

Ward 16 Council Meeting – November 1, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Adam Beck: Greg Synowicki; Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Beaches Alternative: Sean Curran; Bowmore: Jennifer Hermanson; Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Earl Beatty: Laura White; Earl Haig: Olga Ellis (P); Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Gledhill: Joel Krentz; Gledhill: Sharon McNickle; Glen Ames: Katherine Noel (P); Glen Ames: Brian Panesar (VP); Glen Ames: Wally Hucker; Kew Beach: Shannon Morrison; Williamson Road: Evadne Macedo; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions – Cathy
2. Overview of Host School – Katherine Noel, Principal
 - school built in 1961; named after A.E. Ames, owner of oldest and most prominent investment house in Canada, President of the Toronto Stock Exchange and Toronto Board of Trade
 - 420+ students currently enrolled in Grades 7 and 8; students come from six feeder schools
 - school goal is to foster cooperation and respect among students
 - triple track school offers programs in Core, Extended, and Immersion French
 - other programs available: Intensive Special Education, Mild Intellectual Disability, and Home School Program
 - facilities shared with Williamson Road Jr PS and The Beaches Recreation Centre
 - co-curricular programs include: aquatics, dramatic and visual arts, music (guitar), robotics, sports (baseball, basketball, cross-country, soccer, track & field, volleyball), etc.
3. K-12 Strategy Consultations – Sheila/Roula
 - part of TDSB Strategic Plan put forward by Director earlier this year
 - focus: changes the TDSB must make in order to meet future student needs
 - students and school Principals have already provided input; public consultations scheduled for October/November 2012 (see attached); report to go to Board in December/January
 - for more info, visit <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/strategyplanning/Home/HaveYourSay-ShapingOurFuture.aspx>
 - all Ward 16 elementary schools participated in similar process in 2007
 - through “My School Review” a team at each school (including TDSB staff, school admin, parents and community members) worked together to determine its own educational goals; teams from schools in each quadrant then met to identify common themes (i.e. aquatics programming for students in all feeder schools, greater focus on the environment, move toward more K-8 schools); Sheila has since used this information to direct her efforts as your trustee
 - at this time, Sheila would like School Advisory Councils at each school to revisit the goals/themes identified in 2007 to determine what changes, if any, are needed at this time
 - more info to follow
4. TDSB Budget Challenges – Sheila
 - for 2012-2013 school year TDSB made budget cuts of \$110M; as a result, number of Educational Assistants and Office Administrators were decreased; permit fees were increased, etc.
 - current operating shortfall is approximately \$40M
 - 2013-2014 TDSB budget not expected to be any better
 - important that all stakeholders better understand provincial funding formula and how it affects school board budgets

- as part of TDSB Participatory Budget Process, Trustee Chris Glover has convened an Active Parents Group to consider/discuss these issues; next Active Parents Group meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 5, 2012 at 5050 Yonge Street
 - first Participatory Budget Reference Group Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on November 22, 2012 at 5050 Yonge Street
 - for more info, contact Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca
5. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine Dorton
- parents needed to spearhead and/or support eco initiatives at Ward 16 schools; past projects: edible and/or floral gardens, outdoor classrooms, etc.; new ideas always welcome
 - all Ward 16 schools to be TDSB Eco Certified in 2012-2013
 - arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; grant monies received to fund a “travelling classroom”; Catherine and Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) to meet with Malvern students in November to promote Ward 16 arboretum project and recruit volunteers, in exchange for Community Service hours
 - Ontario Forestry Association Tree Bee; a tree identification and forest conservation competition for students in Grades 4-6; event will take place at 7:00 p.m. on November 23, 2012 at Blessed Cardinal Newman HS
 - the Emerald Ash Borer is expected to destroy 18% of TDSB tree canopy; cost to TDSB to cut down and remove is estimated at \$15-20 million; TDSB Environmental Advisory Committee is considering other options (i.e. harvesting wood to sell as firewood, for furniture making, etc.);
 - for more info and/or to share your ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca
6. Superintendent Report – Roula Anastasakos
- parents still very concerned about teachers’ labour actions/impact on children; unfortunately, messaging continues to be inconsistent; TDSB creating website to keep parents better informed
 - progress reports going out mid-November; parent-teacher interviews expected to go ahead
 - process now in place to help parents who wish to run extra-curricular activities; for more info, contact Cathy
 - additional insurance for TDSB School Councils: Ontario School Boards’ Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) is offering TDSB School Councils liability insurance at a cost of \$151.20 (\$140.00+11.20PST); coverage for liabilities arising out of injuries to third parties and/or damage to leased or borrowed premises provides protection for School Council Executive and all volunteers acting on their behalf; policy will be effective November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013; for more info, contact Noemi Jenei at noemi.jenei@tdsb.on.ca
 - Program Area Review Committee (PARC) recommendations for all Ward 16 schools located north of Danforth Avenue to go to Board December 2012
 - PARC meetings for all Ward 16 schools south of Danforth Avenue have been put on hold pending outcome of provincially mandated peer review of TDSB capital building projects; more info to follow
7. Trustee Report – Sheila
- would like Ward 16 Council Members to consider establishing a Pool Sub-Committee where reps from schools with pools could meet to brainstorm/discuss best practices for increasing pool utilization rates, etc.; Cathy to contact SAC Chairs and Pool Captains at schools with pools to determine interest and meeting availability
8. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Catherine Dorton/Cathy
- 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. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy

- Aquatic Working Group Meeting (re school pools) > November 5 at 5:00 p.m., Metro Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor Street
- K-12 Strategy Consultation (re Shape Our Future) > November 7 at 7:00 p.m., Danforth Collegiate & Technical Institute, Greenwood Avenue
- Special Education Inclusion Town Hall Meeting > November 8 at 7:00 p.m., RH King Academy, 3800 St. Clair Avenue East
- K-12 Strategy Consultation (re Shape Our Future) Virtual Session > November 19
- Special Education Information Sessions (re IEP and IPRC) > November 20 at 7:00 p.m., 140 Borough Drive, Council Chambers, Main Floor
- Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed immediately; Cathy to contact Principals and SAC Chairs for assistance to recruit interested parties; for more info re French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=4433&pageid=3783>

10. New Business

- school sharing:
 - Adam Beck Jr PS > Monster Bash, Halloween Fall Fair
 - Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS > 100th Anniversary Homecoming celebration, SH Armstrong CC added new aquatics programming
 - Earl Haig PS > FDK renovation consultation process has begun
 - Glen Ames Sr PS > child wellness/resilience speaker series ongoing (excellent networking opportunity for parents)
 - Kew Beach Jr PS > Movie Night, TDSB Cross-Country Fun Run – “thank you”
 - Williamson Road Jr PS > Night at the Beach, Halloween Costume Sale
- Bill 115 – Greg Synowicki
- Bill 115 delivers a blow to what should be the most fundamental piece of our education system – having great teachers in every classroom
- by making hiring decisions based on seniority, without regard for performance or fit, we will lose great teachers and erode the quality of education
- to learn more about Bill 115 please visit www.puttingstudentsfirst.org
- make your voice heard, tell your MPP to repeal Bill 115 and/or sign the official petition (on website)
- Ward Council Meeting themes > please forward your ideas to Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

November 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Gordon A. Brown MS, 2800 St. Clair Avenue East