

## Ward 16 Council Meeting – April 27, 2011

### MINUTES

Present: Selwyn: Carina van Heyst, Selwyn: Melanie Locke, Selwyn: Regina Remisch, Williamson Road: Beverly O'Brien, Earl Beatty: Kate Wallis, EYCI: Lee Ann Reid, Gledhill/Malvern: Ciara Behan, Gledhill: Joel Krentz, Earl Haig: Barb Fine, Neighbourhood Link Support Services: Lorie Fairburn, TDSB: Roula Anastasakos, TDSB: Anne Kerr, TDSB: Catherine Dorton, TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie, TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher

Meeting called to order at 7:14 p.m.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila

- special thanks to Carina van Heyst, Principal - Selwyn ES and Melanie Locke, SAC Chair - Selwyn ES for chairing the meeting

#### 2. Overview of Host School

##### Selwyn ES – Carina van Heyst, Principal

- Selwyn ES opened in 1957
- located between Gordon A. Brown Middle School and Topham Park, Selwyn is “hub” of the community
- Selwyn Community Child Care Centre (for pre-school and school-aged children) on site
- 250+ students are enrolled at Selwyn in Grades JK-5
- programming at Selwyn also includes a gifted program for students in Grades 4 and 5
- Selwyn is one of five schools which feed into Gordon A. Brown MS
- school provides strong literacy and numeracy-based programming; current focus is on mathematical reasoning; school staff partner with parents to support student learning
- Selwyn is a one of 41 Platinum EcoSchools in the TDSB; 40+ students are EcoTeam members; Phase I of Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary and Learning Garden is now complete
- co-curricular programs offered at Selwyn include folk dancing, choir; library helpers and reading clubs; spelling bee competition; and, leadership development
- athletic programs at Selwyn include basketball, cross country, flag football, track and field, and volleyball teams; intramurals are also offered in basketball, Borden ball, dodge ball, and soccer
- students benefit from a very active Home & School and School Council; parents volunteer in classrooms, organize fundraising and community-building events, attend joint Home & School and School Council meetings, etc.

#### 3. Environmental Update – Catherine Dorton, Ward 16 Environmental Coordinator

- of note, Selwyn also has an active vermicomposting program; compost available to school community
- met recently with Diana Suzuki, Livegreen Toronto Community Animator; animators help communities get organized, help them to find information, provide advice and funding to get green ideas growing; animators have helped community members with: planting community gardens, implementing water conservation programs, launching natural food buying clubs, exploring community-based renewable energy options, etc.; Livegreen Toronto Animators Demo now available, contact Catherine for more info
- attended Ward 32 Town Hall meeting in April; proposal to strike a working committee for schoolyard greening projects was discussed
- Ward 16 school gardening initiatives currently underway include:
  - Norway – have received small Green Apple grant; funds to be used to install cedar boxes on school grounds; box build/picnic day is scheduled for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Williamson Road – temporary garden has been planted next to parent gathering place; more ambitious plans, which will require \$\$ as well as considerable union labour, have been posted on school fence; hope to involve Glen Ames and MID (Mild Intellectual Disability) students in projects
  - Adam Beck – plans to plant a woodland garden on hold as site is covered in dangerous debris left when new windows were installed last summer; current focus will be on stewardship (i.e. identifying what is there now, what should be kept and/or what should be disposed of )

Kimberley – community garden being considered; formal parameters re rights and responsibilities of all parties involved currently being developed

Kew Beach – have changed plans for labyrinth courtyard slightly, so that they may apply for Beautiful Neighbourhood grant; “school of fish” now adorns fence around school property (see photos attached); community bonds being sold to finance purchase of additional solar panels to be installed on school roof

- Catherine would like to know which schools, if any, might be interested in pursuing green transportation initiatives (i.e. walking school bus, installation of bike racks, etc.); parent volunteers needed for transportation working group
- Richard Christie, TDSB EcoSchools has indicated that he is willing to adapt EcoSchools program to incorporate accountability for environmentally friendly transportation initiatives
- TDSB EcoSchools program currently producing school videos which promote the initiatives each has taken; Catherine would like Ward 16 schools to get involved; will investigate further
- Lee Ann suggested that school eco initiatives be promoted on (1) One Stop Media monitors currently in use at select TDSB high schools; and/or (2) in a Ward 16 newsletter
- Barb requested Catherine’s assistance at Earl Haig re box gardens and school mural
- Catherine noted that while gardens seem to be the rage right now, it is imperative that schools revisit audit binders to determine other green initiatives (i.e. use of window blinds and lighting, classroom furniture placement, etc.)
- Sheila noted that while installation of solar panels on 9 TDSB school roofs will begin in September 2011, more opportunities will be forthcoming; further info re solar roofs on schools and government funding is expected to be available soon
- mulch is now available (for Ward 16 schools); contact Catherine for more info

#### 4. Superintendent Report – Roula Anastasakos, Superintendent FOS SE6

- Anne at planning meeting re upcoming TDSB Futures Conference this evening; will hopefully join us later
- schools busy preparing for EQAO testing; organizing culminating activities; and, addressing September 2011 staffing issues (including Principal selection)
- Roula explained Principal selection process – in Fall every SAC develops a general Principal/Vice Principal school profile; where a vacancy arises, Superintendent meets with Trustee and parent rep to determine specific school needs (usually in Spring); Superintendent interviews prospective candidates (from Board-wide pool); Superintendent then introduces selected candidate to Trustee and parent rep; once all parties agree on a suitable candidate, Superintendent takes recommendation to June Board Meeting for approval
- Kate indicated that she had participated in interview process for advancement Principal candidates (for inclusion in Board-wide pool); Kate found process elevated her understanding of the education system and promoted invigorating conversation/thoughtful reflection
- Anne added that parental participation in process provided Board staff with a different, very valuable perspective
- of note, selection of Vice Principal candidates is not part of pilot process at this time
- Lee Ann asked whether Principal candidates are quantifiably rated and/or psychometrically tested > Superintendents confirmed that Principal candidates are quantifiable rated but not psychometrically tested
- TDSB staff continuing to tweak issues with *Growing Success* reporting document; develop protocols/procedures to ensure consistent enforcement of plagiarism policy, etc.
- sites for final 2 years of Full day kindergarten (FDK) implementation being considered; remaining populations must be split equally; of note, no Ward 16 schools will get FDK in September 2011; 4 Ward 16 schools (Crescent Town, Earl Beatty, Parkside and Presteign Heights) will get FDK in September 2012
- May is Asian Heritage Month in the TDSB; celebrations will be held throughout the month; see <https://mytdsb.on.ca/+CSCO+ch756767633A2F2F6771666F6A726F2E6771666F2E62612E706E++/MediaRoom/tdsbwebRoom.asp?show=allNews&view=detailed&enableNav=true&self=18814> for more info
- Children’s Mental Health Week in TDSB – May 1-7, 2011
- TDSB Education Week – May 2-6, 2011; Monday, May 2, 2011 is also Music Monday
- TDSB Futures Conference: Innovation in Global Education to be held May 2-4, 2011 at Allstream Centre; keynote speakers include Stephen Lewis, Marc Kielburger and Barbara Coloroso; 40 TDSB schools will also be showcasing their work in social justice; it is expected that conference attendees will include school Principals, teachers, teacher candidates, parents from the GTA and elsewhere

- TDSB at CNE will be held on August 30, 2011 – an engaging, inspiring, educational, fun day for students, families and staff; admission will be free to elementary and secondary students; admission will be discounted for families and staff; <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/cne/> for more info

#### 5. Trustee Report – Sheila

- parental input requested re draft Strategic Directions document; developed by TDSB in collaboration with input from stakeholders/focus groups over 8-month period; purpose - to provide direction to TDSB Trustees/Senior Staff for next four years; please send feedback/comments to Trustee Bolton at [chris@chrisbolton.ca](mailto:chris@chrisbolton.ca) no later than May 11, 2011 (\*deadline has now been extended to June 8, 2011\*)
- pediatric clinic opened at George Webster ES on March 31, 2011; clinic is run in partnership with TDSB's Model Schools for Inner Cities Program, the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services; it is the second of many clinics the TDSB hopes to open in its inner city schools; medical professionals will provide services two half-days a week to students of George Webster and their siblings, as well as to children registered in the school's Parenting and Family Literacy Centre; the clinic will also serve students from nearby schools on a referral basis
- TDSB Parent Engagement Office will hold info night re School Councils: Planning for the 2011-2012 School Year at 6:00 p.m. on May 24, 2011 at Danforth Collegiate & Technical Institute; please call 416-397-3529 to register
- 2011-2012 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant program now available; \$1,000 grants are available to school councils for programs/activities which support school-based initiatives designed to reach parents who face barriers to becoming involved in their child's education; application deadline is Friday, May 13, 2011; see <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html> for more info

#### 6. Ward 16 Representatives: PIAC/FSLAC/SEAC – Sheila

- Ward 16 French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Representative still needed
- Ward 16 representative for Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) still needed
- for more information about these and other TDSB Parent Advisory Committees please go to [www.tdsb.on.ca](http://www.tdsb.on.ca) select Parents then select Parent Involvement; or, contact Cathy MacKenzie at [cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-395-8413
- PIAC Report: Kate noted that PIAC has requested name/email address of one person from each Ward 16 school with a pool so that they may be advised of any pool related issues (i.e. funding, etc.) as they might arise; Cathy to provide Kate with SAC Chair contact info for these schools

#### 7. New Business

- Lorie reported that Neighbourhood Link Support Services recently held a public speaking contest for newcomers; 10 participants each spoke in English for 3 minutes; all were well-spoken; personal stories were very moving
- Lee Ann asked if Trustees were also responsible for Adult Learning programs > Sheila indicated that adult learning models have changed considerably in recent years as a result of provincial government changes to the funding formula; in keeping with the Director's vision to provide learning opportunities for adults, TDSB Continuing Education staff continue to help adults, age 20-21 years, complete their high school education

NEXT MEETING  
**Thursday, June 16, 2011**  
 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 DA Morrison MS

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.