

Minutes Ward 3 Council
Trustee Pamela Gough TDSB
Wednesday November 24, 2015 at Islington JMS
44 Cordova Ave, Toronto

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting – Christy Heath- Ward Council Chair

Trustee Pamela Gough opened the meeting by acknowledging that the land on which the meeting is taking place is the ancestral home of the Indigenous peoples of Ontario.

Christie Heath welcomed and introduced all participants at the meeting. She offered regrets on behalf Principal Rocco Coluccio who cannot attend today due to a family emergency.

Vice Principal Tim Kamino offered a few words about the Islington JMS. This is the oldest school in the TDSB. There are currently about 500 students who speak 55 languages. The school serves as the community hub for City of Toronto Parks and Recreation programs seven days a week. Islington JMS reached a silver certification level as an EcoSchool and the goal is to reach platinum level shortly. Early French Immersion started last year so this year there is an SK and Grade 1 class. The Early French Immersion program will add one class each year. The school is heavily into technology use.

Cassandra moved and Myles seconded the approval of the minutes of the Oct 22, 2015 Ward 3 Council meeting as presented. The motion passed.

2. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Update – Tina Chan Kim – Ward 3 PIAC Representative

Tina provided an update regarding the last PIAC's activities. The 9th annual PIAC's conference entitled "Unlock Your Child's Potential" took place on November 14, 2015. The conference was well attended and featured many workshops. A community meeting will take place at the Second Street School at 7 pm on Dec 3, 2015 to discuss the move of Grade 4 Extended French to Second Street from John English JMS.

3. French as A Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) Update – David Kim – Ward 3 Representative

David could not attend today's meeting.

4. Trustee's Update – Pamela Gough – Ward 3 Trustee

Newsletter The Trustee reported that she updates parents on the TDSB activities, locally and citywide, through her electronic newsletter which is published monthly. Parents can sign-up for the Trustee's monthly newsletter through her website at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ward3/Ward3.aspx>. Check the website for other information of importance about local education matters as well.

Parent Volunteers The trustees are looking at a revision to the TDSB policy on parent and community involvement to allow parent volunteers to have greater independence in supervising extracurricular activities at schools, both elementary and secondary. A report is going before the board on November 25, 2015 recommending that parent volunteers who apply for extracurricular activities be allowed to do so at the discretion of the principal, providing they meet certain criteria such as police background checks, full credentials with organizations that are affiliated with the activity, and adherence to all safety guidelines.

Director of Education	The trustees were advised that the Director of Education, Ms. Donna Quan, accepted a position at York University to lead a research study for the Ministry of Education on how school boards can get better demographic snapshots of their students. Ms. Quan will be leaving in 30 days and the Board has struck a committee of trustees to seek an interim replacement for the position of Director of Education.
Labour Actions	CUPE and EFTO have reached settlements and are no longer taking labour action. As a result of the details of the ETFO settlement, the normal process of elementary parent-teacher interviews will not happen this term. Report cards will be sent by Dec 10 th for all elementary grades except Kindergarten. Kindergarten parents will be invited to interviews and/or observation visits in February, and Junior Kindergarten students will receive reports at that point. Both levels of Kindergarten will receive final reports in June. Parents of all grades are welcome to contact their child's teacher to discuss progress.
French Immersion	As mentioned by Tina, a community meeting regarding Grade 4 French Immersion will take place on Dec 3, 2015 at the Second Street School at 7 pm. Early French Immersion will stay at John English School. The new Grade 4's in Extended French will start at Second Street Jr. Middle School in Sept. 2016. The TDSB has released a research brief on the characteristics of students in French as a Second Language programs (Early French Immersion and Extended French). The report found the French programs had higher levels of student engagement, lower levels of absenteeism and suspensions and higher level of students in the academic stream of high school than the regular English program.
Teens & Drugs	Etobicoke School of Arts's School Council will host a parent evening on youth substance abuse and its effects on November 25, 2015 from 7 pm to 9 pm at 675 Royal York Rd in the library.
Boundary Changes	Gifted programs boundary changes at the secondary level will not affect students in Etobicoke – Lakeshore.

5. Safe Routes to School Committee

Richard Christie and Kristin Evers led a presentation on the EcoSchools Program which is currently focused on Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation. They discussed the Cycling Education Program for 2015/2016. This program is available to 60 K-12 TDSB schools. Beginning in October schools will be able to apply to have one of the following programs delivered at their school in the spring of 2016: Bike Rodeo, Bike Assembly, Bike Mechanics Workshop/Clinic and Safety and a Riding Skills Classroom Package.

Trustee Pamela Gough suggested a ward-wide Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee to address traffic concerns and communities in and around schools. Research shows that over the last generation, less children are walking/riding their bikes to school and more parents are driving their children. This change has a negative effect on child health and can lead to increased chronic disease later in life. The committee will involve itself in making the Etobicoke-Lakeshore parent voice known to help address traffic problems and make the area surrounding the schools safer for active transportation. The following people volunteered to serve on the Committee: Sarah Chamberlin (David Hornell), Marina Laven (Sunnylea), William Vanderburgh (Wedgewood) and Photini Contionyera (Park Lawn).

6. Ward 3 Magnet Programs – Superintendent Jane Philips-Long

Jane Philips-Long spoke about the Specialized Schools in and near Ward 3 and the programs they offer. Examples of local specialized programs are Karen Kain School of the Arts, Etobicoke School of Arts (ESA), James S. Bell Sports and Wellness Academy, Ursula Franklin Academy, and Runnymede Collegiate's Master of Math, Science and Technology. Lakeshore Collegiate offers pre-Advanced Placement, CyberArts, and a Center of Innovation for Skills and Technology. Early French Immersion is offered at Sir Adam Beck, John English and Islington. Extended French is offered at John English and will be moving to Second St JMS in fall 2016. Additional information is available on the presentation appended.

Jane Philips-Long also expanded on the labour action. Based on the Memorandum of Settlement with ETFO, report cards will be completed for the elementary grades by December 10 but will not be completed for kindergarten since they are not done using the provincial templates. Parents will shortly receive a letter explaining the situation.

7. TDSB French Programs – Craig Howe – Principal, John English JMS

Craig Howe showed a video on the various French Programs being offered: Core French, Extended French and French Immersion.

8. Door Prize and Networking – Christie Heath and Pamela Gough

The meeting was adjourned for informal networking at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will take place on January 12, 2016 at Second Street School at 7 pm. The theme will be Not One Size Fits All: Special Education in the TDSB.

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