

Ward 16 Council Meeting – April 22, 2013

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Beaches Alternative/Kimberley: Lilian Hanson (P); Bowmore: Jenn Petursson; Duke of Connaught: George Patsopoulos (P); Duke of Connaught: Brian Svenningsen (VP); Duke of Connaught: Sara Tropea; Earl Beatty: James Sheppard; Earl Haig: Karen Finley; Earl Haig: Hilary Gray; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Presteign Heights: Niko Kapetanos; Presteign Heights: Elizabeth Faller (P); Presteign Heights: Christine McDonald; Presteign Heights/Gordon A Brown: Tammy McGregor; Presteign Heights: Hilary Rompkey; Presteign Heights: Eva Vasilakakos; Williamson Road: Beverly O'Brien (P); Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Vicky Branco (S); TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Elizabeth Faller, Principal
2. Overview of Host School – Elizabeth Faller
 - school opened in 1951
 - large playground/soccer field has resulted in school site becoming heart of the Parkview Hills community
 - entire student population participates in annual cross country competition
 - proud member of Toronto Schools on the Move (initiative which supports a healthy active school environment)
 - school became TDSB EcoSchool certified – Silver in June 2012
 - other programs offered include: Junior Extended French and Special Education Resource – Home School Program (HSP)
 - active School Advisory Council and Home & School Association; each not only fundraise (i.e. annual Dance-a-thon, Turkey Dinner, etc.) but support student learning through writing contests, art exhibitions and Earth Day celebrations; NB* 2012 Dance-a-thon raised more than \$10,000
 - lunchtime Chess Club, International Languages and After 4 programs (i.e. woodworking, jujitsu, piano, tennis, etc.) are also available
3. Special Presentation re 2013-2014 TDSB Budget – Chris Glover, Trustee Ward 2
 - budget cycle begins in March with decisions re school-based staffing; NB* staff salaries and benefits represent 67% of TDSB overall budget; decisions re staffing are required at this time in order to meet timelines set out in collective agreements and to give schools time to build program/staff timetables for following year
 - on March 7, 2013 TDSB approved 2013 Staff Allocation; for more info, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=177&menuid=41543&pageid=34842>
 - decisions re operational budget to be made in June once government has released its annual budget and Board is advised of funding levels; NB* while gross funding has increased, net funding has decreased
 - savings are being recommended in the following areas: central staffing, facility services, information technology, Reading Recovery lead teachers, central restraints (i.e. international travel), partnerships, continuing education, discretionary budgets, Itinerant Music Instructors, operating grants and other in-year savings; for more info, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=177&menuid=41706&pageid=34995>
 - in addition to operational budget, staff submits report to Board re capital expenditures and projects; as the Ministry of Education funds capital on a project by project basis, the Board must submit a balanced plan before individual projects can move forward; province froze funding for all TDSB capital projects in Fall 2012 pending provincial review; as review continues, no funds have been released for PARCs completed in 2012
 - “one size fits all” simply does not apply to provincial funding of education as each Board’s needs vary dramatically

- parents needed for Toronto Education Action Group (like former Toronto Parent Network) to organize parents across the city, to lobby government, to engage with media, etc. re funding and other issues including proposed TDSB cuts to Itinerant Music Instructors > Sara Tropea (Duke of Connaught) and Kate Wallis (Earl Haig) have graciously volunteered to coordinate this initiative
 - link to Trustee Glover's PowerPoint presentation to follow
4. Extra-Curricular Sub-Committee Report – none
5. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine Dorton
- arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; Tree Captains needed for each Ward 16 school to work with students in order to foster tree stewardship, i.e. “adopt-a-tree” classroom program; NB* have only 6 volunteers at this time
 - volunteers also needed to provide lots of TLC to newly planted trees in Ward 16 school yards over summer months (i.e. lots and lots of water) as this is not a caretaking responsibility; limited number of “gator bags” available; please contact Catherine ASAP if you are able to help!
 - suggestion: Beach Hill Neighbourhood Association may be willing to help with tree maintenance at those Ward 16 schools located in their “hood”; contact bhnacontact@gmail.com
 - Ward 16 Ash Pilot Project in the works; local custom furniture maker (Peter Strysky, Wunderland Café) will create rustic furnishings (i.e. benches, planters, etc.) out of ash trees salvaged from Ward 16 school sites; plan is for Peter to work on furnishings at school site in order to maximize community involvement
 - Emerald Ash Borer expected to destroy 18% of TDSB tree canopy; TDSB hopes to save 5% by inoculation (approximately 1600 of 6500 TDSB ash trees to be inoculated); diseased trees to be replaced with diverse species to ensure that, in future, no one type of tree comprises more than 5% of TDSB tree population; at April Board meeting, Trustees will consider motion to plant 200 new trees each year
 - TDSB Sustainability department has prepared tree maps for each school site; maps identify all trees by location, species, etc.; Ward 16 schools should expect to receive these very soon; for detailed report, visit <https://sustainabilityoffice.box.com/s/ze1k2qp6rwepfbavkmji>
 - suggestion: Ward 16 school tree maps should be kept in each school's Green Globes binder
 - TDSB EcoSchool certification/recertification deadline date is April 26, 2013; all schools encouraged to apply!!
 - for more info re any of the above, and/or to share your green/eco ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca
6. Superintendent Report – Vicky
- became Superintendent ER11 on April, 2013; brief bio > 20 years in education; 12 years in education administration; was VP at Gracefield, P at William Burgess; last 7 years Central Coordinating Principal, TDSB Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC)
 - passionate about kids; lead as a parent; straight shooter
 - currently visiting all Ward 16 schools to better understand needs, etc.
7. Trustee Report – none
8. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate Wallis
- thanks, once again, to all who attended PIAC 3rd Annual S Council Chair Appreciation Dinner in February at Montecassino Hotel; hope to improve Ward 16 representation next year; plans for 2014 event currently underway; comments/feedback always welcome
 - workshop for parents interested in Special Education at the TDSB in the works for Fall 2013; more info to follow
 - Spring 2013 Parent Engagement Workshops, hosted by TDSB Parent and Community Involvement Office being held April-June; for more info, visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=2489&pageid=1984
 - PIAC currently seeking representative for People for Education Network; for more info, visit <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/about-us/our-people/our-network-contacts/>
 - PIAC's mandate is to advise the Board on matters related to parent and community involvement and to provide feedback to the Board on educational matters of broad community interest; as Ward 16 PIAC rep, Kate represents your interests on this committee; please contact Kate with your concerns

- for more info re any of the above, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com
9. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy
- re French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Ward 16 Rep position; Marlene Schmidt (Williamson Road) has advised that she is unable to pursue opportunity at this time; Nick Bougiouklis (Presteign Heights) and Rita Kamacho (Duke of Connaught) to represent Ward 16 at FSLAC; next meeting > 7:00 p.m. on May 23, 2013 at 5050 Yonge St., Committee Room A; we look forward to their reports
 - TDSB released results of 2012 Parent Census (April 2013); for more info, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=310&menuid=4412&pageid=3757>
 - school green bin roll-out scheduled for 2013; roll-out to be implemented in 4 phases; priority will be given to gold and platinum certified EcoSchools, schools with daycares and schools that can demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the green bin program
 - TDSB Summer Learning opportunities now available, for more info, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10641&menuid=41781&pageid=35066>
10. New Business
- school/community sharing:
 - Bowmore > 2 teams participated in March 2013 Scrabble Tournament – senior team placed 6th, junior team placed 3rd; chess tournament, sponsored by Chess Institute of Canada, currently being planned, more info to follow
 - Malvern > one of four schools to participate in Kizuna Bond Project; students stayed with Japanese family hosts and visited Tohoku region of Japan where they learned about Japanese reconstruction efforts following Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

May 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Norway Jr PS, 390 Kingston Road