

Ward 16 Council Meeting – November 11, 2013

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Rita Gallippi (P); Bowmore: Karin Sildam Eaton; Bowmore: Jennifer Petursson; Duke of Connaught: John Kyriazis (VP); Duke of Connaught: Victor Giourgas; Duke of Connaught: David Darling; Earl Beatty: Alicia Fernandez (P); Earl Beatty: Nancy Lalicon; Earl Beatty: Myrica Gration; EYCI: Tammy McGregor; George Webster: Kim Pividor (P); Gledhill: Joel Krentz; GA Brown: Kim Jensen (P); Kew Beach: Sarah Crymble; Earl Haig: Olga Ellis (P); Earl Haig: Hilary Gray; Kew Beach: Laura Beaune; Parkside: Laurie Bowman; Presteign Heights: Christine McDonald; Presteign Heights: Carole Robotam; Selwyn: Derek Kranenborg; Selwyn: Lenore Brooks; Williamson Road: Robert Gordon; Williamson Road: Kathleen Holmes; TDSB: Vicky Branco (S); TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie; TDSB: Catherine Dorton

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

Meeting called to order at 7:11 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – James Sheppard, Earl Beatty SAC Chair
2. Overview of Host School – Alicia Fernandez, Principal - Earl Beatty Jr & Sr PS
 - “old Toronto” school dates back to 1924; computer lab added in 2006
 - Earl Beatty Junior and Senior PS is home to 425 students in Grades JK-8
 - Full Day Kindergarten introduced in September 2012; have 3 FDK classes, including 2 SK French Immersion classes
 - certified Gold EcoSchool
 - programs offered include: French Immersion (SK, Grade 1); HSP, Resource Support, Junior Intensive Support (Behavioural); English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Learning (ELL)
 - students participate in regularly scheduled swim lessons at Earl Beatty Community Centre/pool (located on site)
 - sports programs/extra-curricular activities include: swim, badminton, baseball, basketball, and beach volleyball teams; Folkdance, Me to We, Eco Club, Chess Club, Photography Club, etc.
 - full Wi-Fi coverage, interactive boards and iPads now available thanks to School Council’s 2012-2013 fundraising efforts
 - School Council members work hard to support/enrich classroom learning opportunities, i.e. scientists in the schools, eco garden, kindergarten orientation program, digital literacy, etc.
 - School Council focus for 2013-2014 > the arts; fundraisers include QSP (magazine subscription campaign); Holiday in the Hood (artisan market/bake sale); Enchantment Under the Stairs (licensed event, silent and live auction); and, Spring Fun Fair
 - Earl Beatty Community Centre/pool located on site; City of Toronto Parks & Rec offers fun-filled programs for all ages
 - Beatty Buddies Daycare (not for profit child care centre) located on site; provides care for children aged 2-10 years as well as before/after school care for Full Day Kindergarten students
3. Special Presentation:

School Advisory Councils: An Overview – Briony Glassco, Parent & Ward 10 Council Member

 - School Councils differ dramatically as each represents its own, unique school community, i.e. some School Councils hold elections only in September, others hold elections in June and September; some School Councils have parent classroom reps, others do not; some School Councils recognize all parents/caregivers as voting members, others do not, etc.
 - School Councils expected to promote inclusivity; all school community members to be included; new members always welcome
 - NB* all School Councils are governed by regulations outlined in Ontario Education Act, Ontario Regulations 612/00 and 613/00 (2001); for more info, visit http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_000612_e.htm; http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2000/elaws_src_regs_r00613_e.htm
 - **attachment:** School Council Basics > page 1 outlines the roles and responsibilities of School Council and/or its members, i.e. Chair, school Principal, etc.; **purpose** of School Council is *to improve pupil achievement and enhance accountability of education system through the active participation of parents*; **role** of School Council is *to advise the school Principal and/or school Board on any educational matter*
 - **attachment:** School Council Basics > page 2 outlines meeting basics, i.e. School Council to hold at least 4 meetings per year; meetings to be advertised well in advance; meeting agendas set by School Council Chair(s); School Council members to include parents, school Principal or Vice Principal, one teacher, one non-teaching staff member and one community member; School Council meetings to be chaired by parent; meeting minutes to be taken and posted; childcare to be available at all meetings; 1 year term for all executive position(s); school Principal to provide 14 days notice to school community of School Council election date
 - **attachment:** Your School Council – Who does What (Roles and Responsibilities) > please note role/responsibility of the Chair(s) and school Principal; experience on School Council Executive may be asset in one’s professional life, i.e. include on resumé;

NB* school Principal is key to success of School Council; he/she is expected to mentor School Council Chair(s), help School Council set up TDSB email account, share information, and work together with School Council members to achieve established goal(s); NB* school Principal is not to chair School Council meetings

- **handout:** School Council Funding > (1) in September, each school receives \$\$ on budget line GL41500 to offset costs associated with School Council meetings, i.e. snacks, photocopying, childcare, interpreters, etc.; \$\$ amount is based on projected school enrolment figures; \$1000 maximum; (2) in February/March, each school receives \$\$ on budget line GL41500; this \$500 Grant for Student Needs: Parent Engagement Grant is to be used by the School Council for parent engagement, i.e. translation services, guest speakers, etc.; (3) each Spring, School Councils may apply for Ontario Ministry of Education Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant, up to \$1000 may be awarded; \$\$ must be used for parent engagement initiatives; for more info re PRO grant, visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/guidelines.html>
 - NB* every School Council expected to set annual budget
 - successful meetings > have agenda; start/end on time; include everyone, i.e. parents who work/parents who don't work, students, etc; provide child minding services; provide interpretive services; include everyone, i.e. invite all those in attendance to introduce themselves and say why they have come; have an established set of norms, i.e. personal concerns not addressed at School Council meetings; encourage participation by all; and, reply/follow up concerns in a timely manner
 - *challenge:* to move School Council focus from fundraising to parent engagement, i.e. reading with child on a regular basis, asking child about their day/encouraging further discussion, etc.; NB* classroom teachers have been advised by union not to communicate with students' parents/caregivers via email, Facebook, etc. (due to liability concerns)
 - *challenge:* to get all parents/caregivers involved in School Council, particularly in "have" and "have not" school communities
 - *challenge:* to create/maintain annual email address lists of students' parents/caregivers; school Principal may or may not be willing to share this information as parents/caregivers must sign waiver authorizing its release
 - *suggestion:* School Council request for parent/caregiver email addresses should be distributed to school community before end of each school year, i.e. in May/June and be included in all registration/new student welcome packages; request should not be generic; request should have a School Council member's name, email address and/or phone number attached to it
 - *challenge:* to get clearer instructions re School Statement of Needs (SSON) completion
 - *suggestion:* Vicky to share copy of best SSON received in past school year, together with comments re why it was best with current school year's School Council Chairs so that they may complete SSON to meet her needs
 - *suggestion:* Ward 16 Council to organize meeting/event where all School Council members can share expertise/build capacity, i.e. best practices; learn new skills, i.e. training for School Council Treasurers, etc.; Event Chair needed (Kate ??)
 - **attachment:** Some community building school council initiatives > for your information
 - **attachment:** Why Join a School Council/Volunteering & School Council > for your information
 - **attachment:** School Councils (People for Education) > for your information
4. Extra-Curricular Sub-Committee Report – Cathy
- Alyse has advised committee has disbanded (too difficult to get members together)
 - Alyse has also advised that she is no longer able to chair this committee; would be happy to serve as "parent voice" on any TDSB and/or MOE committee convened to address this issue
 - committee meeting held April 2013 > discussion focused on: (1) teacher withdrawal of extra-curriculars in Fall 2012 as a result of labour unrest; (2) obstacles parents/community members encountered when they tried to keep traditional extra-curriculars going; (3) lack of teacher interest in resuming extra-curriculars in Spring 2013, once labour issues were resolved; and, (4) what extra-curricular commitments, if any, are included in teachers' contracts
 - committee goal > to create and distribute a comprehensive guide to assist interested Ward 16 parent/community volunteers in their efforts to get extra-curriculars up and running at their school should teaching staff choose not to do so
 - **attachment:** Extra-Curricular Sub-Committee meeting notes
 - *concern:* teacher contracts will expire August 2014; delivery of extra-curriculars could become an issue once again; consultation committee being convened to explore further
 - *suggestion:* need Ward 16 rep on this committee; for more info, contact Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca
 - NB* TDSB teachers/staff are not required to provide any extra-curricular programming; participation is strictly voluntary
 - NB* TDSB and Toronto District Elementary Schools Athletic Association (TDESAA) have strict rules re community coaches/volunteers for extra-curricular and sports program offerings
 - NB* TDSB policies re Police Reference Checks (PRC) and coaching certifications have been put in place to protect children
 - Sheila/Vicky to share TDSB policies re volunteers with Ward 16 Council members
 - *concern:* TDSB permitting process is extremely challenging; application instructions, etc. are not clear; difficult to reach personnel in Permit Department; info provided by Permit Department personnel not always consistent
 - *suggestion:* Ward 16 Council host meeting with representative from Permit Department to explain process, start to finish
 - *recommendation:* Ward 16 Extra-Curricular Sub-Committee be reconvened to address all of these issues; Committee Chair needed

5. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine
 - many School Councils now *community building* through greening of school grounds
 - East of Eliza, 1960 Gerrard St. E., will donate perennials to local schools; NB* gardening advice is not included
 - Ward 16 EcoSchool Kick-Off Event to be held at 8:30 a.m. on November 12th at Selwyn; as EcoSchool Waste Auditor has retired, all Ward 16 schools advised to contact Catherine to book 2013-2014 audit
 - arboretum project has taken off; at Bowmore, trees have been planted and tree curriculum has been implemented; at Earl Haig, outdoor classroom has been created and classroom adopt-a-tree program has been implemented; at Crescent Town, classroom adopt-a-tree, and volunteer tree watering programs have been implemented
 - for more info re any of the above, and/or to share your green/eco ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca

6. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee Report (FSLAC) – Cathy
 - Early French Immersion (SK Entry) > applications accepted January 6 - January 30, 2014
 - Junior Extended French (Grade 4 Entry) > applications accepted November 4 - December 5, 2013
 - Middle Immersion French (Grade 4 Entry) > applications accepted November 4, 2013 - December 5, 2013
 - Intermediate Extended French (Grade 7 Entry) > applications accepted until January 30, 2014
 - info re French Immersion Information Nights available at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SchoolChoices/FrenchPrograms/InformationEvenings.aspx>
 - for more info re FSLAC (i.e. introduction, guidelines, newsletters, reports, etc.) , please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/CommunityAdvisoryCommittees/FrenchasaSecondLanguageAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>
 - Ward 16 Alternate FSLAC Rep needed; responsibilities > attend monthly meeting (at 5050 Yonge Street); attend/report at monthly Ward 16 Council meetings
 - next FSLAC meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 9, 2013 at 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A
 - as Ward 16 FSLAC Rep, Rita represents your interests on this committee; contact Rita via Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca

7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate Wallis
 - PIAC Annual Parent Conference to be held November 2013 - CANCELLED
 - *suggestion*: Ward 16 to hold its own conference, i.e. event to be run for Ward 16 parents, by Ward 16 parents (not April 2014); Survey Monkey to be used to determine top 5 topics Ward 16 parents would like addressed; Vicky/Sheila will arrange for speakers where necessary; Event Chair needed (Kate ??)
 - *challenge*: communication between Ward 16 School Council members difficult
 - *suggestion*: Kate to set up/maintain Ward 16 School Council Facebook page; NB* TDSB staff have been advised not to communicate with students' parents/caregivers via Facebook
 - school fundraising continues to be an issue at PIAC because it is not equitable across the Board
 - *question*: does TDSB have list of speakers approved for School Council use?
 - *answer*: Vicky to obtain same from Business Services department
 - *question*: are charitable receipts available to parents who wish to donate directly to child's school?
 - *answer*: yes, must go through school account; Vicky to provide further details
 - Ward 16 Alternate PIAC Rep needed; responsibilities > attend monthly meeting (at 5050 Yonge Street); become a member of 1 working group committee; attend/report at monthly Ward 16 Council meetings
 - next PIAC meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2013 at 5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom
 - as Ward 16 PIAC rep, Kate represents your interests on this committee; for more info, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com

8. Superintendent Report – Vicky
 - 2013 cross country event a huge success (many students, teachers, school administrators in attendance)
 - report cards go home (November 11-15; parent-teacher interviews to be held November 14, 15; NB* this is only opportunity for parent-teacher interviews for elementary students in 2013-2014 school year; teachers will, however, continue to be available to discuss parent concerns re children's progress on an "as needed" basis
 - *concern*: lack of board-wide communication re November only parent-teacher interview dates
 - *response*: Vicky/Sheila to look in to this further
 - *concern*: progress reports impersonal and not easily understood by parents; should be written with end-user, i.e. parent in mind
 - *response*: Vicky to obtain/provide further info to Ward Council members
 - *concern*: no JK parent-teacher interviews scheduled
 - *response*: parents/caregivers encouraged to contact classroom teacher directly for feedback re child's progress

- 10 Ward 16 schools will implement FDK in September 2014; very challenging undertaking as all schools require renovations/additions; construction to start at Duke of Connaught and Secord in January 2014
 - *concern*: limited availability of SK French Immersion programs
 - *response*: balance between English and French programming very important; applicants not guaranteed placement in home school; placement with transportation may be offered
9. Trustee Report – Cathy
- school visits underway; have already visited Kimberley/BAS; EYASS; Norway, Selwyn, McCordic; George Webster
 - attended P4E Annual Conference on November 2nd
 - attended Williamson Road Centennial Kick-Off/Inaugural Tree Planting on November 8th
 - Public Education Promoters Meeting (formerly Participatory Budget Committee parent group) held October 21st; for more info, contact Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca
10. School Sharing
- none
11. New Business
- none

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

George Webster ES, 2 Cedarcrest Blvd.