

Ward 16 Council Meeting – December 8, 2011

Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Adam Beck: Greg Synowicki; Adam Beck: Sharon Gomes; Bowmore: Sanne Kaas-Mason; Duke of Connaught: Katy Dockrill; Gordon A. Brown: Bill Pennington; Williamson Road: Frances Anderson; Williamson Road: Craig Budgetell (VP); Williamson Road: Andrea Hesse; Williamson Road: Cynthia McCarrey; Williamson Road: Beverly O'Brien (P); TDSB: Alison Pearce; TDSB: John Tancredi; TDSB: Roula Anastasakos (S); TDSB: Anne Kerr (S); TDSB: Beth Butcher (S); TDSB: Catherine Dorton; TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher

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

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Welcome: Andrea Hesse, Williamson Road Junior PS School Advisory Co-Chair

2. Overview of Host School: Beverly O'Brien, Principal Williamson Road Junior PS and Cynthia McCarrey, Teacher
 - building dates back to 1913
 - site shared with Glen Ames Senior PS (Gr 7-8)
 - 513 students currently enrolled at Williamson Road Junior PS in Grades JK-6
 - English and French Immersion programming available since 1970s; teaching staff in both language streams work together to develop lesson plans, moderated marking models, class trips, etc; assessment and student outcomes in both English and French language streams very similar
 - special education support available to students through MART teacher and Home School Program
 - school-age daycare also located on site
 - gym and pool facilities shared by Glen Ames Senior PS and the Beaches Recreation Centre
 - parent engagement high, regardless of language stream
 - certified Silver EcoSchool
 - teacher (Zimmerman) podcast re energy conservation – Let's Do It Right!
 - edible garden project initiated by parent group in 2011; with Catherine's help, school received WWF grant; short-term goal: to build cold frames; long-term goal: to produce food for school consumption (Williamson Road snack program and/or Glen Ames cafeteria)
 - teacher (Violo) video re garden planting – Organic Garden, also available at <http://ediblegardenatwilliamsonroadps.shutterfly.com/pictures/34>;
 - for more information re Williamson Road Junior PS Edible Garden please visit <http://ediblegardenatwilliamsonroadps.shutterfly.com/>

3. Special Presentation – TDSB French Immersion Programs: Alison Pearce, Coordinator – Elementary French and John Tancredi, Central Coordinating Principal, Teaching & Learning
 - learning a second language enhances a student's overall learning skills, expands career opportunities, and promotes understanding among cultures
 - TDSB offers a number of French as a Second Language programs at both the elementary and secondary school levels
 - Core French is offered to all students for 40 minutes each day in Grades 4-8; Core French continues in Grades 9-12; NB* all students must complete one credit in Grade 9 French in order to receive their secondary school diploma
 - TDSB also offers 2 intensive French language programs: French Immersion and Extended French; both programs are designed to give students an opportunity to learn French not simply as a language program, but through the study of other subjects taught in French
 - *Early Immersion* begins in SK; program offers 100% French instruction of all subjects until the end of Grade 3; English instruction is gradually introduced in Grade 4; in Grades 6-8 instruction is 50% English, 50% French

- Early Immersion is currently available at 4 Ward 16 elementary schools – Adam Beck Junior PS, Duke of Connaught Junior & Senior PS, Gledhill Junior PS, Williamson Road Junior PS
- application process for Early Immersion begins in January; NB* application deadline is January 31, 2012
- *Secondary Immersion* continues in Grades 9-12; students who successfully complete a sequence of 4 courses in French Immersion and a minimum of 6 courses in other subjects where French is the language of instruction (for a total of 10 credits) are eligible for a TDSB Certificate of Bilingual Studies in French Immersion
- Secondary French Immersion is currently available at 1 Ward 16 secondary school – Malvern CI
- *Middle Immersion* begins in Grade 4; program offers 100% French instruction in Grades 4 and 5; English instruction is reintroduced in Grade 6 (1 hour daily); in Grade 7 Middle Immersion students are integrated into classrooms with Early French Immersion peers; studies continue in French Immersion to the end of Grade 12
- only 3 TDSB schools offer Middle Immersion, none in Ward 16
- *Immersion – Grade 7 Continuation Program*; in middle school years, Early Immersion program offers instruction 50% English and 50% French
- Immersion – Grade 7 Continuation Program is currently available at 1 Ward 16 school – Glen Ames Senior PS
- applications for Middle Immersion are to be completed online; NB* application deadline is December 15, 2011
- for more information re TDSB French as a Second Language programming please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=206&menuid=1335&pageid=986>
- NB* Pearce/Tancredi French as Second Language Powerpoint presentation attached
- NB* TDSB parent organization, French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, supports French language learning for all students; for more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac
- FSL Homework Toolbox, produced by Rainbow District School Board in Sudbury, provides homework help for students enrolled in French Immersion programs; for more information, please visit <http://fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/>
- French language support for TDSB French students is also available on TDSB Library website at Liens Francais; for more information, please see your school librarian for site access information

Q&A

- (1) Does TDSB provide any kind of support to special needs students who wish to enroll in French Immersion?
 - educational support for students with special needs who are enrolled in TDSB French Immersion programming is continuing to be developed; educational support requirements are traditionally built into staffing allocation models, i.e. MART teachers, etc.
 - suggest parent of special needs student contact school admin in advance of program start to discuss child's specific needs
 - NB* Canadian Parents for French (<http://www.cpf.ca/eng/home.html>) and TDSB French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac) advocate for all students enrolled in French Immersion programs
- (2) How can parents who do not speak French support their children who are enrolled in French Immersion programs?
 - parents of students enrolled in French Immersion programs are not expected to speak French
 - NB* parents of students enrolled in French Immersion programs should offer educational support in home language; they should not attempt to “translate” school work/assignments, etc.
- (3) Understand that Grade 3 EQAO testing is conducted in English. Does this not put students enrolled in French Immersion Programs at a disadvantage?
 - Ontario Ministry of Education is addressing this issue
- (4) Understand that drop-out rate for boys enrolled in French Immersion programs is very high. What is the TDSB doing to address this issue?
 - drop-out rates cannot always be attributed to achievement
 - as teachers develop better classroom practices, programs will improve and hopefully drop-out rates will decline
 - TDSB research department to undertake exit tracking in an effort to identify “why” students withdraw from TDSB French Immersion programs

Sheila comments on French Immersion programming in Ward 16

- goals: (1) to keep French-English programs in Ward 16 schools balanced at 50-50 enrollment; (2) to enable all students to walk to school for either French or English language instruction

- as parent interest in French Immersion programming for children in Ward 16 continues to climb, 3 new Early French Immersion programs expected to be introduced at Ward 16 schools in next 5 years; expect Middle and Secondary Immersion programs to also change in order to accommodate increased enrollment
 - more info to follow
4. School Reports – none
5. Environmental Coordinator Report: Catherine Dorton
- re One Plant per Classroom initiative > plants recommended for classroom use include: Philodendron, Rubber Plant and Spider Plant; plant description and care instruction sheets are now available for teacher/student use; plant donations beginning to trickle in; six Ward 16 schools have committed to implementing this initiative
 - re Grants > Secord ES has received Metro Green Apple Grant - funds will be used to purchase reusable dishes; Adam Beck Junior PS has also received Metro Green Apple Grant - funds will be used to create a native woodland garden
 - Re EcoSchools > goal: to eco certify all Ward 16 schools; eco status of Ward 16 schools as at June 2011: 3 Bronze, 3 Silver, 9 Gold, 2 Platinum; 8 schools not yet eco certified (NB* 3 of these 8 schools have now begun eco certification process)
 - re Arboretum project > short-term goal: to promote environmental stewardship and protect tree canopy in Ward 16 schools; long-term goal: to develop a tree planting plan for Ward 16 schools; immediate plans (1) to identify/label all trees located on Ward 16 school sites; (2) develop educational resources (in both English and French); more info to follow
6. Superintendent Report: Roula Anastasakos, Anne Kerr, Beth Butcher
- re Homework Help, <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/about/index.php> (Beth) > free online teaching resource for Ontario students in Grades 7-10
 - funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education and is administered by TVO's Independent Learning Centre
 - provides students access to both guided and independent learning in a unique environment that combines technology and personal interaction
 - offers live, one-on-one math tutoring with certified teachers on Sunday through Thursday, between 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. ET
 - site resources are available 24/7 enabling students to get help when they need it
 - access to Homework Help requires registration which is easy and free of charge
 - to register as a student user, students must attend one of the English school boards in Ontario
 - guardians and educators are welcome to register as guest users; guest users may explore/access the Homework Help resources and observe the interactions between students and tutors; guest users may not interact with tutors
 - re Ontario Educational Resource Bank, <https://resources.elearningontario.ca/> (Beth) > offers a growing number of online resources to teachers and students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 at no cost
 - available resources include lesson plans, activities, maps and interactive learning resources
 - created by teachers for teachers, all resources are: aligned with Ontario curriculum, searchable by grade, course/subject strand, overall expectations, learning style, author, file format and keyword; easy to download/modify
 - learners can also access thousands of interactive resources to help them understand difficult concepts
 - for more information please visit <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/bank.html>
 - NB* the Ontario Educational Resource Bank is password protected; contact local school board for access information
 - re Full Day Kindergarten (Roula) > implementation of FDK in Ward 16 schools between 2012 and 2014 has necessitated Program Area Review for all schools located north of Danforth Avenue
 - only 2 Ward 16 schools will not require capital improvements to accommodate FDK programming
 - changes to Crescent Town ES school programming to be announced soon
 - re City of Toronto Budget (Anne) > upcoming City of Toronto budget decisions may directly impact TDSB students – nutrition programs, school pools, childcare, etc. and/or TDSB budget
 - TDSB budget process will begin in new year and be tabled in June 2012
7. Trustee Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher

- re proposed City of Toronto budget cuts > at risk in Ward 16: nutrition programs at Secord, Gordon A. Brown and EYCI; pools at Gordon A. Brown and S. H. Armstrong; recreation centres at Earl Beatty and Fairmont Park
- make your voice heard; write, do not email, Mayor Rob Ford, Budget Chief Mike Del Grande, Councillor Janet Davis (Ward 31) and Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon (Ward 32) with your concerns; NB* letters should be in hands of City Council staff before January 13th as vote will be held on January 17th
- Kids Count Toronto, ad hoc group of Toronto parents involved in recreation, schooling, student health and nutrition, swimming and skating programs in the city have created sample Letter to Councillor, online petition, etc.; for more information, please visit www.kidscounttoronto.ca
- 4' x 8' Kids Count Toronto coroplast sign boards to be posted at schools directly affected by proposed cuts over Holiday Break
- re TDSB budget > budget to be tabled in June 2012; Board facing pressure from both ends, i.e. the Province and the City; current TDSB budget shortfall is \$80+ million

8. PIAC Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher

- School Council Appreciation and Information Evening will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at North York Memorial Community Hall, 5110 Yonge Street; RSVP no later than January 26th by calling 416-394-2070
- 2012 PIAC meetings: January 11, February 9, March 6, April 17, May 10, June 14
- for more information about Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=4060&pageid=3384> or <http://www.torontopiac.ca/home>

9. FSLAC Report: Sheila Cary-Meagher

- Grade 4 Junior Extended or Middle Immersion applications due December 15, 2011
- Senior Kindergarten French Immersion: information nights to be held January 2012; applications due January 31, 2012
- Grade 7 Extended Immersion: information nights to be held January 2012; applications due January 31, 2012
- 2012 FSLAC meetings: February 7, March 22, May 29, June 19
- for more information about French as a Second Language Advisory Committee, please visit <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=91&menuid=4433&pageid=3783>
- NB* Ward 16 FSLAC Rep needed; contact Sheila or Cathy for more information

10. New Business:

The next Ward 16 Council Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 2nd at Secord Elementary School, 101 Barrington Avenue. The "theme" for this meeting will be *K-8 Schools: An Overview*.

Please forward all questions/concerns raised by your respective school communities on this issue to Cathy at cathy.mackenzie@tdsb.on.ca as soon as possible so that they may be shared with our speakers/special guests in advance of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.