

Ward 16 Council Meeting – June 17, 2013

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Bowmore: Jenn Petursson; Earl Beatty: James Sheppard; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Kimberley: Lilian Hanson (P); Malvern: Alyse Rosenberg; Presteign Heights: Eva Vasilakakos; Presteign Heights: Tammy McGregor; Victoria Park: Gail Croll (P); Victoria Park: Heather Tanner; Victoria Park: Mandy Tidy; Victoria Park: Marnie Peacock; Victoria Park: Teresa Mathews; Victoria Park: Vicky Andreacchio; Williamson Road: Beverly O'Brien (P); Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Vicky Branco (S); TDSB: Kim Pividor (P); TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila
2. Overview of Host School – Gail Croll, Principal
 - current building completed in 1952; in 1996, all classrooms and school office were refurbished
 - motto – “respect, responsibility and a readiness to learn”
 - serves about 150 students in Grades JK-5 from many different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
 - school includes 3 self contained special education classes for children with developmental disabilities: Diagnostic Kindergarten; Primary Intensive Support; and, Junior Intensive Support; when appropriate, children with special needs are integrated into regular classes to enrich learning opportunities of all students
 - certified Silver EcoSchool (June 2013)
 - supportive parent community helps to enrich school experience for students
 - co-curricular activities include: cross-country, track and field, kilometre club, speed stacking, scooterboards, chess club, library helpers, etc.
 - also home to Tiago Avenue Community Child Care; non-profit, licensed child care; serving children aged 2 years 6 months to 10 years
3. Extra-Curricular Sub-Committee Report – Alyse
 - working on comprehensive “kit” re how to run extra-curriculars should teachers withdraw services again
 - will draw from members’ experiences (no need to reinvent the wheel!!)
 - *suggestion* > invite personnel from TDSB Permit department to present at future Ward Council meeting
4. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine
 - arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; tree curriculum for JK-8, complete; Grade 7&8 curriculum – “in the works”; Bowmore outdoor classroom to open Fall 2013
 - tree watering programs in place at Crescent Town, Kimberley, EYCI thanks to volunteers from Kimberley, EYCI, Malvern, Neighbourhood Link and Centre 55; Ward 16 school community becoming more and more engaged in tree care
 - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update > while funding to inoculate 1500 TDSB trees was available, only 1000 trees were suitable recipients; removal of dead ash trees very costly; local carpenter willing to repurpose wood at reasonable rate (beetle does not damage tree trunk); woodworking can be done on site, if desired; NB* City planning to mulch trunks of infected ash trees; for more info, contact Catherine
 - *concern* > not all TDSB Facilities personnel laying mulch properly around tree bases (improper application could result in trunk rot); send pics to Sheila/Catherine so that they might better advocate for better tree planting procedures
 - free Apple apps: Leaf Snap – uses visual recognition software to identify tree species from leaf photos; WeBIRD, birdsong app identifies feathered friends by their tweets
 - Victoria Park ES recently awarded TD Friends of the Environment grant
 - Kew Beach EcoCamp for students in Grades 4-8 will be held August 19-23; cost \$175 (bursaries available); program developed by TREC Education; for more info, visit www.kewbeachecocamp.wordpress.com; hope to make this an annual event
 - for more info re any of the above, and/or to share your green/eco ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca

5. Superintendent Report – Vicky

- Board meeting June 19, begins at 2:00 p.m.; private meeting 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.; public meeting 7:00 p.m.; June 20th on hold for carryover, if required; budget must be passed at this meeting or TDSB will be put under provincial supervision; proposed cuts to Itinerant Music Instructor (IMI) programs getting lots of media attention
- *discussion re IMI programs* > issue of equity – no new programs regardless of need; some schools have excellent music teachers and IMIs, other schools have neither
- *suggestion* > each Family of Schools share IMIs; rotate IMIs from school to school
- *concerns* > IMI program not being implemented as intended, i.e. Itinerant Music Instructors are **not** supply teachers, IMIs provide valuable Professional Development opportunity for classroom teachers; parents at some schools have raised huge amounts of money for own school music program; have purchased many instruments through TDSB; now appears instruments have become TDSB property rather than school property!?!)

6. Trustee Report – Sheila

- will not vote for budget at Board meeting on June 19th; rationale > provincial funding formula is insane; 13th consecutive year of education funding cuts; in 2013, province also demanded that TDSB pay off \$40 million debenture; government micromanagement centralizing control while decentralizing blame; provincial supervision welcome – “let them figure out how to fix it!”
- *comment* > public needs to better understand provincial funding formula; effect on TDSB budget; what being put under provincial supervision really means; how being under provincial supervision will directly/indirectly affect students; media coverage needed
- *recommendation* > future participatory budget meetings be streamed live on tdsb.on.ca
- re FDK - Adam Beck: will get 2 classrooms renovated and 2 portables; George Webster: will get 36 portables
- re FI at EYCI - planning underway for September 2015 implementation

7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate

- new P/VP recommendations going to Board June 2013; School Advisory Councils expected to complete School Statement of Needs (SSON) each year; info contained therein used by Superintendent to select suitable P/VP candidate(s) as required; parents encouraged to participate in Board-wide VP selection process, participants must complete one evening training course, offered 2x each year; for more info, contact Kate
- *comment* > parents would like to be more involved in P placement/selection process
- NB* PIAC looking for feedback re SSON process from SACs at schools with new P/VP's; for more info, contact Kate
- upcoming events: **October 19** - PIAC/SEAC Special Education: Empowering Families through Knowledge and Networking; **November 2** - People for Education Annual Conference: Making Connections; **November 16** - PIAC Annual Parent Conference; **February 2014**: PIAC Annual Chair Appreciation Dinner
- next PIAC meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 12, 2013 at 5050 Yonge Street
- as Ward 16 PIAC rep, Kate represents your interests on this committee; for more info, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com

8. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy

- next FSLAC meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on September 12, 2013 at 5050 Yonge Street

9. New Business

- school/community sharing:
- Beaches Alternative/Kimberley > Fun Fair raised \$2,000; certified Gold EcoSchool, June 2013; student council runs lunch/green bin program; school run daily snack program (fruit/veggies only) generates no garbage, has created noticeable change in students' attitudes re snack choices; one class of Grade 1 students now “tweeting” parents from 5 i-Pads; second Grade 1 class to receive 5 i-Pads later this year thanks to SAC partnership
- Bowmore > swim meet and Fun Fair to be held this week; playday scheduled for June 19th; hosted Ward-wide chess tournament for students in Grades 1-6, great time had by all; certified Platinum EcoSchool, June 2013
- Gledhill > native plant sale huge success; plants from St. Williams Nursery – Canada's first forestry nursery which now produces native grasses, shrubs, wildflowers and seed; located on north shore of Lake Erie; excellent quality plants at great prices!
- Victoria Park > Toronto Argonauts (players, cheerleaders, Jason the mascot) and Goodlife Fitness introduced students to Argo-Cize recess program in June – program engages and educates students re the importance of physical activity and healthy eating (see TDSB Facebook page for pics); sensory garden almost finished; 6 i-Pad minis have recently been purchased thanks to IBM grant
- Williamson Road > Grade 6 Boys Soccer team won City championship; first year for school cricket team – students, teachers and community had fun/learned a lot; Junefest – no dunk tank, photo booth instead; digital classroom program expanding, now includes laptops, smart boards, Google docs, etc; planning for 100th anniversary celebration has begun; parents working hard to raise \$150,000 for track renovation

- Neighbourhood Link > register for Kick Start Summer Camp now; Kick Start After School Program available at Crescent Town September 2013; \$40,000 RBC Kick Start grant will also help fund Crescent Town garden
- Kew Beach Eco-Leadership Camp – August 2013; camp led by Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative (TREC) Education and supported by TDSB and Bluffs Advocate; for more info, visit kewbeachecocamp.wordpress.com
- TDSB Summer Programs > register now; for more info, visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10641&menuid=41781&pageid=35066>

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

October 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Sheila's home, 49 Williamson Road