

Minutes Ward 3 Council
Trustee Pamela Gough TDSB
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at Lanor JMS
450 Lanor Ave, Toronto

1. Welcome and Introductions – Christie Health, Chair Ward 3 Council and Pamela Gough, Trustee Ward 3

Christie Health welcomed all attending the meeting and Trustee Gough acknowledged the meeting was taking place on the ancestral lands of a number of First Nations.

Principal Alison Gaymes San Vincente introduced Rosanna, one of the school's Ward Council Representatives. She graduated from Lanor JMH. Built in 1952 as a junior school, it became JK to grade 8 in 1984 after the close of Franklin Horner Middle School. The school has 295 students and a 22 staff complement. The community surrounding the school is very close knit and you often see former students' children enrolled in the school. Principal Gaymes San Vincente has just received the Learning Partnership's Outstanding Principal Award, a very prestigious award. Lanor has a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Rosanna explained how STEM works at Lanor, and how its application has helped to change the way students think about their direction in life and possible careers in engineering and science. The students from Lanor participated in the last province wide robotics competition and placed very well. The STEM program teaches students how to solve engineering problems and think with a problem-solving mindset. Students and teachers have to work collaboratively to solve these problems. This program will allow kids to successfully compete in the job market of the future.

2. Safe and Sustainable Active Transportation – Update by Sarah, David Hornell School parent and Nina, George R. Gauld Junior School parent and Cycle Toronto member

Sarah provided a quick update on the work of the Active Transportation parent committee at David Hornell School. The school has a group of very passionate parents who want to ensure that children can walk or bike safely to school. The parents have worked collaboratively with Katy Wittmann of the TDSB Ecoschools Department to recommend changes to traffic patterns within the neighbourhood that would improve the safety of children walking to school. They received support from the local City Councillor, the Police Service and local parents.

Nina introduced her group which is an Etobicoke branch of Cycle Toronto . The group promotes safe cycling. They are involved in the promotion of the building of safe cycling paths throughout Etobicoke. They also work with cycling champions at schools to promote safe cycling for kids.

Trustee Gough reminded the audience that South Etobicoke schools have started two Active Transportation pilot projects: one at Second Street School and another at David Hornell School. Second Street School is working with a school travel planner from Green Communities Canada, who organized a walkabout on nearby streets recently with the principal, some parents, Trustee Gough, a representative from Councillor Grimes' office, a traffic official from the City of Toronto and the TDSB Transportation Department. At this

meeting, the group looked at ways to improve safety for students who are walking or cycling to school by improving street design, particularly intersections that might be good routes for the students to walk or bike to school but are not well marked. The goal of the project is to improve the walkability and cyclability of the neighbourhood around the school for students.

3. PIAC's Update – Tina Chan Kim, Ward 3 Representative

Tina reported that the School Parents Appreciation Night was held on Feb 25th, 2016. About 350 people attended the event, which included dinner and child care. It gave parents a lot of information regarding the TDSB and various opportunities to get involved with their children's education.

The Parents as Partners Conference will take place on April 16, 2016 at the All Stream Centre at the CNE. The conference is organized by PIAC, SEAC, the Mental Health and Well Being Parent Partnership Committee and Model Schools for Inner Cities' Parent Academy. It is an all day free event with 80 workshops designed to provide useful information and resources to improve children's achievements at school and at home.

4. FSLAC's Update – David Kim, Ward 3 Representative

David is not here today but there has not been a meeting of the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee since the last Ward 3 Council.

5. Special Education Advisory Committee Update – Richard Carter

Richard briefly explained the role of SEAC and invited parents that have some concerns about issues related to special education to contact him directly.

6. STEM Introduction – Katerina Kenney, Teacher, Lanor JMS

Katarina and students of grade 6 demonstrated robotics, which is part of the STEM program at Lanor. Students use a collaborative inquiry process to work with peers to design innovative models, everything from bird feeders, houses to robots. They connect and transfer mathematical, scientific, historical, technological, artistic, linguistic and engineering skills to complete these tasks. They often get help from mentors, parents, and STEM professionals. This approach to learning required changes in mindset from teachers and students alike. Lanor will host STEM Night on May 4th. Lanor students participated in a province wide robotic competition held this year at Victoria Collegiate Institute. They won the competition because not only they could demonstrate how their concept works but, they could articulate what their concept is and what it was designed to do.

STEM coaches are allocated to specific schools and can be shared. For example, Seventh Street School benefits from having student volunteers from Runnymede CI as mentors to the junior students. It works very well.

The 2nd Annual Parents STEM Conference will be held on May 14th from 8am to 3 pm at Richview Collegiate.

Funding for STEM comes from various sources. The TDSB gets some donations from a number of industries and provides funding for technology at the individual schools from its central budget.

7. Trustee's Report – Pamela Gough

Trustee Pamela Gough reported that she updates parents on TDSB activities, locally and citywide, through her electronic newsletter which is published monthly. Parents can sign-up for the Trustee's monthly newsletter through her website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward3/Ward3.aspx>. Check the website for other information of importance about local education matters too.

All the relevant news for this month for the Ward 3 is already posted on her webpage. She also reminded parents that the Toronto Summer Music Camps will offer Grades 5 to 9 instrumental music students the opportunity to attend a residential music camp held at Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre, near Orangeville. All details can be located on the TDSB webpage by following the link: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/SummerPrograms/TDSBMusicCamps/TorontoSummerMusicCamps.aspx>.

Trustee Gough announced that all of the Ward 3 Council schools will be participating in the City of Toronto Community Clean Up Day to be held this year on April 22 and as a result of full participation of all schools in the local family of schools, collectively Etobicoke-Lakeshore has won the EcoSchool prize of 3 Refill Stations.

8. Networking Opportunities – Christy Heath, Chair Ward 3 Council

The participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves and exchange information on topics for PRO grant applications. Discussion followed on how to foster parent engagement with the School Councils. Each school representative shared their success stories and events that got parents more involved with the School Council.

Christy reminded that each School Council has an opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 PRO grant through the TDSB from the Ministry of Education and the deadline this year is May 19th. The School Council needs to develop an idea of what they want to do for parent engagement and they need to complete the online application on the Ministry of Education website.

9. Date and Place of the Next Ward 3 Meeting

The next meeting will take place on May 10 at 7 pm at Karen Kain School of the Arts at 60 Berl Avenue, near the Queensway and Royal York.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Recorded by Elizabeth Betowski