

In Attendance: Leslie Middaugh - Chair (Bruce), Mike Gallagher (Superintendent), Jennifer Story (Trustee), Mark Sprack (Principal – Westwood), Sonya Kim (VP - Westwood), Maxeen Paabo (Leslieville), Tina Weinberg (Westwood), Chris Brown (Westwood), Kate Sanagan – PIAC rep (Leslieville), Nicole Herbert (Riverdale), Matilda Kissi (Riverdale), Sarah Smith – FSLAC rep (RH McGregor), Corinne Promislow (Principal - RH McGregor), Rocky Tesa (Pape), Louanne Keay (Chester), Safeera Mulla (Cosburn), Joanna Strong (Westwood), Lisa Pedersen (Withrow), Mary Deschamps (Westwood), John Calderone (TDSB Communications Officer), Ross Parry (TDSB Executive Officer, Public & Community Relations)

Regrets: Sarah Johnson - PIAC rep (Dundas)

Part I - Welcome and Introductions

Leslie welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves.

Host school presentation

Mark welcomed everyone to Westwood, a diverse middle school of 370 students, including ISP & MID programs, and 100 students in Gifted. Staff and students cultivate a strong sense of community and are working on creating a world connection map for the school. They believe in keeping students active and engaged with lots of sports and clubs, and are hoping to reopen the Tech studio in their basement next year.

Part II – Roundtable Discussion “School-based Communications”

This session is the result of parent interest from the Ward 15 parent survey.

- John Calderone described the board’s key communications concept: capacity building. The TDSB is a big system where communication is a shared responsibility. The central communications team prevents bottlenecks by helping principals build communication with parents. Principals have access to sample letters, newsletter templates, school website toolbox, including corporate data and social media how-to’s.
- Ross is new to the TDSB this year and has evaluated the system database of family addresses and phone numbers to be very accurate. The email addresses are tougher to keep up to date, with only a 50% accuracy for delivery. This is the area to improve on in this digital age. Ross welcomes feedback from parents on the quality of communications received to date. Ross.parry@tdsb.on.ca
- The group asked questions about School Council access to parent emails, and making changes to improve the TDSB email password update system for councils. They discussed the various ways that schools communicate with parents & caregivers, the difficulties with CASL compliance and the move toward paperless communications.
- Mike will take some of the ideas & suggestions to principals.
- Colour versions of the survey are available at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/Ward15/WardCouncil> or send an email to Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca to request a printout.

Part III – Regular Business

1. Superintendent Report

- Good news: Mike commented about the recent publicity of Pape’s Principal for the Day grade 1 student and the clever way she spent her day.
- Resettlement & Support: TDSB is always ready to receive newcomer students, and is preparing for the influx of Syrian refugees. We are very good at this, serving ESL needs and providing wrap-around support for new families. In our FoS, Greenwood Secondary takes in continuous enrolment of students from other countries. Students complete a one-day assessment and are set up in the appropriate program.
- School Improvement Plan: The BIPSA and SIP’s are usually prepared in the Fall, but are starting later this year, in January.

2. Trustee Report

- PARC update: Jennifer spoke about the staff generated option that has been presented in 2 public meetings. All recommendations are being looked at by the committee. Public deputations are on December 7, 7-9 pm at Danforth CTI. More information about the Toronto-Danforth Pupil Accommodation Review can be found here: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/StrategyPlanning/CommunityInvolvement>
- Special Education Parent Forum: Jennifer is organizing this parent information session on January 14 at Monarch Pk SS. Flyer to follow.
- Teaching & Learning: Next ward meeting will feature parent conversation and the snapshot report on teaching and learning practices and concepts.
- Board Organization meeting: The new board Chairs are Robin Pilkey and Jennifer Arp. Director of Education Donna Quan will be moving to a position at the ministry. Her last day with TDSB is December 11. The board is working on finding an interim director and will be implementing the hiring process for a new Director.
- Jennifer will be sitting on the following board committees: Program & School Services, Priority & Planning, Budget, Inner City, and Early Years.

4. Reports from Committee Reps

PIAC

- PIAC members also sit on Working Groups. Kate & Sarah have both chosen Special Education.
- The annual conference on November 14 at Earl Haig SS was very well attended and a great success.
- The last meeting featured a presentation on the Parent Portal, an online system intended to supplement parent communication. A pilot project of 10 schools is planned.
- PIAC is working on getting a seat on the board's policy review committees.
- The procedure for selecting PIAC reps has been passed at the board. Requirements are included around residency/attendance in the ward represented.
- VP interview teams: Parent training sessions for participating on the interview teams for teacher candidates applying to the VP pool are scheduled for February 9. Contact cori.byberg@tdsb.on.ca if you are interested in participating. For more detailed information about the Principal/Vice-Principal selection process, please review TDSB Operational Procedure PR705, specifically Section 5 (page 8) which details information about the interview process:
- <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Policies.ProceduresForms/Detail.aspx?docId=1870>

FSLAC

- New alternate rep Bronwyn Graves from Earl Grey MS was approved.

5. New Business

Leslie suggested that we skip the February ward meeting in the interest of reducing the load for Mike and Jennifer while they are working on the PARC. The group agreed.

6. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Next W15 meeting is Jan. 25 at Pape.