

## Ward 16 Council Meeting – December 12, 2013

### Meeting Notes

Present (as per Sign-In sheets): Balmy Beach: Susan Morgan; Bowmore: Karin Eaton; Duke of Connaught: Georgia Koziol (VP); Duke of Connaught: David Darling; Duke of Connaught: Sara Tropea; Earl Beatty: Myrica Gratton; Beatty Buddies Day Care Centre: Lisa Winters; Earl Haig: Carol Shea (VP); Earl Haig: Scott McPhee; Earl Haig Community Day Care Centre: Christie Perrella; George Webster: Kim Pividor (P); George Webster: Terry Doyle (VP); George Webster: Belinda Macleod; George Webster: Aim Mujib; Kew Beach: Sarah Crymble; Kimberley/Beaches Alternative: Lilian Hanson (P); Selwyn Community Child Care Centre: Heather Conn Whitaker; Williamson Road: Kathleen Holmes; PIAC: Kate Wallis; TDSB: Sheila Cary-Meagher; Vicky Branco (S); TDSB: Cathy MacKenzie

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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions – Aim Mujib, George Webster School Council Co-Chair
  - Ingrid Palmer sends regrets due to illness
  - passing of Nelson Mandela acknowledged
  
2. Overview of Host School – Kim Pividor, Principal & Terry Doyle, Vice Principal – George Webster ES
  - school has experienced significant growth since opening in 1954
  - currently home to 589 students in grades JK-6 with representation from 30+ different language groups
  - since September 2012, grade 5 students from Crescent Town ES have been welcomed to George Webster
  - in each of next 2 years, school will continue to grow by adding grades 7 and 8
  - Full Day Kindergarten will be implemented in September 2014
  - school site currently includes 32 portables, including 12 portapaks aged 20+ years; currently awaiting TDSB/Ministry of Education approval for \$\$ to expand/build new school
  - a Model Schools for Inner Cities school, George Webster is committed to student achievement as a means of empowering students for success both in school and in life
  - certified Gold EcoSchool (2013)
  - school enjoys community partnerships with The Child Development Institute, East York East Toronto Family Resources, Right to Play Canada, Toronto Public Health, Access Alliance Multicultural Health Centre, Toronto East General Hospital, Hospital for Sick Kids, Toronto Foundation for Student Success
  - Toronto Foundation for Student Success fund daily hot lunch for all students
  - everyone learns at George Webster > programs offered include: The Hammerband's: From Violence to Violins program, International Language Classes, Kindergarten Computer Club, Ready for School Connects (July), Embrace Autism (Parent Group), Adult ESL Classes, Nobody's Perfect (Parent Workshops), etc.
  - also located on site, Paul D Steinhauer Clinic, YMCA operated daycare, Parenting and Family Literacy Centre
  - vision screening available to students from neighbouring Model Schools at Paul D Steinhauer Clinic
  - parents/community play huge role at George Webster; school community is very family oriented
  - School Council meetings held monthly; meeting times alternate between 9:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to accommodate everyone
  - School Council activities focus on community building; pot luck dinner scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>; 34 holiday hampers going out before December 20<sup>th</sup>
  
3. Special Presentation: **Full Day Kindergarten**  
Sandra Rosekat, Instructional Leader - Early Years; Sheryl Robinson-Pettrazzini, Central Coordinating Principal - Early Years
  - in September 2014, Ward 16 will open 10 new Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) programs
  - all sites will require significant renovations/construction to meet provincially mandated program requirements (i.e. all FDK classrooms must have washrooms, sinks, etc.)
  - history: province introduced FDK in September 2010; all Ontario schools to have FDK in September 2014
  - FDK in Ward 16 rolled out as follows: 2010 - 0 schools; 2011 - 0 schools; 2012 - 4 schools; 2013 - 5 schools; 2014 – 10 schools
  - re student-teacher ratio > FDK classes with 15 students or less, will have 1 certified teacher; FDK classes with 16+ students, will have 1 certified teacher and 1 Early Childhood Educator (ECE); most FDK classes with have 2 classroom educators
  - re class size > while maximum FDK class size has been set at 30, some classes will exceed this limit, particularly where students are registered after October 31<sup>st</sup> when school staffing allocations are finalized
  - NB\* there is NO optional attendance option in JK/SK

- re FDK before/after school program offering > program is optional; “Expression of Interest” form included in FDK registration package; interest by 20+ students is required to run FDK before/after school program; NB\* FDK before/after school program runs during school year ONLY; TDSB currently offers 144 FDK before/after school programs
- *concern*: when are parents/caregivers advised re FDK before/after school program offering??
- *recommendation*: parents/caregivers be advised as soon as possible, i.e. no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure that they have enough time to make alternate arrangements for September
- school-based child care centres are then asked if they would like to provide this program; NB\* legal requirements for FDK before/after school program are very different that legal requirements for child care centre; school-based child care centre implementation of FDK before/after school program can, therefore, be challenging (i.e. physically, logistically, financially, etc.)
- re before/after school use of outdoor kindergarten playspace > priority goes to FDK team and/or provider of before/after school care program; NB\* children’s safety is primary concern; please be mindful of FDK team and/or provider of before/after school care program requests
- re Full Day Kindergarten program > play-based emergent learning program (ELECT), no different than current half-day kindergarten program; includes: direct teaching; planned, structured learning; whole group, small group and individual instruction; indoor and outdoor learning opportunities; structured and unstructured reading, writing, science, and math activities/experiences, etc.; children are encouraged to develop self regulation skills; NB\* program does not include a set nap time
- studies have shown that children who thrive in play-based learning, easily develop skills required for academic learning; NB\* as a result, grade 1 program must now be restructured to accommodate kindergarten children’s newly acquired skills
- re FDK lunch program > program is optional; info re lunch program included in FDK registration package; parent/caregiver to advise whether child will/will not participate in FDK lunch program; NB\* packed lunch to be provided by parent/caregiver; interest in FDK lunch program will help principal determine FDK lunch program staffing; most FDK lunch programs are held in FDK classrooms; FDK students eat with their peers rather than entire school population; 1 adult lunchroom supervisor is provided for every 30 FDK students; NB\* while union rules prevent parents from volunteering in FDK lunch program, at some schools senior students offer their assistance to FDK lunch program supervisor
- for more info, please see following references/links (provided by Sandra Rosekat):

Best Start Expert Panel on Early Learning. *Early Learning for Every Child Today: A Framework for Ontario Early Childhood Settings*. (December, 2006)

Pascal, Charles E. *With Our Best Future in Mind: Implementing Early Learning in Ontario. Report to the Premier by the Special Advisor on Early Learning*. (June, 2009)

Vanderlee, Mary-Louise (Brock University), Youmans, Sandy (Queen’s University), Peters, Ray (Queen’s University), Eastabrook, Jennifer (Queen’s University). *Final Report: Evaluation of the Implementation of the Ontario Full-Day Early Learning – Kindergarten Program*. (Fall 2012)

Ontario Ministry of Education. *Ontario Early Years Policy Framework*. (2013)

Ontario Ministry of Education. *The Full-Day Learning – Kindergarten Program, Draft Version*. (2010-11)

McCain, Margaret Norrie (Hon.), Mustard, J. Fraser (Co-Chairs). *Reversing the Real Brain Drain: Early Years Study, Final Report*. (April 1999)

McCain, Margaret Norrie (Hon.), Mustard, J. Fraser, Shanker, Stuart (Dr.). *Early Years Study 2: Putting Science into Action*. (March 2007)

McCain, Margaret Norrie (Hon.), Mustard, J. Fraser, McCuaig, Kerry. *Early Years Study 3: Making Decisions, Taking Action*. (2011)

[www.ontario.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ontario.ca/kindergarten)

[www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123)

Special Presentation: *Full Day Kindergarten* cont'd

Lisa Winters, Beatty Buddies Daycare (located in Earl Beatty Junior & Senior PS); FDK implemented in September 2012

- re FDK implementation > greatest challenge: legislation that governs FDK (Ministry of Education) is very different than legislation that governs child care centres (Day Nurseries Act) and, as a result, school-based child care centres that offer FDK before/after school programs have to find ways to meet both sets of requirements
- FDK before/after school program optional; only offered if 20+ students indicate interest in participating
- concern "Expression of Interest"/survey re FDK before/after school program offering included in TDSB FDK registration package is very confusing; program description, days offered, cost, etc. is not clear
- to address this concern, Beatty Buddies created its own handout; holds "open house" each May; all members of FDK team attend, i.e. teachers, Early Childhood Educators, lunchroom supervisors, FDK before/after school program providers as well as representative from School Council, etc.; event includes overview of FDK program (school day program as well as before/after school program; classroom tour; packed lunch ideas; and more); excellent opportunity for FDK student's parents/caregivers to meet staff, other FDK parents/caregivers, to ask questions, etc.
- school/FDK before/after school provider funding of renovations/construction of classrooms for both day and before/after school programming needs also difficult as budgets are tight
- communication between school principal, before/after school program provider and FDK student's parents/caregivers is critical to success of FDK before/after school program
- further FDK info available in Beatty Buddies Handbook and online blog
- NB\* FDK before/after school care program offered during school year ONLY; child care centres offer care for year-round
- loss of City of Toronto funded subsidies also an issue
- re FDK lunch program > TDSB hired Beatty Buddies Daycare staff member as FDK lunch program supervisor
- to facilitate September 2014 FDK implementation, all schools, FDK team members should be sharing best practices

Special Presentation: *Full Day Kindergarten* cont'd

Christie Perrella, Earl Haig Community Daycare Centre; FDK implemented in September 2013

- lost \$40,000 in City of Toronto funded subsidies when it agreed to be FDK before/after school program provider
- contributed \$10,000 toward classroom renovations to meet legislated requirements
- new FDK classrooms not licensable under Day Nurseries Act; FDK requires 1 washroom in each FDK classroom, DNA requires minimum of 2 stalls in each washroom
- September 2013, 120 FDK students registered (30 students in each of 4 classrooms); FDK before/after school program offered to only 40 FDK students; Earl Haig Community Daycare Centre students placed in FDK before/after school program first; lottery held for remaining places

Special Presentation: *Full Day Kindergarten* cont'd

Vicky Branco, Superintendent ER11

- 10 Ward 16 schools to get FDK September 2014; all require considerable renovations/construction; TDSB learning from its mistakes
- construction to begin January 2014 at Adam Beck, Bowmore, Duke of Connaught and Secord
- outdoor playspace for FDK students **not** included in Ministry plans; parents/caregivers to work with school principal and FDK before/after school program provider to develop appropriate outdoor learning environment
- all schools to prepare a Plan A > school renos/construction complete by August 15; and, a Plan B > school renos/construction almost complete; alternate rooms to be set up to receive students; renos/construction complete/all deficiencies addressed by September 30
- tarring of roofs may be required at some schools; will make best effort to have this done outside of school hours; NB\* TDSB very mindful of health and safety issues
- FDK implementation stressful for administrators; kids don't care!
- all parties, i.e. school principal, FDK before/after school program provider, FDK lunchroom supervisor and student's parents/caregivers are respectfully asked to work together in order to achieve success
- NB\* "one size does **not** fit all"; FDK school day scheduling, lunch arrangements, before/after school programming etc. designed to fit each unique school community
- Vicky, Sandra and school principals to meet before Spring 2014 to share best practices
- FDK teachers, Early Childhood Educators, lunch program supervisors and before/after school program providers to meet before September 2014 to prepare for implementation

**NB\* As Sheila let FDK presentation/discussion continue to 9:05 p.m., all remaining agenda items were carried forward.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

**January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adam Beck Junior PS, 400 Scarborough Road**