

Ward 16 Council Meeting – June 4, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Bowmore: Kyle Duncan; Bowmore: Susana Molinolo; Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Gledhill: Sharon McNickle; Secord: Juanita Downey; Secord: Lisa Moser (P); Secord: Anastasia Poulis (VP); Secord: Heather Tormey; Victoria Park: Sandra Ballard; Victoria Park: Marnie Peacock; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos(S); TDSB: Beth Butcher (S); TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Sarah Fairweather; TDSB: Heather Johnson; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. Welcome: Heather Tormey, Secord ES School Advisory Co-Chair

2. Special Presentation – **2012/13 TDSB Budget**

Chris Glover – Trustee, Ward 2

- TDSB facing budget shortfall of \$110 million for 2012/13 school year
- in March 2012, Board approved budget cuts totaling \$50.6 million; on June 13th Board will vote on further \$58.2 million in cuts; for more info, see June Board Cuts document attached
- Trustees will attempt to cut those programs/services which will affect the fewest number of students
- imperative that public find out how budget cuts will affect all children, school, staffing, etc. > learn more re global impact of budget cuts; contact school Principal to learn more about how budget cuts will directly affect **your** children, school, staffing, etc.; lobby MPPs for more education \$\$ for all school boards
- NB* recent Drummond report made no mention of revenues, recommended service cuts only

Recommendations ..

- province commission an independent review of education funding (like Rozanski Report, 2002) immediately
- province provide detailed plans showing how they plan to fund Full Day Kindergarten
- province charge all residential land developers an education development fee to help offset cost of building new schools and/or renovating/improving existing schools, etc.; see Ontario Planning Act, Section 37, for more info
- TDSB partner with City of Toronto Parks & Rec to improve school facilities thereby increasing community use of schools

Fears include, but are not limited to ..

- privatization/corporate sponsorship of schools > *he who pays the piper, calls the tune*; happening in England now; see Guardian website at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/schoolprivatisation> for more info; no place for corporate interference in our schools
- school closures > provincial government definition of “student” very narrow (i.e. does not include adult learners); school utilization rates appear lower than they really are; as a result, province is likely to close more schools
- fundraising/charitable donations > will become essential source of school funding; as ability of school community to fundraise is not universal, inequities will abound

Action to be taken immediately ..

- write letters/sign petitions > all parents/taxpayers need to let elected officials know of their concerns
- peaceful protests > parents/taxpayers organize assemblies outside TDSB, Queen’s Park, etc.
- news media/social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) > spread the word; post comments on Twitter at #tdsbcuts

Important dates:

- re TDSB Advertising Policy > Program and School Services Committee - 5:00 p.m. on June 6, 2012 at TDSB (5050 Yonge Street); discussion re TDSB Advertising Policy DEFERRED
- re budget > Press Conference - 6:30 p.m. on June 6, 2012 at TDSB (5050 Yonge Street) CANCELLED
- re budget > Participatory Budget Consultation - 7:00 p.m. on June 7, 2012 at TDSB (5050 Yonge Street)

- re budget > Special Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. on June 13, 2012 at TDSB (5050 Yonge Street)
3. School Reports – none
 4. 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
 5. Superintendent Report: Roula Anastasakos, Brian Harris, Beth Butcher – none
 6. Trustee Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher
 - plan to educate/mobilize Ward 16 Council members re TDSB Advertising Policy and 2012-2013 TDSB budget commencing October 2012
 7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report: Kate Wallis
 - parents need to know/understand how TSDB budget cuts will affect **all** TDSB students; check out June Board Cuts at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/about_us/budget_information/docs/BudgetConsultationJune7.pdf; contact *your* school Principal to learn how budget cuts will affect *your* children/school in 2012-2013
 - parents need to let elected officials know of their concerns; online petition in the works (more info to follow)
 - parent reps to meet with NDP and PC education critics in next few days
 - need to mobilize all parents throughout the province re education budget cuts by any means (i.e. news media, social media, etc.)
 - organizing press conference for 6:30 p.m. on June 13, 2012 at TDSB, 5050 Yonge Street
 8. FSLAC Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher
 - consultation currently underway for TDSB French as a Second Language Policy; for more info and to view draft policy/provide your input go to <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=206&menuid=40030&pageid=33514>
 - NB* Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed; contact Sheila or Cathy for more information
 9. New Business – none

2012-2013 Ward Council Meeting dates/locations attached.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.