

Ward 15 Forum Minutes - April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
City Adult Learning Centre

Present: Amelia Hoyt (Dundas P.S), Sarah Johnson (Dundas P.S.), Sarah Smith (RH McGregor), Louanne Keay (Chester), Effie Kourbetis (Jackman), Kate Sanagan (Leslieville), Kate Leuschen (RH McGregor), Corinne Promislow (Principal, RH McGregor), Richard Blitzsko (Principal, CALC), Jennifer Story (Trustee – Ward 15), Richard Christie ( Sr. Manager, Sustainability – TDSB) Araz Hasserjian (Shared Services Liaison – TDSB),

Meeting called: 7:10pm

1) Introduction from Jen

Principal Richard Blitzsko gave an overview of the City Adult Learning Centre and some of the great programming it offers. CALC is actually split into two part – CALC Secondary School (for students between 18 and 20 years old) and the City Adult Learning Centre for students 21+ years of age. It is the Largest Adult High school in the TDSB- it serves more students per year than any other school in Toronto. There are approximately 2100 students per quadmester and they come from all different backgrounds. Many of the students at the school (~75%) are from outside of Canada. The school offers great resources and programs and through partnerships with post secondary institutions, they can offer their students access to certain post high school programs that they may not have access to otherwise. They have a great variety of programs: Culinary Arts, Social work, Nursing etc.

2) Special Presentation: Eco Schools and Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation – Richard Christie, Sr. Manager of Sustainability at the TDSB.  
*See attached slides.*

During the piece on Active transportation, a few points were brought up during discussion:

- a. Though schools and parents want to encourage students to walk to school, there is a lack of crossing guards which makes it problematic. Parents agreed that if there were more crossing guards, they would be much more likely to let their children walk to school.
- b. A lot of students don't want to cycle to school because of the lack of bike racks. If there is no safe place to lock up their bikes, they are much less likely to ride to school.

Both these issues come down to funding. The TDSB often gets bike racks from the city, but there are costs associated with setting them up. Often times there aren't any good places to put them either. Crossing guards are appointed to their routes by the City and though they have someone who does surveys, often times the results that come back don't reflect what could happen with a crossing guard (i.e. a street has few pedestrians crossing, since there is no guard. Because the city surveys so little people attempting to cross, a guard is not assigned).

PIAC Update

- The TDSB Concussion procedure has been updated. Messaging will be sent out soon
- Parents Reaching Out Grant Applications are now open. Deadline is at the end of May. In past years, there has been money left over since not enough schools apply, so it is highly suggested. Great source of income for parent councils to do something that increases parent engagement.
- Parents are invited to take part in the Principal hiring process. Anyone who is interested has to go through training but once complete, you are invited to sit in on interviews and offer a parent's point of view. Certain downsides are that the interviews often take place during the day

(when people may be at work) and often there is short notice on when the interview will be taking place (only get about a week's notice, or even less).

- Starting in the Fall, gifted screening will start taking place for all Grade 3 students.
- Registration for TDSB's Summer programs has now started. Visit the website for more details
- The TDSB's permitting system will be getting an upgrade – moving to an online system in time for the next school year.

#### FSLAC Update

##### - Update on French programming applications

- o Program Application and Registration - completed all placements; everyone who applied on time has spot
- o enrollment report should be available at next meeting
- o Two new junior extended French sites
- o Redirections are always contentious - please remember this at next meeting, when sharing concerns
- o Pathway documents are being updated to reflect PARS

##### - DELF (French proficiency exam) Project

- 44 grade 12 students have been invited to challenge the DELF (May 9-13) with their exam fees paid for by the TDSB

-approx. 150 were interested but 44 will be pulled from the hat (TDSB could only pay for 44)

-this is the 3rd year TDSB has done this

-students whose names aren't drawn from the lottery can still take the DELF but have to pay themselves

-funding is from the province

-DELF success rates very high but students select what level they challenge: In general, students select the following, based on their FSL stream:

-Core - A2

-EF - B1-B2

-FI -B2 (Need to obtain B2 to study in French speaking universities)

##### - Core French Update

-new French curriculum has invigorated French instruction in general, but especially Core which was lacking before; goal to bring the core French program to the same quality level as Extended French and French Immersion

-reduction of use of English in core French classrooms

-more focus on practical situations and interactions

-increase in focus on "connecting words" vs. nouns

-speaking and listening strands have been separated out in new curriculum

-all core French teachers (across the grades) need a minimum of FSL 1 qualifications

##### - Canadian Parents for French Update

-Ottawa-Carlton and 3 other Ontario board reviews decided that all JK/SK students will be in French Immersion starting this fall; choice is made in grade one whether or not to continue

-Grand River is improving their recruitment strategies for French teacher hiring and retention

-Halton is looking at eliminating early French immersion in grade 1 and only beginning it in grade 4 or capping the program

-Peel has set a grade one cap at 25%

- Learning Centres Model being implemented(See Trustee Update for additional details)
- in the past six FSL instructional leaders
- each instructional leader will become a "learning coach", so each learning centre will have approx. 20 coaches, including one for French per centre (ratio will be reduced, so more coaches per student than existing model)
- Concerns that this will mean a reduction in the number of FSL instructional leads, as there are currently six - will this be a reduction if there are only four centres?
- This isn't a consultation process, but FSLAC members (and all others) are welcome to voice opinions and share concerns, but the plan is in motion, even if details aren't available today. Contact the director.
- The plan will be ready in June and in place in the fall.
- On April 29th (Wednesday) there will be a webinar for parents about this.
- letter will be drafted from FSLAC as a whole addressing these concerns

#### Trustee Update:

- TDSB moving to a new "Learning Centre" model. There will now be approximately 20 schools assigned to each Superintendent, so they will not be stretched as thin.
- The Learning Centres are not geographic centres, but rather schools with common needs. The Superintendent will be grouped and will have a pool of "Coaches" that can be sent to different schools to help teachers and staff make improvements to programming.

-TDSB has hired its Integrity Commissioner, Suzanne Craig, who began at the beginning of April.

-Parent conference took place at the AllStream Centre this past weekend. Combined 4 committees that host their own conferences into one large conference: PIAC, SEAC, Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Partnership Committee and Model Schools for Inner Cities' Parent Academies. There were separate workshops and feedback that was gathered at the event will determine whether this type of conference takes place again next year.

-The PARC in the area has submitted its report with its recommendations to the TDSB. Staff will respond to the report at a public meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Danforth CI.

#### Event Announcements

-Leslieville is using its PRO Grant to host a workshop on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Will focus on Mental Health, Special Education and the updated Health Curriculum

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Meeting Adjourned: 9:20pm