

Ward 16 Council Meeting – November 29, 2012

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Greg Synowicki; Bowmore: Jennifer Hermanson; Earl Beatty: Laura White; Earl Haig: Kate Wallis; Gledhill: Sharon McNickle; Gordon A. Brown: Kim Jensen (P); Gordon A. Brown: Alison Luck (VP); Gordon A. Brown: Melanie Locke; Gordon A. Brown: Marnie Peacock; Gordon A. Brown: Alice Schuda; Gordon A. Brown: Lori Campbell; Gordon A. Brown: Jan Goodman; Kew Beach: Emilee Staffel; Kew Beach: Laura B; Kew Beach: Shannon Morrison; Presteign Heights: Lisa Zbuda; Selwyn: Paul Friberg (P); Selwyn: Wendy Boyle; Selwyn: Susan Ronan; Selwyn: Cheryl Martin; Neighbourhood Link: Lorie Fairburn; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos (S); TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions – Melanie Locke, Gordon A. Brown SAC Chair

2. Overview of Host School – Kim Jensen, Principal and Lori Campbell, Guidance Counsellor
 - school built in 1949; numerous additions over the years including pool
 - originally known as St. Clair Junior High; renamed after Gordon Brown, who was a teacher and Principal at the school who also became a TDSB Trustee
 - 400+ students currently enrolled in Grades 6, 7 and 8; students come from five feeder schools (George Webster, O'Connor, Presteign Heights, Selwyn, Victoria Park)
 - deeply rooted school community; many students' parents, aunts, uncles, etc. attended this school in previous decades
 - student population both culturally and academically diverse; 40% of students first language is other than English
 - school motto is "success is the only option!"; important to note that *student success* is different for everyone; *student success* is result of collaborative effort between school, student, parents and community
 - other programs available: English Language Learner (ELL), Intensive Support Programs: Gifted, Mild Intellectual Disability (MID), Home School Program and Resource
 - co-curricular programs include: music: band and choir, peer mentoring (PALS); prefects; sports (basketball, flag football, softball, swimming, track & field, volleyball), etc.

3. Update: Bill 115/Teacher Pause, Capital Plan Freeze, etc. – Sheila/Roula

RE Bill 115/Teacher Pause

 - TDSB in reactive position as it has no role in negotiations
 - no negotiations currently scheduled
 - November 7 – secondary school teachers "work to rule"
 - December 10 – elementary school teachers "work to rule"; strike possible on/after this date
 - teachers' issue with Bill 115 > loss of their fundamental rights
 - provincial government has mandated that collective agreements be in place by December 31, 2012
 - if unions and Boards are not able to successfully negotiate agreements, government will impose same
 - possible result > no extra-curricular program offerings for next 3 years
 - CUPE negotiations are ongoing; if CUPE decides to strike, schools will be closed
 - student safety of paramount importance to TDSB
 - TDSB will endeavour to provide parents/caregivers with as much notice as possible re school closures

RE Capital Plan Freeze

 - TDSB approved Capital Plan in June 2012; government turned it down
 - revised Capital Plan proposed by TDSB staff/government in October 2012; Trustees turned it down (government pushing pre-fab/modular building additions rather than brick and mortar building improvements)
 - recommendation that school properties be severed/sold put on hold by Trustees pending further consultation

- renovations needed re Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) to proceed; NB* government taking \$\$ from other areas in education budget to fund FDK
 - Program Area Review process (PARC/PART) currently on hold due to capital building freeze imposed by MOE as legislature is prorogued, the business of government is at a standstill and answers are hard to come by
 - parents, taxpayers must continue to voice their concerns re public education/Bill 115/Capital Plan freeze to Premier Dalton McGuinty and/or Minister of Education Laurel Broten
 - parent group at Kew Beach Kew Beach planning to organize round robin-type sports tournaments for students; parent groups at Bowmore and Earl Haig interested in participating; for more info, please contact Shannon Morrison at slmorrison@mac.com
4. Environmental Coordinator Report – Catherine Dorton
- as result of teacher job action, some schools are not operating eco clubs
 - efforts underway to strengthen pillars of TDSB EcoSchools program, i.e. energy conservation, waste management, etc.; NB* EcoSchools audit standards have not changed (only 2 Ward 16 schools are not eco certified)
 - arboretum/tree stewardship project continues; \$2100 TD Friends of the Environment Grant received; funds used to purchase tools, buckets, hoses, watering cans etc. for “travelling stewardship show” to teach students about trees
 - Catherine and Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) met with Malvern students in November to promote Ward 16 arboretum project and recruit volunteers, in exchange for Community Service hours; 10 students signed up; 2 more recruitment sessions planned for Spring 2013; goal is to recruit a total of 30 students
 - LEAF Tree Tenders Volunteer Training program is multi-day course designed for individuals who want to gain tree-related knowledge and skills; each session provides basic arboriculture training which includes a combination of indoor and outdoor instruction, including a group tree planting; cost \$70 (includes Citizen Arborist Manual); 2013 dates have yet to be determined; for more info, please contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca and/or visit <http://www.yourleaf.org/tree-tenders-volunteer-training>
 - organizing bike safety and/or maintenance workshops with 32 Spokes for Spring 2013; 32 Spokes is member of Toronto Cyclists Union whose goal is to promote cycling in the Ward 32 through political lobbying and community events; for more info, please visit <http://cycleto.ca/ward/32>
 - the Emerald Ash Borer is expected to destroy 18% of TDSB tree canopy; some trees being inoculated; cost to TDSB to cut down and remove remaining ash trees 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.); TDSB also planning to replace diseased trees with diverse species to ensure that, in future, no one type of tree comprises more than 5% of entire TDSB tree population
 - for more info and/or to share your green/eco ideas, contact Catherine at catherine.dorton@tdsb.on.ca
5. Superintendent Report – Roula Anastasakos (see item #3 above)
6. Trustee Report – Sheila (see item #3 above)
- discussion re French high school in Ward 16 currently in its infancy; more info to follow
7. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Kate Wallis
- PIAC Parents Make a Difference Conference held November 17, 2012 well attended; good grassroots info source; for more info, please visit www.torontopiacc.com
 - People for Education: Making Connections Conference held November 3 & 4, 2012; attended very interesting workshop re “the flipped classroom”, for more info, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com or visit http://books.google.ca/books/about/Flip_Your_Classroom.html?id=nBi2pwAACAAJ&redir_esc=y
 - in 2013, PIAC will be examining the systemic nature of the inequities of fundraising at TDSB schools; proposals being considered include > schools that raise over \$25,000 donate 10% of monies raised over \$25,000 for use by less fortunate schools; PIAC planning to make deputation at Program & School Services Committee in 2013; to share your ideas/concerns re this issue, contact Kate at katewallisPIAC@gmail.com
8. Other TDSB/Advisory Committee News – Cathy

- Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed immediately; 5-6 parents from various schools within the Ward contacted Cathy in November to indicate their interest in this position; all parties were encouraged to attend December 4th FSLAC meeting; Cathy to follow up with all parties to determine continued interest
9. New Business
- reminder: Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Parent Forum to be held between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on December 1, 2012 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 300 Jarvis Street; please call 1-888-327-7377; Kate Wallis also to post on Facebook
 - re TDSB K-12 Strategy Community Consultation – Shaping Our Future meetings held November 2012; Kate found discussion interesting but questioned timing of process; for more info, please see meeting notes posted at <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/strategyplanning/Home/HaveYourSay-ShapingOurFuture.aspx>; NB* Kim Jensen reported that Gordon A. Brown students also took part in these discussions
 - news from Aquatic Working Group > if you have a pool in your neighbourhood school, please use it; Marnie reported that school pool utilization rates continue to be low, as a result, these pools could still face closure; pool permit fees also likely to increase; for more info, contact Marnie Peacock at marnie.peacock@gmail.com
NB* Sheila to convene a meeting of all Ward 16 school pool reps in January/February 2013
 - excellent book re concepts in education – Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning by John Hattie recommended by Greg Synowicki; for more info, check out <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415690157/>
 - school/community sharing:
 - Adam Beck > holiday party/craft/bake sale to be held December 1st; planning underway for Grade 6 trip (June 2013)
 - Bowmore > potluck, Dream Basket Raffle in lieu of holiday concert
 - Earl Haig > FDK renovation consultation process continues; school activities focus on community engagement instead of fundraising; Christmas party, potluck, Mistletoe Food Drive, etc.; annual community fair attracts many people not otherwise connected to the school
 - Gordon A. Brown > cookie decorating social, funds raised support community Holiday Hampers
 - Selwyn > food drive; cookie decorating social, funds raised support community Holiday Hampers
 - Victoria Park > craft night – former Victoria Park students (now in Grades 6-8) return to help current students assemble crafts, etc.; school activities like community night focus on “fun-raisers”
 - Neighbourhood Link > met with Malvern students to discuss Neighbourhood Link program offerings for both young and old; Malvern student group currently working on Christmas hampers for local seniors
 - Jennifer Hermanson, Bowmore Ward Rep would like to know what enrichment programs Ward 16 schools offer besides “Art/Drama/Science In the Classroom”; contact Jennifer at jenn_hermanson@hotmail.com
 - future Ward 16 Council Meeting theme proposals:
 - equity and fundraising (Lesley Johnston, SPT)
 - EQAO/standardized testing: pros and cons
 - Model Schools for Inner Cities (Vicky Branco)
 - environment/arboretum project (Catherine)
 - opportunities for parent engagement/enrichment

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

January 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.*NEW DATE*

Gledhill Jr PS, 2 Gledhill Avenue