

## Ward 16 Council Meeting – June 16, 2011

### MINUTES

Present: D.A. Morrison: Marlene Wolinsky, D.A. Morrison: Joe Messersi, Balmy Beach: Kim Jensen, Secord: George Patsopoulos, Earl Beatty: Kate Wallis, Kew Beach: Shannon Morrison, Selwyn: Melanie Locke, TDSB: Roula Anastasakos, TDSB: Anne Kerr, TDSB: Catherine Dorton, TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie, TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila

- special thanks to Marlene Wolinsky, Principal – D.A. Morrison MS and Joe Messersi, Vice Principal – D.A. Morrison for hosting the meeting

#### 2. Overview of Host School

##### D.A. Morrison MS – Marlene Wolinsky, Principal

- D.A. Morrison Middle School (formerly a Junior High School) has been a neighbourhood fixture for more than 50 years
- 550+ students (evenly spread across grades 6, 7 and 8) are enrolled at DA Morrison
- majority of students are Crescent Town ES and Secord ES alumni
- of note, school is closed to optional attendance for the 2011-2012 school year
- member of the TDSB Model School for Inner Cities program effective September 2011
- facilities include a full-sized pool, double gym, art room, music room (vocal/instrumental) and outdoor playing field; unfortunately, carpentry shop is no longer operational
- staff focus: (1) school culture; and, (2) student success
- school provides strong literacy and numeracy-based programming
- intensive special education programs in Behaviour, Developmental Disability and Learning Disability also available
- mobile computer lab, “Technology on Wheels” houses 30 Apple I-Pads; valuable learning opportunity for all students and staff
- new Code of Conduct introduced this year; “D.A. ROCKS” > R = Respectful; O = On Task; C = Cooperative, K = Know it, S = Safe; initiative spells out behavioural expectations for students and staff; promotes safe and a caring learning environment; D.A. Rocks featured on daily announcements and at monthly recognition assemblies; students whose exemplary behaviour is recognized by staff members and/or their peers receive a ballot for a lucky monthly draw (prizes include \$5 Gift Card to Tim Horton’s, Subway Restaurant, etc.)
- D.A. Morrison MS commitment to athletics underscores belief in need for well-rounded learning experience; sports teams include basketball, cricket, soccer, swimming, track and field, ultimate Frisbee, water polo, etc.
- co-curricular programs offered at D.A. include the arts (music and visual arts), culture, leadership, literacy, math (Gauss and Canadian Mathematics League contests), science and technology (LEGO), mentoring, tutoring, etc.
- D.A. Morrison Grade 7/8 students participate in SEVEC (Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada) program; this home-stay exchange program provides students an opportunity to learn a second language, develop cultural awareness, break down social barriers and/or develop leadership skills
- a hot/cold breakfast program is also available to students 3 days/week courtesy of RE/MAX

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

- would like to explore ways to transition eco culture established in elementary schools over to middle schools
- possible initiatives – leadership/ambassador program, assemblies
- Crescent Town, George Webster, Secord, D.A. Morrison would be good place to start?!?
- EcoSchools green transportation initiative still being developed; ideas re sustainable transportation welcome (i.e. walking school bus, no idling zones, Walking Wednesdays, bike rallies, need for bike racks, etc.); parent volunteers still needed for Environmental Advisory Committee’s Transportation Working Group
- Shannon reported that Kew Beach has (1) a regular Walk to/Wheel to School Day where one student from class with greatest number of students who walked/wheeled to school that day has a chance to win a pair of shoes from

a local retailer; and, (2) a regular Kiss & Ride program where parent volunteers walk students from the curb, where parents drop them off, into the school each morning

- someone suggested that TPS/crossing guards be included in any walking school bus transportation initiative
- Catherine noted that interest in school gardens continues to be strong; advises that schools work together with TDSB Facilities staff to develop appropriate long-range garden plans; intends to start writing grant applications for future garden projects in Fall 2011
- reminder: don't forget to include energy-saving initiatives identified in recent Green Globes audit in future eco/enviro plans for your school
- Sheila advised that installation of solar panels on 9 TDSB school roofs should start over summer months (at no cost to TDSB); many schools will also receive new roofs and/or insulation
- Catherine reported that Kew Beach Solar "green bond program" is still being developed; as group is non-profit/co-op, cash is needed up front for green bonds
- Marlene asked how schools were selected to receive solar panels
- Sheila advised that process is complicated; consideration given to current condition of roof, direction of roof face, risk of theft (of solar panels), etc.; priority list of schools to receive solar panels has been developed but is closely guarded; of note, TDSB must pay \$500 application fee for each school it submits for consideration

4. Superintendent Report – Anne Kerr, Superintendent FOS SE5;  
Roula Anastasakos, Superintendent FOS SE6

- Anne asked parents what they would like for their children and themselves from TDSB middle schools
- Kate advised that she would like to see improved communications between school administrators and parents; she advised that she was recently surprised to learn that (1) her child's teacher was not teaching the curriculum as mandated by the Province of Ontario; and, (2) it is actually her responsibility to keep school administrators apprised of what is going on in her child's classroom; she further advised that she believes that all teachers, school administrators and students should be expected to abide by the same Code of Conduct
- Melanie advised that she would prefer there be no middle schools, instead all elementary schools should offer Grades JK-8; she also advised that school administrators communicate more clearly with parents, particularly re teachers on leave and LTO teachers, their respective start/end dates, related changes to classroom routines, etc. and that, ideally, staff leaves should be effective for an entire school year as students fare better with little disruption to established routines
- Shannon asked if TDSB has any formal process for recognizing teachers whose performance is outstanding
- someone suggested that parents create a checklist of what they and their children appreciate most about their teacher(s); reminders help teachers too!!
- Kim, Principal – Balmy Beach, reported that she encourages parents to write a letter of appreciation to any outstanding teacher and his/her Principal; School Superintendent, Trustee and Director of Education should also be cc'd
- Kate then asked where accountability lies for teachers who are ineffective; she noted that 'behaviour that is ignored, is behaviour that is accepted'
- Anne and Roula described TDSB policy and procedures; of note, all teachers are evaluated regularly; investigations into teacher conduct/misconduct are not assessable by the public; a separate TDSB policy/procedure exists for culpable behaviour; NB\* all parent concerns should be forwarded to school Principal and/or Superintendent
- of note, all Principals and teachers are governed by a Professional Code of Ethics; violations are recorded by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)
- Marlene, Principal – D.A. Morrison, added that EQAO results and District Reviews are another means by which to assess the professional conduct of a school
- Anne described TDSB District Review process: assessment team members (including Program Staff, Principals and Superintendents) arrive at school at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast with school staff; Principal and school staff discuss School Improvement Plan (SIP) and those areas targeted for growth; assessment team is divided into smaller groups; all classrooms are visited by an assessment team for 10-15 minutes that day; assessment team members reconvene throughout the day to note observations and prepare a brief summary; this oral report is presented to school staff by Superintendent before the day's end; 10 days later, school Principal receives formal written assessment report; school staff meet to design an Action Plan (NB\* responsibility for improvement is equally shared by teachers and school administrative staff); Action Plans are supported by TDSB with

professional growth sessions and further discussions with Superintendent; of note, Ministry of Education mandates that all schools be evaluated every 3 years – 50 TDSB schools underwent this process in 2009-2010, 75 in 2010-2011, and 100 more are scheduled for 2011-2012

- Anne and Roula both noted that District Reviews are perceived by all to be a very healthy, productive process

#### 5. Trustee Report – Sheila

- proposed 2011-2012 school year “kick-off” meeting/pot-luck party to be held October 4<sup>th</sup> at Sheila’s home; theme > What is Ward Council??
- proposed 2011-2012 Ward Council Meeting dates attached; Principals please include reminder in school newsletters
- plan to invite all Ward 16 Principals and/or Vice Principals, School Advisory Council (SAC) Chair(s) and/or their Ward Council Rep (request that all SAC’s elect/appoint a Ward Council Representative)
- 2011-2012 Ward Council initiatives: “theme” meetings, i.e. School “Greening” Initiatives, Fun Fairs, Expectations: What Parents Can Expect from Schools (i.e. Director of Education, Trustee, Superintendent, Principal/Vice Principal, Teacher) and What Schools Can Expect from Students and their Parents/Caregivers; PIAC, PRO Grants, TDSB performance appraisal process; guest speakers, i.e. Chris Spence; parent “fireside chat” meeting to discuss current issues
- *save the date!!*: Provincial Candidates Meeting – September 20, 2011, 7PM at Secord ES; more info to follow
- **DON’T FORGET!!**: TDSB at CNE – August 30, 2011; for more info see [www.tdsb.on.ca/cne/](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/cne/)

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

- Ward 16 French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Representative still needed
- PIAC Alternate Representative, Bob Spencer, has advised that he is unable to fulfill 2 year commitment
- Shannon indicated that she would be interested in the position of Ward 16 PIAC Alternate Representative
- Sheila reported that Ministry of Education has now mandated that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) must include 8 parent representatives, 2 from each TDSB quadrant, in addition to representatives from various special interest groups (NB\* 8 parent reps, all who have children with special needs, have now been appointed)
- 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

#### 7. New Business

- Sheila advised that school boundaries/optional attendance policy continues to be an issue; process is very complicated

NEXT MEETING  
2011-2012 School Year Kick-off Potluck  
**October 4, 2011**  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Sheila’s House, 49 Williamson Road

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.