

Ward 16 Council Meeting – October 4, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Adam Beck: Alison Hall (VP); Adam Beck: Sharon Gomes; Balmy Beach: Lenna Kozovski (P); Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Beaches Alternative: Lilian Hanson (P); Beaches Alternative: Sean Curran; Bowmore: Jennifer Hermanson; Bowmore: Melissa Kittmer; Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Duke of Connaught: Sarah Tropea; Earl Beatty: James Sheppard; Earl Haig: Olga Ellis (P); Earl Haig: Barb Fine; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; EYCI: Karen Hume (P); Gledhill: Andy McLachlan (P); Glen Ames: Katherine Noel (P); GA Brown: Kim Jensen (P); Kew Beach: Sarah Nauman (P); Kew Beach: Emilee Holt-Staffel; Kew Beach: Shannon Morrison; Kew Beach: Chris Roberts; Kimberley: Amy CharlesChiu; Norway: Carina van Heyst (P); Parkside: Joanne Mardanis; Secord: Parvez Kamal; Secord: Heather Tormey; Selwyn: Paul Friberg (P); Victoria Park: Rob Tidy; Williamson Road: Beverly O'Brien (P); Williamson Road: Evadne Macedo; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

1. Mix, Mingle and Munch

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

2. Welcome and Introductions – Sheila

3. Special Guests – Jennifer Moore, Rina DeDonato, Girls on the Run

- Girls on the Run is a transformational learning program for 8 to 13 year-old girls which teaches life skills through dynamic, conversation-based lessons and running games; the program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event
- the goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness
- programs: Girls on the Run (Grades 3-6) and Girls on the Move (Grades 6-8); offered as after school programs (15 girls/2 coaches); programs run 10-12 weeks and are led by volunteer coaches who may be parents and/or teachers
- programs encourage positive emotional, social, mental and physical development; volunteer coaches help participants to (1) examine and better understand who they are and what is important to them; (2) appreciate the importance of team work and healthy relationships; and, (3) learn how they can positively connect with and shape the world
- cost \$139/girl; some schools fundraise to subsidize this cost; scholarships are also available through Girls on the Run
- Girls on the Run programs have previously been offered at Bowmore Jr & Sr PS and Earl Haig PS
- Girls on the Run supports TDSB Young Women on the Move program which similarly empowers girls to be agents of change; utilizing confidence and courage they attempt to create a more caring and positive world
- of note, Boys on the Run programs have been attempted; unfortunately boys programs were not success as boys were not able to *sit* long enough to talk things through
- for more info re Girls on the Run, please visit www.girlsontherun.ca or contact Rina DeDonato, Council Director at rina@girlsontherun.ca or 416-798-8836
- for more info re TDSB Young Women on the Move, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10483&menuid=30789&pageid=26337>

4. Educational Challenges: Focus on the Future – Sheila/Roula

- Bill 115; for more info, please visit http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?BillID=2665
- Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) has asked teachers to “take a pause” every Monday by refraining from providing their employers with any voluntary work and by arriving/leaving school no more than 30 minutes before/after the teaching day begins; in addition, teachers have been asked not to take part in any school-based,

system-wide or ministry-mandated meetings on Mondays; for more info, please visit

<http://www.etfo.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

- ETFO will hold strike vote this evening
- NB* provincial government is to blame for teachers' actions
- would like to know how Ward 16 schools/parents are dealing with these issues/working together to minimize impact on children
- parents report that (1) communication between TDSB/Principals/parents has been extremely poor; (2) TDSB/Principals are not supportive of parents' efforts (obstacles include: police reference checks, liability insurance requirements, permits, etc.); (3) many parents are concerned that efforts to support children with after school teams/activities will undermine teachers' position
- parents would like Trustee/Superintendent to ensure that parents receive accurate info in a timely manner
- as TDSB is not directly involved in this conflict, info is often not readily available (NB*TDSB is not intentionally withholding info)
- parents would like Trustee to provide brief summary re how this issue evolved
- parents would like to better understand ETFO position re Bill 115 (besides loss of right to negotiate); Cathy to attempt to gather this info; parents encouraged to speak with other parents at their children's school who also happen to be teachers
- parents would like to know which schools are/are not offering athletic/non-athletic extra-curricular activities and if these are being run by teachers and/or parent volunteers; Cathy to attempt to gather this info
- re cancelled parent-teacher nights; parents are encouraged to connect with classroom teacher directly; important to keep lines of communication open
- re cross-country event; Sheila apologized for miscommunications, etc.; NB* event actually run by Toronto District Elementary School Athletic Association (TDESAA) not TDSB, therefore TDSB was obliged to respect/honour TDESAA decisions re running of this event
- parents would like to know what they can do to get provincial government and teachers to work this out
- parents encouraged to contact Ministry of Education and ETFO union executive with their concerns
- for additional info/comments, check out Trustee Howard Goodman's TDSB website at http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=175&menuid=175&pageid=175 and/or TDSB School Councils on Facebook

5. Superintendent Report: Roula Anastasakos

- Program Area Review Committee (PARC) meetings for all Ward 16 schools located north of Danforth Avenue are now complete; reports to go to Board in December 2012
- PARC meetings for all Ward 16 schools south of Danforth Avenue are expected to commence end of October/beginning of November; more info to follow
- for more info, please visit http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=10267&menuid=15172&pageid=13444
- possible changes to French Immersion program offerings in Ward 16 schools are unknown at this time; may or may not result as a result of school PARCs

6. Coordinator Report: Catherine Dorton

- EcoSchools Kick-Off for all Junior, Senior and Middle Schools to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2012 at Selwyn ES, 1 Selwyn Avenue; for more info and/or to register, please contact Wendy Abbot at wendy.abbot@tdsb.on.ca before October 12th
- applications for \$1000 Metro Green Apple Grants for projects focused on healthy eating are due before December 31, 2012; grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; for more info, please visit <http://www.greenapple.metro.ca/home.en.html> or contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca
- waste audits give students an opportunity to investigate their school's waste up close and personal; contact Catherine for more info
- bicycle audits (to assess the availability of bike parking at Ward 16 schools) will take place in October 2012; contact Catherine if your school needs a bike rack and/or if your school is interested in conducting an anti-idling campaign
- the Emerald Ash Borer infestation is already affecting many ash trees at Ward 16 schools; contact Catherine to learn more about the environmental benefits of trees, how tree studies encourage ecological literacy and stewardship

- for more info, see Newsletter attached
7. Trustee Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher
 - Ministry of Education has frozen all TDSB capital building projects effective October 4, 2012
 - for more info, see <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/article4589654.ece/BINARY/Ministry+of+Education+outlines+concerns+in+letter+to+TDSB>
 8. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report: Kate Wallis
 - 6th Annual PIAC Parents Make a Difference Conference: Parents Engaged in Education to Close the Achievement Gap to be held at Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess Avenue, North York on Saturday November 17, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; interpretation, child-minding and bussing is available through registration
 - for more info, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=8109&pageid=7084>
 - People for Education: Making Connections Conference to be held at Rotman School of Management, 95 George St., Toronto on November 3 & 4, 2012; for more info, please visit <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/events-workshops/come-to-our-conference/>
 9. FSLAC Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher
 - for more info, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=4433&pageid=3783>
 - NB* Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed immediately; contact Sheila or Cathy for more information
 10. New Business – none

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

November 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Glen Ames Sr. PS, 18 Williamson Road