

In Attendance: Leslie Middaugh - Chair (Bruce), Bart Harvey – Chair (Monarch Park), Mike Gallagher (Superintendent), Jennifer Story (Trustee), Leasa Adams (Principal Leslieville), Sarah Smith - FSLAC (RH McGregor), Kate Sanagan – PIAC (Leslieville), Sarah Johnson – PIAC (Dundas), Julie Milan (Instructional Leader), Dan Fisher (VP - Withrow, Quest), Craig Gerow (VP - Greenwood, SOLE), Jennifer Huang (Leslieville), Cori MacFarlane (Dundas), Gary Mansbridge (Equinox), Diane Lee (Roden), Amelia Hoyt (Dundas), Maxeen Paabo (Leslieville), R. Kishr (Morse), Tim Corcoran (Morse), Alisa Wing (Leslieville), Darren Ball (Leslieville), Linh Dang (Frankland), Kyle Duncan (Danforth), Jay Thatcher (Leslieville), Tariq Asad (Cosburn), Katia Berdichevsky (Chester)

Regrets: Nicole Herbert – Recording Secretary (Riverdale), Pam Koch – Alternate Recording Secretary (Westwood)

Part I - Regular Business

Copies of the agenda, last meeting's minutes, and other handouts were distributed as people arrived.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Leslie welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves.

Host school introduction: Leasa showed a short video and briefly described the school. Leslieville has a rich history and recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. It is a diverse Model School with a focus on STEM and inquiry learning. Kate spoke about the unique structure of the school council.

Leslie outlined the Ward Council Steering Committee model and invited people to participate.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Superintendent Report

Mike shared updates on a number of items.

Primary Inclusion Strategy:

The board has made changes to Intensive Support Program with a goal of a 50% reduction in the number of students in the program. This is the first year in a five-year plan to reach that goal. In response to a question from the group, Mike clarified that teachers and principals will have professional development in order to improve the integration process for students. Jennifer added that though inclusion is not being driven by funding cuts, it complicates the discussion a great deal, and makes it hard to imagine the necessary supports will be in place. The group shared their thoughts on the reasoning behind the changes, as well as the pros and cons of inclusion policy.

Acceptable Use Policy:

There have been developments in the board's policy regarding online conduct and use of board technology resources. For the new policy P 088, go to:
<http://www2.tdsb.on.ca/ppf/uploads/files/live/96/1933.pdf>

School Climate Surveys:

The survey process is ongoing. Individual schools use the data to find ways to build a culture of inclusion and improve student experience. The group discussed the value of the data and how it might be better used. School Councils and principals will have access to the latest information in the near future.

4. Trustee Report

Jennifer thanked Leslieville for hosting and invited the group to take copies of the handouts.

Restorative Practice:

Jennifer encouraged the group to find out more about Eastdale's Peacebuilders program. Community members interested in volunteering for this program should contact the principal at Eastdale.

Board Update:

New information regarding the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee process (PARC) and related meetings will be coming out soon, however there is nothing new for Toronto-Danforth at this time (on top of the already planned review of 8 schools). Jennifer directed people to a handout Q&A about the new health curriculum, and informed the group that the board's capital budget will be completed in June.

Also shared by the trustee:

Mental Health Symposium

Parent conference May 9, at Earl Haig SS.

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ElementarySchool/SupportingYou/MentalHealthStrategy.aspx>

Model Schools Guide to Community Resources

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/ModelSchoolsforInnerCities/communityresourcesWard15.aspx>

tdsbCREATES Arts Festival

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GetInvolved/TDSBCreates.aspx>

International Walk to School Day will be added to the Days of Significance in the TDSB calendar in beginning in the 2015/2016 school year.

Clean Toronto Together 2015, the city's spring clean-up program, was very successful and many Tor-Dan residents participated.

5. Reports from Committee Reps

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Update

Sarah J. described PIAC's role and reported on the presentations at the recent Parent Academy Conference.

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)

Sarah S. described FSLAC's role and reported on a recent staff report, EduGAINS (<http://www.edugains.ca>), and the board's Long-term Plan (LTPAS) in relation to French programming.

6. Roundtable Discussion

Gary presented information about the harmful pollution caused by idling vehicles and outlined possible changes to signage and bylaws. He encouraged the group consider bringing the issue to their School Councils and local elected representatives. Jennifer described her and Councilor Paula Fletcher's support of the Equinox/Roden initiative and how parents might network with other schools to effect a bylaw change.

7. Next Meetings

- Tuesday May 19 from 7:00-9:00 pm - Danforth Collegiate
Presentation topic - TDSB Mental Health Strategy
- June Meeting - DATE CHANGE (to be confirmed) from 7:00-9:00 pm - Eastdale Collegiate
Presentation topic - Fix Our Schools

8. Other Business

Idea for next meeting agenda: best practices for Middle and Secondary School Councils

Part II - Presentation

9. Technology for Teaching

Mike Gallagher (Superintendent), Julie Milan (Instructional Leader), Dan Fisher (Withrow, Quest), Craig Gerow (Greenwood, SOLE)

Presentation on how technology is being used to support learning in literacy and numeracy, and for student engagement. (Sample student projects, Google Apps for Education, student TDSB email, policies around fundraising for technology).

Additional Information:

www.tdsb.on.ca/ictstandards

<https://nowtoronto.com/news/think-free-blog/life-in-the-fast-lane/>

Question and Answer:

The group discussed how parents and School Councils might support or encourage technology use in their schools, and related equity issues.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 19 at Danforth