

Ward 16 Council Meeting – May 15, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Sharon Gomes; Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Bowmore: Lilian Hanson (P); Bowmore: Shelly Babodall; Bowmore: Ellen Braganca; Bowmore: Rebecca Collier-Doyle; Bowmore: Kyle Duncan; Bowmore: Susana Molinolo; Bowmore: Debora Morran; Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee (CUSAC): Cassie Bell; CUSAC: Susan Fletcher; Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Earl Haig: Barb Fine; Kew Beach: Shannon Morrison; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos (S); TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Brian Harris (S); TDSB: Salin John; TDSB: Kitty Leung; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie; TDSB: Cynthia Zwicker-Reston; Community Member: Tane Akamatsu; Community Member: Elizabeth Grundon; Community Member: Ben Robins

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

Meeting called to order at 7:21 p.m.

1. Welcome: Rebecca Collier, Bowmore Road Jr & Sr PS School Advisory Co-Chair
2. Overview of Host School: Lilian Hanson, Principal Bowmore Road Jr & Sr PS
 - school established in 1989 as result of twinning Bowmore Road PS > JK-6 (then 83 years old) and Fairmount Park Senior School > Gr 7-8 (then 43 years old)
 - 700+ students currently enrolled in JK-Gr 8; school's caring culture promotes "everyone belongs"
 - 6 bus routes transport children to school each day
 - school programs include: Extended French (Gr 7&8); Home School Program (HSP); Intensive Support Programs – Special Ed, Learning Disability and Gifted (Gr 4-8)
 - co-curricular programs include: touch football; basketball; volleyball; ice hockey; ultimate Frisbee; swim team; cross country; track and field; primary and junior choirs; senior jazz band; student activity council; school ambassadors; student leadership
 - annual participant in Sprockets – Toronto International Film Festival for Children; proud top 10 finalist
 - Bowmore is a Gold EcoSchool; Peace Garden completed 2011; Butterfly Garden in the works; delamping program currently underway; ongoing programs include: litterless lunch program; anti-idling campaign; EcoStewards program
 - school also houses a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre, Bowmore Community Daycare, and Bowmore Child Enrichment Centre
 - school building equipped with 2 elevators, a swimming pool, a sensory room, a servery and 2 gyms
 - fabulous Facebook page created and maintained by parent
 - parents actively engaged in school activities
 - School Advisory Council has tiered election process; all SAC executive elected for 1 year term; 1 Co-Chair elected in May; 1 Co-Chair elected in September to facilitate transitioning; members work collaboratively with school staff; fundraising monies used to support current as well as previous year's school initiatives (i.e. 2010-2011 monies raised supported school athletics; 2011-2012 monies raised supported school music program and school athletics; 2012-2013 monies will support program yet to be determined as well as the school music program)
 - Pool Captain, Susana Molinolo and dedicated group of parent volunteers continue to work closely with City of Toronto Parks and Recreation staff to increase use of pool located onsite (Fairmount Community Centre); Family Swim every Friday night, cost \$1
3. Special Presentation – *Community Use of Schools/Schools as Community Hubs*:

Salin John – Facilitator, South East Region

- TDSB Community Use of Schools, Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) – joint project between the TDSB and the Ministry of Education aimed at making TDSB school spaces more accessible to the community; objective is to improve overall student achievement by providing quality, affordable, after-school programs for students, parents and

community members; program provides not-for-profit organizations free after-hours access to school facilities in communities that need it most (after-hours access Monday-Friday, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

- TDSB currently has 77 PSI schools; only PSI school in Ward 16 is DA Morrison MS
- qualifying programs must promote: health and wellness, sports and recreation, leadership and development, arts and culture, counselling, settlement, literacy, social, environment, and civic engagement; for more info contact Salin John at 416-395-4830 or salin.john@tdsb.on.ca
- NB* permit applicants must have liability insurance; if applicant has no insurance, TDSB can provide same at a reasonable cost
- permit applications available online; applications for 2012-2013 school year now being accepted; deadline date for renewal applications is June 1, 2012; fees are charged in accordance with an established schedule
- for more info re TDSB Community Use of Schools and the Priority School initiative, see PowerPoint presentation attached

Cynthia Zwicker-Reston – Lead Principal, Full Service Schools

- TDSB Community Use of Schools, Full Service Schools (FSS) – TDSB schools partner with community organizations/agencies to provide specialized education, health and social service programs; goal is to improve the quality of life of students, families and communities
- TDSB currently has 16 FSS; only FSS in Ward 16 is Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS
- as each school/community is different, meetings are held regularly with students, staff, parents, community members and community partners at each school to ensure services being offered best meet that particular community's needs
- for more info see <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10521&menuid=29573&pageid=25334>

Susan Fletcher, Cassie Bell – Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee

- top ten reasons to support affordable community access to school space:
 - (1) improves student performance
 - (2) encourages artistic and cultural expression to create vibrant communities and expands capacity for learning
 - (3) promotes life-long learning
 - (4) use of school space is good value for taxpayers
 - (5) encourages physical activity and healthy lifestyle development
 - (6) promotes safer neighbourhoods and crime prevention
 - (7) increases opportunities for newcomer settlement and integration
 - (8) supports and sustains free or low-fee community programs fostering accessibility and inclusion
 - (9) promotes volunteerism and community participation for all age groups
 - (10) promotes community well-being
- for more info see Saving Public Access to Community Space Everywhere (SPACE) at <http://spacecoalition.ca/>
- broader vision for use of school space needed
- usage fees directly related to provincial funding formula; government not funding its own initiatives; current budget challenges may force TDSB to increase permit fees (NB* as usage fees go up, demand for space goes down)
- to ensure equitable access to community programming for all it is imperative that every parent become an advocate and lobby their respective government representatives now; be sure to offer possible solutions
- City of Toronto will conduct community infrastructure review later this year; make your voice heard
- TDSB permit fee schedule charges different rates for different types of groups/organizations and type of service being offered; Applegrove Community Centre is a non-profit and is willing to partner with interested community groups; for more info contact Susan at 416-461-8143 or susan@applegrovecc.ca
- of note, Family Resource Program currently located at Earl Haig PS is looking for new location in area south of Danforth, between Jones and Woodbine; contact Susan at 416-461-8143 or susan@applegrovecc.ca, if you can help
- Lilian shared her concerns re program availability for pre-adolescents; parent advocates advised to start small; work toward/advocate for one goal at a time

Kitty Leung – Facility Permitting Coordinator

- TDSB is committed to providing community groups with reasonable access to public schools when facilities are not being used for regular school activities
- to ensure that all community groups have fair and equitable access to school facilities, they must first apply for a permit; permits will be issued depending upon the availability of suitable space, caretaking staff and/or any other Board approved personnel; permits are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis; fees are charged in accordance with an established schedule
- permit applications are available online; applications for 2012-2013 school year now being accepted; deadline date for renewal applications is June 1, 2012
- for more info see <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=179&menuid=718&pageid=575>

- Kate offered to create comprehensive one-page overview of TDSB permitting process

4. School Reports – none

5. Environmental Coordinator Report: Catherine Dorton

- Gledhill Neighbourhood Tree Tour will be held on Saturday, June 16th, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; cost - \$5 donation (per person) > learn about the benefits of trees in schools, biodiversity, tree identification and care; for more info see flyer attached
- Green Thumbs Growing Kids Garden Open Houses – Sprucecourt PS, May 15th, 5-6PM; Winchester PS, May 22, 5-6PM; Rose Avenue PS, May 29, 5-6PM; for more info see <http://www.kidsgrowing.ca/>
- Catherine now EcoSchool Auditor for Ward 16 schools; for more info, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca
- winners of April 2012 Lights-Out campaign prizes > Bowmore; Kimberley and Williamson Road

6. Superintendent Report: Roula Anastasakos, Brian Harris, Beth Butcher – none

7. Trustee Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher – none

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

- March 2012, Board approved budget cuts totalling \$50.6 million; however, further \$58.2 million must be found in order to balance 2012/2013 budget
- Board will vote on budget at Special Board Meeting scheduled for June 13, 2012
- concerned parents held press conference at Etobicoke CI re proposed budget cuts on May 15th; for more info see Press Release attached
- TDSB Trustees will hold ward forums to discuss budget challenges with parents, constituents, etc. in next few weeks
- Ward 16 Budget Forum to be held early June; more info re date and location to follow
- to better understand budget challenges Board currently faces, see Chris Glover's (Trustee Ward 2) 20 minute video presentation at <http://vimeo.com/42213082>
- follow/join TDSB School Councils Facebook group for more info

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 June 4th at Secord ES, 101 Barrington Avenue.
The "theme" for this meeting will be *2012-2013 TDSB Budget*.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.