



Ward 20 Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2015 | Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior Public School

In Attendance

The **Meeting started at 6.45 p.m.** and in attendance were: TDSB Ward 20 School Trustee Manna Wong, Jennifer Adams (Beverley Glen), Shirley Chan (ER19 Superintendent), Cam Gioia (resident), Joanna Hodson (Fairglen), Peter Holleley (Sir John A Macdonald), Kingsley Kwok (Lynnwood Heights), Gary Lochhead (Sir William Osler), Betheny Maheu (FSLAC), Saeed Mohammad (Sir Ernest MacMillan), Meharun Nazeer (John Buchan, Stephen Leacock), Bola Otaraki (Beverley Glen), Ismael Qoraishi (Sir Ernest MacMillan), Jacquie Pepler (Stephen Leacock), Beth Veale (ER18 Superintendent), Jack Wang (Sir Ernest MacMillan), Natalie Wright (Chester Le Jr PS), Linda Zhang (resident)

Presentation by Host School – Principal and Vice Principal, Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior Public School

Principal Douglas McNeill and Vice Principal George Bartzis of the host school, Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior Public School, gave an inspiring presentation of the school, students and school activities. Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior Public School is a triple-track seventh and eighth-grade school located on 149 Huntmill Blvd in Scarborough, Ontario. The school prides itself in its best-amongst-equals technology. The school strives for student engagement as well as the four “A”s - Academics, Athletics, Arts, and Attitude, and also excels in the implementation of technology. Sir Ernest MacMillan Public School has the best in technology and they are proud of that.

There was a video presentation showing the school and interviews with very happy students. The school is a uniform school, has 375 students and placed 3rd in a National competition.

The video showed “A day in the life of MacMillan” where students confirmed that what makes MacMillan so different is their technology. And the school has a good record of students’ disciplined use of the technology. On the first day of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device), there was just one suspension as a result of misuse of the technology.

The Principal and Vice Principal take great pleasure in the success of their students and the video presentation was inspiring and motivational.

Introductions

Manna introduced Region ER19 Superintendent of Education Shirley Chan and Region ER18 Superintendent of Education Beth Veale.

FSLAC and Ward 20 PIAC Representative Elections

Manna mentioned that one of the Agenda items for the meeting was to elect a new FSLAC (French as a Second Language Advisory Committee) Representative and PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Council) Representative.

Betheny Maheu, Parent Vice Co-chair – (FSLAC French As a Second Language Advisory Committee) spoke about FSLAC.

The FSLAC consults with and advises the Board on French as a Second Language matters and contributes to the work of trustees and staff. This partnership of trustees, staff and parents fosters excellence and growth in FSL programs at the Board. The FSLAC handles students in the Core French, French Immersion and extended French programs. The Committee helps in the development of interpersonal skills and there are benefits of the program.

There has been significant growth in student sign-up for French programs. The Committee meets 7 times a year and have a

website <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/community/howtogetinvolved/communityadvisorycommittees/frenchasasecondlanguageadvisorycommittee.aspx>

They also send out newsletters and can be reached by e-mail on fsltoronto@gmail.com.

Kingsley Kwok self-nominated for the FSLAC Advisory Committee Rep and was signed-up uncontested. Manna mentioned she would forward his name on to the FSLAC Committee.

Subsequently with regards to the election of a Ward 20 PIAC Rep, Gary Lochhead, one of the 4 people contesting for the Ward 20 PIAC position gave a lot of useful information on the PIAC and what the organization does and is involved in.

The PIAC supports parents and school councils at the TDSB with the goal of improving student achievement and well-being and enhancing the accountability of the education system to parents.

Gary fielded questions on the PIAC Rep role prior to the voting.

The 4 contestants for the Ward 20 PIAC Rep role were Gary Lochhead, Kingsley Kwok, Jennifer Adams and Bola Otaraki.

Each contestant was given 5 minutes to speak about themselves and how they will perform the PIAC Rep role. All attendees were given the opportunity to vote and the Principal and Vice Principal counted the votes.

Bola Otaraki was nominated for the Ward 20 PIAC Rep role and thanked all that voted her in.

Trustee Updates

- **TDSB Budget**
 - The TDSB budget for the coming year is good news/bad news scenario. The good news: we have balanced the budget ahead of schedule. We were also able to avoid a proposed cut to the Reading



Recovery program. The bad news: reduced funding from the province and lower enrollment have led to the cutting of some resources.

- The ministry of education announced a change to the special education funding model last year that reduces funding by an estimated \$22.3 million over four years for the TDSB.
- Though the board has absorbed most of these cuts, we were unable to absorb them all. Staff reductions will be implemented through attrition.

- **Funding and the GSNs**

- The Grants for Student Needs, or GSNs, refer to the various pots of money out of which the province funds K- 12 education. The GSNs for 2015-2016 were recently announced. The province did provide a one-time injection of \$112 million for repairs and maintenance - a welcome bit of news, but a long way to go to relieve the \$3.3 billion backlog.
- TDSB staff is still crunching the numbers to determine what the final impact of the provincial announcement will mean for our schools and students.
- Staff is working to produce a capital plan by June.

- **Fix our Schools**

- Fix our Schools is a new parent-led advocacy group pushing for safe, well maintained schools in the Toronto District School Board. They are less than a year old but have already had an impact, catching the attention of the media and the provincial government with a simple, clear message: the provincial government needs to “engage in real conversation about funding” If you’ve ever been frustrated by the leaky roof in your school or other repair issues, Fix our Schools is working hard to do something about it.
- We have arranged for Krista Wylie from Fix Our Schools to attend our next Ward Meeting.

- **Health and Physical Education Curriculum**

- As you know the provincial government has released revised Health and Physical Education curriculum for grades 1 -12. This curriculum includes information relating to physical activity, healthy eating and personal safety, mental health and human development and sexual health. As of September, this curriculum will replace outdated curriculum from 1998.
- It is important that the curriculum is current, relevant and age appropriate to support students with the best information possible to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.
- Parents are encouraged to read the full curriculum and parent resources, available on the Ministry website at www.edu.gov.on.ca
- If you have concerns you need to raise them directly with the Liberal government. The changes to the new curriculum do not come before the Legislature for approval. That means that MPPs will not vote on the curriculum.
- The Office of the Minister of Education is 416-325-6870

- **TDSB Governance Review –Public Consultations**

- The ministry of Education announced plans for their community consultation for the TDSB governance review. Public sessions will be held across the city of Toronto throughout April and May.
- TDSB governance advisory panel is interested in hearing your ideas and input on ways to improve governance structure at the TDSB.



- You voice makes a difference. Whether you are a parent or guardian, student, staff or community member, the panel wants to hear about your experiences with the TDSB and what could be improved to better serve the board's students and community.
- There are **two** ways to participate in the public consultations:
Online - send the panel your comments to **consultationsontdsb.ca**
 All submissions are to be received by May 30, 2015 at 5 pm.
In-person consultation session - will be taking place in your community. The two closest locations are:
 Location: McGregor Park Community Centre, 2231 Lawrence Ave E
 Date & Time: Saturday, May 30th, doors open 10 am, consultation period 11am-1 pm
 Another in-person consultation will be held at:
 Location: North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street
 Date & Time: Wednesday, May 20th, doors open 6pm, consultation period 7-9pm
 As space is limited and registration (**consultationsontdsb.ca**) is required, please do so quickly.

Other Agenda Items

- Cam brought forward a serious issue with regards to the Enbridge pipeline being installed beside Beverly Glen School.
 - Because of the requirement for effective consultation. Enbridge did a superficial consultation. Only a letter between Mario Silva. No one has responded to his e-mails.
 - Manna responded and is committed to look into it. She mentioned she will work with the City and the Board and will provide an update as soon as possible.
- Guest speaker Karl Subban was meant to provide a presentation 'Developing Our Children's Potential'. However due the lack of time in the Meeting and the fact that the time remaining would not do justice to Mr. Subban's very important message, it was suggested that he come back for one of the up-coming meetings to present. Mr. Subban brings a positive message on how we can motivate our children.

Follow-up Steps, Action Points

- Manna to provide next meeting date and forward Agenda items.
- Manna to bring back information received after consulting on concerns expressed with regards to the new Enbridge gas line.
- New date will be scheduled for Mr. Subban's presentation.

Next Meeting

The meeting ended at about 8.50 p.m. and next meeting will be held on May 19, 2015 (6.30 – 8.30 p.m.) at L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute, 2501 Bridletowne Circle with Guest Speaker Krista Wylie of "Fix Our Schools"