 4 conference/theme meetings in 2014-2015 school year
 - format > suggest 15 minute presentation followed by 45 minute discussion; focus on dialogue
 - presenters > could be parents, TDSB staff or others !?!
 - conference themes/topics to be decided upon by parents of Ward 16 students via survey, i.e. TDSB version of Survey Monkey to encourage participation, survey to include at least one open-ended/Appreciative Inquiry question (FYI, Appreciative Inquiry asks questions by envisioning the future in order to foster positive relationships and build on the present potential of a given person, organization or situation; common model of Appreciative Inquiry uses 4 processes > (1) Discover – identify processes that work well now; (2) Dream – envision processes that would work in the future; (3) Design – plan and prioritize processes that would work well in the future; (4) Destiny/Deploy – implement/execute proposed design processes)
 - conference themes/topics already developed for consideration by parents of Ward 16 students > Special Education; Physical/Mental Health and Well-Being; School Councils (aka Parent Councils); Curriculum/Education; Parent Engagement; TDSB/The Board
 - Myrica (Earl Beatty) offered to bring clickers to next Ward Council meeting to facilitate conference theme/topic selection

- Cathy and Joel (Gledhill) to create/distribute/collect survey and data before June Ward Council meeting; Cathy to contact Lenore (Selwyn) for more info re recent Selwyn School Council Parent Engagement Survey
 - all Ward 16 school principals and School Council executive will be responsible for promoting (1) survey participation; and, (2) conference/theme meeting attendance via school newsletters, School Council meetings, etc.
 - conference/theme meeting is for **ALL** parents/caregivers not just members of School Council
 - goal > all Ward 16 schools to be represented at conference/theme meetings
 - next steps > develop list of possible locations for conference/theme meeting nights; develop list of possible presenters (once 4 topics have been decided upon)
4. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine
- 20 minute PowerPoint presentation on basic tree care (for both new and/or established trees), Adopt-a-Tree program, and outdoor tree workshop info available now; for more info, contact Catherine
 - pilot project with (LEAF), a non-profit tree advocacy group, will begin in Fall 2014 at 6 Ward 16 schools
 - all Eco certified schools must complete a waste audit every 2 years; school waste audits last about 2 hours and require the assistance of at least 6 students; supplies provided by auditor; for more info and/or to schedule a school waste audit, contact Catherine
 - about 50% of eligible schools now actively participating in TDSB green bin program (i.e. schools have bins); program rollout continues; NB* green bin program is valuable learning opportunity for students, not responsibility of school caretaker; Catherine to promote program in upcoming Ward 16 weekly update
 - East of Eliza (local flower shop and garden centre) donated many perennials to Ward 16 schools last Fall; please let them know that their generosity was appreciated via school newsletter, thank you note, and/or photos as plants now begin to grow
 - 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. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Report – Cathy
- new French Immersion Senior Kindergarten program starting at Bowmore in September 2014; Board decision; school community not consulted; TDSB policy to place all FI applicants where there is space (i.e. Bowmore has space)
 - NB* FI placements are not guaranteed at applicant's home school; French and English programming must remain balanced within each dual track school; TDSB does its best to offer FI placements at nearest school
 - as demand for FI programming within the Ward continues to grow, it is a Ward 16 goal that every student be within walking distance of a FI program
 - Sheila/Vicky not currently considering any "magnet"/all French school(s) in Ward 16
 - Ward 16 Alternate FSLAC Rep needed; responsibilities > attend monthly meeting (at 5050 Yonge Street); attend/report at monthly Ward 16 Council meeting; for more info, contact Cathy
 - next FSLAC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 10th at 5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom; special guest: Executive Superintendent Karen Falconer; discussion to include French summer school, e-learning and study abroad credits
 - as Ward 16 FSLAC Rep, Rita Kamacho represents your interests on this committee; for more info, contact Rita through Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca
6. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate
- 7th Annual PIAC Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference will be held 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue; for more info and to register, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference
 - Principal/Vice Principal selection process now underway; parent representation on interview panel welcome; interested parties must first complete TDSB training session; for more info, contact Kate
 - as a result of the February 2014 Coroner's Inquest into the death of Jeffrey Baldwin (a TDSB student who died at age 5 after years of mistreatment by his grandparents), the TDSB is revising a number of its policies and procedures re student safety
 - TDSB staff have recommended following change to TDSB Police Reference Check (PRC) policy > **ALL volunteers in TDSB schools must be in receipt of a clear Toronto Police Service (TPS) Vulnerable Sector Screening – Police Reference Check (VSS-PRC) before commencing any volunteer activity at a TDSB school**; TPS VSS-PRC cost: \$15 > if cost is an issue, parent/caregiver/community member is advised to speak with school Principal; TPS advises that VSS-PRC processing should take about 4-6 weeks but in some instances, PRCs submitted in 2013-2014 have taken as long as 6 months to be processed
 - NB* receipt/proof of VSS-PRC being submitted will no longer be acceptable; **volunteers must be in receipt of a clear Toronto Police Service Vulnerable Sector Screening – Police Reference Check before commencing any volunteer activity at a TDSB school**
 - if for any reason a VSS-PRC is flagged by TPS, applicant will be required to provide further info and/or fingerprints, and be interviewed by TDSB PRC department staff
 - approved VSS-PRC will remain in effect for 5 years; in years 2-5, volunteers will be required to complete TDSB's online Annual Offence Declaration (AOD)

- some PIAC concerns re new policy include: (1) possible reduction in number of school volunteers due to VSS-PRC cost, and/or cultural fears; (2) increased volume of VSS-PRC will result in longer processing times, i.e. volunteers may not receive clearance letter before January 2015, therefore fewer volunteers available at beginning of school year; (3) administrative nightmare for school principals; (4) VSS-PRC database includes Canadian data only, and only where charges have been laid; (5) difficult to know where to draw the line, i.e. must all visiting artists/special guests, students 18+ years of age working toward community hours, building contractors, etc. in TDSB schools be required to have a clear VSS-PRC??
- PIAC believes that the term *school volunteer* will have to be very clearly defined to ensure consistent enforcement of policy across the TDSB and that any change to existing PRC policy be phased-in over a period of time to minimize impact on schools
- Ward 16 Alternate PIAC Rep needed; responsibilities > attend monthly meeting (at 5050 Yonge Street); become a member of 1 working group committee; attend/report at monthly Ward 16 Council meeting; for more info, contact Kate
- next PIAC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 17th at 5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom
- as Ward 16 PIAC Rep, Kate represents your interests on this committee; for more info, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com

NB* Time now 8:57 p.m. Agenda items 7 and 8 to be carried forward.

7. Superintendent Report – Vicky
8. Trustee Report – Sheila
9. School Sharing/New Business
 - Rita Gallippi, Principal – Adam Beck shared Adam Beck’s *Welcome to FDK* PowerPoint presentation; for more info, contact Rita at rita.gallippi@tdsb.on.ca

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

May 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Malvern CI, 55 Malvern Avenue