

**In attendance:** Leslie Middaugh - Chair (Bruce), Katia Berdichevsky - PIAC (Chester), Corinne Promislow (Principal – RH McGregor), Georgia Chatzis (VP - RH McGregor), Mike Gallagher (Superintendent), Jennifer Story (Trustee), Sarah Smith - FSLAC (RH McGregor), Nelia Wong (TDSB Student Trustee), Tim Corcoran (Morse), Nicole Herbert (Riverdale), Matilda Kissi (Riverdale), Pam Koch (Westwood), Laura Gage (Jackman), Linh Dang (Frankland), Katie Fisher (Frankland), Sandy Choe (RH McGregor), Kate Sanagan - PIAC (Leslieville), Georgi Bazics (RH McGregor), Dean Kolovos (Frankland), Ada Phardis (Diefenbaker), Soula Maras (Diefenbaker), Stella Droulias (Diefenbaker), Maria Ioannou (Diefenbaker), Andrea Keech (RH McGregor), Jamie Gillingham (Blake), Maria Kakabelaki (Frankland), Effie Kourbetis (Jackman), Jennifer Huang (Leslieville), Melissa Armstrong (Dundas)

**Regrets:** Bart Harvey - Chair (Monarch Park)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mike welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves.

**Host school Introduction:** Corinne spoke about RH McGregor, a K-5 school of 753 students. RH is a dual track FI school (1/2 English, ½ French program) with both School Council and Home & School Ass'n, making for an active parent community hosting many activities, including a campaign to raise funds to enlarge the school's wireless capacity. They will be hosting an adult event "March Madness" on March 28, 7:30-2 at Remarks.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Jennifer circulated the minutes from the previous meeting along with the agenda.

**3. Superintendent's Report**

Mike shared what's happening in schools now.

**Good News:**

On Friday March 4, the 4<sup>th</sup> Girls Coding Conference was held. This full-day conference was attended by around 50 girls, gr. 4-6 (and a few younger). Intended to encourage girls' interest and participation in STEM activities, this initiative has successfully attracted more girls into Science and Technology programs at the TDSB. Mike hopes to find a way to expand this event.

**Staffing:**

The enrollment projections are going out today and tomorrow, through staffing meetings with Principals. As expected, enrollment is down in secondary by around 2000 students, and pretty much level in elementary. Look for your school's Staffing Committee.

**Health & Sex Ed. Curriculum:**

The ministry has released the updated curriculum, to be in use this September. Mike ensured the group that the system is well aware of the issues and concerns being expressed by some parents. This curriculum change is mandated by the Ministry of Education. Parents with concerns should go to their principals, MPP Peter Tabuns, or the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals.

There were concerns raised by parents in attendance around accessing answers to their questions, method of delivery, and the Opt Out process. The TDSB defers to the Human Rights code, and at the secondary level, students are not permitted to opt out. Jennifer will provide direction to parents on how to voice their concerns to the Ministry.

To read the new curriculum, go to the following links:

Elementary <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health1to8.pdf>

Secondary <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/health9to12.pdf>

To read the **parent guides**, go to these links:

Grades 1-6 [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/HPEgrades1to6.pdf?utm\\_source=E-Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ddd4215795-News\\_Mar\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_422aeb3dbd-ddd4215795-18773833](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/HPEgrades1to6.pdf?utm_source=E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=ddd4215795-News_Mar_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_422aeb3dbd-ddd4215795-18773833)

Grades 7-12 [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/HPEgrades7to12.pdf?utm\\_source=E-Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ddd4215795-News\\_Mar\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_422aeb3dbd-ddd4215795-18773833](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/HPEgrades7to12.pdf?utm_source=E-Newsletter&utm_campaign=ddd4215795-News_Mar_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_422aeb3dbd-ddd4215795-18773833)

To contact the Ministry or the Minister's office directly, email, phone and mailing addresses can be found here:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/contact.html>

#### **4. Trustee's Report**

Jennifer brought an email from Helen Wolfe from the Girls Coding Conference, which thanked and commended Superintendent Mike Gallagher for his support to create the Girls Coding event, and confirmed that this initiative is resulting in more girls going forward in STEM related programs.

##### **Budget:**

The board passed the budget on March 11. The hard numbers on GSN grants are not released until the end of the month, but they need to move forward now. The staff cuts made are in proportion with the declining enrollment and cuts to grant money. Special Education funding continues to be prioritized, with the board exceeding allocated amounts. Reading Recovery was also preserved. Stage two will be to see if the budget needs to be revised once the Grants for Student Needs are released, and stage three is the capital budget.

##### **School Program closures:**

Two TDSB high school programs are being closed due to low enrollment: Eastern Commerce Collegiate and Nelson A. Boylen. With under 100 students in each program, the programs were no longer viable. Every family was called and personally invited to a meeting to ask questions and express concerns. Affected students are being provided extra guidance support to help them find the right program to move into. Eastern Commerce and SUBWAY, the alternative school housed in the same building will be part of the Pupil Accommodation Review Committee upcoming, nonetheless.

##### **PARC:**

The Board will send out detailed information for the affected schools in our ward that will be part of the upcoming Area Review.

##### **Ministry Governance Review:**

Further to the minister's TDSB Review (Wilson Report), a panel has been set up to look at governance in the TDSB. This panel is expected to provide its report in June and there will be public consultations in April and May. As trustees craft their response(s) to the governance review panel that analysis will be shared with school councils.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **PIAC update:**

**PIAC & SEAC Present: Special Education Conference  
Empowering Families Through Knowledge and Networking**  
Date: Saturday March 28, 2015  
Time: 8:00 am to 2:30 pm  
Location: Earl Haig Secondary School (100 Princess Ave.)  
For information & registration visit: [www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference)

##### **FSLAC update:**

##### **Partnership with CPF:**

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) and the TDSB have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to make CPF an official community partner. CPF is a national network of volunteers that values French as an

integral part of Canada and is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French second language (FSL) learning opportunities for young Canadians.

Meeting notices, reports, newsletters and minutes are posted on the TDSB website: [www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac)

## **6. Roundtable Discussion**

Deferred.

## **7. Breakout sessions**

Leslie introduced the idea of having a **Steering Committee** to help shape the work of Ward 15 council. This committee would take the ideas, themes and topics raised at Ward meetings and determine the direction of the council and the topics covered at subsequent meetings, with a view to making the forum more democratic and less top-down. The group agreed that this idea could also work to enhance outreach.

Parents asked that the meeting schedule be distributed in advance and that agendas or agenda topics also be sent out as much in advance as possible to help parents plan.

The group split into 2 smaller groups to discuss ideas and priorities going forward:

- Preferred method of communication: email, minimum of 1 per month. Encourage communication with Chairs to form agendas.
- Location preference: continue rotating, with consideration to parking options. Establish and communicate locations in advance.
- Potential topics: IEP's, active transportation, tech for teaching, mental health strategy, fundraising equity, school budgets, school committees, best practices, school event communication, PRO grants, school infrastructure, dark side of Social Media,
- Long term goals: share best practices, produce a ward-wide initiative (Funding Formula?)
- Short term goals: guest speakers to provide info (suggested 30 min. with time for questions)

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 23 at Leslieville PS