

TDSB WARD 10 COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Jennifer Story, Trustee Ward 15 Toronto-Danforth, Toronto District School Board
Monday January 25, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Pape Avenue Junior Public School, 220 Langley Ave

Attendees: Kate L. Millar (RH McGregor), Romi Mainolfi (Pape), Brenda Torrence (Pape), Rocky Tesa (Pape), Leslie Middaugh (Bruce), Tim Corcoran (Morse), Matilda Kissi (Riverdale CI), Effie Kourbetis (Jackman), Safeera Mulla (Cosburn), Jenn McGoey (Leslieville), Joanna Strong (Westwood), Charlene Dunstan (Leslieville/Duke), Alisa Wing (Leslieville), Kate Sanagan (Ward 15 PIAC Rep, Leslieville), Jennifer Story (Trustee, Ward 15), Karen Jordan (Principal, Pape), Corinne Promislow (Principal, RH McGregor), Luc Gelinas (VP, RH McGregor) Beth Butcher (Executive Superintendent Teaching & Learning), Mike Gallagher (Superintendent, WR10)

Regrets: Sarah Smith (Ward 15 FSLAC Rep, RH McGregor), Sarah Johnson (Ward 15 PIAC Rep, Dundas), Bronwyn Graves (Ward 15 Alt FSLAC Rep, Earl Grey)

Minute Taker: Maxeen Paabo (Shared Service Liaison)

ITEM	TYPE	NOTE
1. Welcome, Introductions	AGENDA	Leslie Middaugh (Chair) welcomed everyone and the group went around the room and introduced themselves.
Host School Presentation	INFO	Karen Jordan, principal at Pape, presented the history and happenings of the school as follows: K-6, 365 students, arts focused with strong drama and music programs, plus sports and other areas of focus; dedicated teachers and school council; council works very closely with the school; activities include Hoot n' Howl. Karen shared a short video that showed the energy and spirit of the school. The council has 3 co-chairs who make a great team and share the work.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes	AGENDA	Occurred following the presentation.
3. Special Presentation on "Teaching and Learning"	AGENDA	Beth Butcher, Executive Superintendent Teaching & Learning and Mike Gallagher, Superintendent WR10, made a special presentation to the group on Teaching and Learning, covering highlights from the report Teaching and Learning Snapshots 2014-2015 and leading a discussion of how parents and school councils can support teaching and learning. Presentation materials will be posted at www.tdsb.on.ca/ward15/Ward15/WardCouncil as they become available. Jennifer Story (Trustee, Ward 15) also showed the group a useful document called <i>Planning Parent Engagement a Guide for Parents and School</i> . It can be downloaded here: http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/pe_4_Planning.html
	INFO	Mike introduced the topic and spoke about: the importance of listening to our students, not just educators and parents; the local family of schools' perspective; the school effectiveness framework; the 4 core priorities to discuss with your council and principal.
	INFO	Beth presented a video which included the following topics from the report: Aboriginal Education, The ARTS: Dance, Drama, Integrated Arts, Media Arts, Visual Arts, Continuing and International Education, Early Years, English Literacy, Equity and Inclusive Schools, English as a Second Language, and other topics. Themes discussed included: breaking down silos and integrating learning across the 4 priorities; many languages; support for black students; challenges with transition years; reduction in guidance staff; increasing use of myBlueprint Education Planner - www.myblueprint.ca - for course selection and career/life planning; concussion awareness and prevention and more.
	IDEA	To learn more about different TDSB programs, have a Ward Council meeting at First Nations School; the TDSB Museum and Archives in Eastern Commerce; or CALC.
	INFO	Q: Are reading recovery programs being cut? A: The program has not been cut; there are the same number of teachers but they are placed in the schools with the greatest need.
	INFO	Q: How does the School Improvement Plan (SIP) work and how can parents participate?

A: Every year the school will do a self assessment with staff involved in the process. Out of that comes a SIP and this school plan feeds into a family of schools plan, which in turn feeds into the Board's plan. Things you can do:

- Put a discussion of the SIP on your school council agenda, show interest in the plan, ask to see the previous plan
- Ask about what the council can do to support the SIP
- Ask what the school's goals/focus areas are (3 to 4 key goals)
- Ask what parents can do to support their children in the focus areas
- Ask what happened during the district process and what was learned about their school, what recommendations were made
- Ask the principal if there are staff members who might be willing to share information on reading instruction such as how books are levelled, how feedback plays a role in reading instruction, etc.

Q: What is the normal timeline for the SIP?

A: The SIP timeline, like the School Statement of Needs, is usually usually Sept/Oct but the labour action delayed it. It should happen in the next few months.

INFO Q: Should parents ask about the SIP at council meetings?

A: Principals should consult with parents, the school council, or a committee, or make a presentation, or ask for or incorporate feedback.

INFO There are 4 areas that principals are encouraged to seek parent involvement: the SIP, school budget, staffing plan, and mental health and well-being. The process may look different in every school. These should all be topics at your council meetings during the year.

INFO The SIP is more about getting everyone on the same focused page, rather than punishment for not reaching percentage goals.

INFO Q: What are some examples you have seen of parents and school councils being supportive of teaching and learning. (such as ReadUp program)

Answers included: School council used PRO grants to have a speaker (internet safety, body image, learning together), family literacy and numeracy nights, Welcome Wednesday (parent in JK/SK classroom), parenting conference, bring your own device night to learn about what kids are doing with technology/online learning, posting all assignments/schedules online to help kids with time management and reduce stress, family math night.

IDEA It is good for parents to keep an open mind and support the interests of our children it might not be the classic post secondary / university path. Might be technical education.

IDEA Mike offered to speak at another Ward Council about "In an effective classroom you will see..." at the elementary, intermediate, and secondary level. Might bring another administrator or teacher. Perhaps, the School Effectiveness Framework and the 4 indicators to focus the school's school improvement planning.

IDEA Many parents don't know about these amazing programs - it would be great to share the report with schools. Beth, Mike and Jennifer will try to distribute it and there may be a link.

AGENDA Tim Corcoran motioned to approve the agenda as presented, Rocky Tesa seconded; all in favour, motion passed. Rocky motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Joanna Strong seconded; all in favour, motion passed.

4. Superintendent Report

AGENDA Mike presented his Superintendent Report as follows:

Optional Attendance - Optional attendance means new teachers and new staffing arrangements in the fall, more ¾ splits because it counts as a junior class not primary so more kids can be in the class.

French Immersion - FI remains popular in our schools, and raises the issue of where to place students when schools are oversubscribed. Dundas will begin a FI program (in addition to the Extended program) to take students from oversubscribed schools. All other schools offering FI are believed to now be full.

Pupil Accommodation Review - The next public meeting is March 10 to discuss programs and space. Come out to learn more.

INFO Q: Is it hard to find teachers for french Immersion?

A: Anecdotally, yes it's true. They are very much in demand.

5. Trustee Report

AGENDA Jennifer presented her Trustee Report as follows:

Facility Schools Index - Earl Grey was number 4 on the critical list. The number is a snapshot of the total cost of deferred maintenance vs replacement value and does not necessarily match a principal's list of what repairs are most pressing. The province needs to respond to the structural deficit problem. Krista Wylie from Fix Our Schools, is encouraging advocacy around this issue. For more info visit fixourschools.ca

INFO Mike reminded the group about the new PD day April 15. More to come.

INFO Mike described how the TDSB is considering following the Toronto Public Health guideline to not exclude students with lice. Currently the procedure is to exclude students. Treatment and time off work is expensive - it is an equity issue.

IDEA It is important for schools and councils to try to reduce the stigma so that the lice issue can be out in the open and information can be shared freely.

IDEA School councils could work with the school to have a number of lice kits (combs, shampoo, and instructions) on hand for parents.

6. Report from Committee Reps

AGENDA **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)** - Kate Sanagan (PIAC Rep Ward 15) presented the following items in her report: the PIAC SEAC Parents as Partners conference will be held on April 16; the PIAC school council appreciation evening Thursday Feb 25 from 6-9 - please see your council or principal to RSVP; there is a new PA Day on April 15 - check with your childcare providers to confirm service is available; the Board is still looking at its volunteer policy, possibly deputizing parents to take on extracurriculars without a staff member present; the Board fundraising operational procedure is under review with new drafts and new language going out to PIAC reps and there might be an opportunity for parent input. More information about these items can be found here <http://torontopiac.com/news--calendar.html>

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) - None.

Other Items

IDEA To form a working group on fundraising procedures with the goal of coordinating parent input from Ward 15. Kate offered to write up a blurb to be circulated to councils and ward reps. If you would like to be a part of this working group please send an email to Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca to be connected to Kate.

7. Other Business

AGENDA None.

8. Next Meetings and Event Announcements

AGENDA **Next Meetings (tentative):** - February - No Meeting, Thursday March 24 TOPIC: TDSB Budget 2016-2017, Thursday April 21, Monday May 30. Please check www.tdsb.on.ca/Ward15 for the most up to date info.

Event Announcements - Silent Auction at Leslieville Feb 26. For more information visit Auction.leslievilleschoolcouncil.org

9. Adjourn

AGENDA **9:05 pm**