

Bendale BTI School Council

AGENDA/MINUTES

October 3, 2017 at 6 pm

Present: Val Lusted(past Co-Chair), Tammy Price), Rick MacDonald, Marie Coltman, Michelle Wylie, Linda Sirna, Doug Wylie, Peter Harrison (Teacher rep), Colin Dye (Principal), Farhana Maksukl, Mimi Bakombo, Annie Lucas, Sue Siopis, Lynn Bellinger, Lenna

Guests: Shirley Chan (Superintendent, TDSB) and Savatore Beltrano (Manager, Capital Projects, TDSB)

1.0 Welcome/Introductions

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting- May 2016 -available upon request

3.0 New Business

3.1 Q & A with Superintendent-Shirley Chan*

3.2 Elections for Executive Council Positions-Chair (Tammy Price), Secretary (Michelle Wylie)

3.3 Council Meeting Schedule 2017-18**

3.4 Q & A with Principal -Colin Dye*

3.5 Q& A with Parents Present - All

3.6 Round Table-What was helpful about tonight's Council Meeting?

4.0 Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 6 pm

*See attached Appendix A

**See attached Appendix B

*Appendix A

A. Q&A with Superintendent Shirley Chan re the Vision for the New School

1. What is the plan for transitioning the current Bendale staff (including teachers, EA's and others) to the new school?

School is supposed to be ready by Sept 2019; staff transition plan is the responsibility of TDSB's Employee Services Department and conversations are underway. All students will transition to the new school starting Sept. 2019. Bendale has 400 students and Thompson has 900, new school has capacity of 1509 students. Staff have already started taking new positions at other schools. Priority is not being automatically given to the staff of David and Mary Thompson. Was confirmed that no pool will be in the new school, but will be fully air conditioned.

2. How will suggestions for the school's new name be solicited? Or has this already been determined? If so, how was the new school name arrived at?

TDSB is investigating legal obligations related to the Thompson Family's original agreement when the land was donated. The new name of the school has not yet been determined. Various consultation(s) with key stakeholders will be undertaken, including students of both schools and the community at large.

3. With regards to Identification, Placement, Review Committee (IPRC) designated student types, which types will the new school environment be able to accommodate?

The new school will be fully wheelchair accessible so it will be able to accommodate students with physical disability designations. Additionally, TDSB anticipates being able to accept students within a defined geographic area, plus those who have been approved for 'optional attendance' including students who have IPRC designations such as Learning Disability (LD), Mild Intellectual Disability (MID), Developmental Disability (DD), Gifted and Behavioral. Further exploration of the school's capacity is ongoing.

4. Most of the conversations that I have had pertaining to the new school are currently using language reflective of "Bendale is closing" and "Thompson is moving over to the new school building". How do you respond to these descriptions?

The Bendale BTI building will eventually be demolished to make way for the entrance road (off of Midland Avenue). It is likely the Thompson building will be sold, possibly for use as a school by another (as yet undetermined) school board. The existing students of both schools will be 'grandfathered' into the new school but as of 2019, only students living within a defined geographic area or those approved by TDSB for 'optional attendance' at the new school will be accepted there. Both schools are moving into the new school.

5. As a parent of the Bendale community, one of the things I appreciate are its relatively small classroom sizes. What types of students will be offered small classrooms at the

new school? Can you assure the parent community that small classroom sizes will be maintained?

As always, the Ministry of Education (provincially) legislatively determines resources allocated, including classroom sizes for all school across its jurisdiction, including Intensive Support Programs. Further details are not yet determined and are annually reviewed.

Other info about the new school's curriculum capacities: construction and other technical trade courses will still be offered, a continuation of an excellent culinary arts, cosmetology, horticultural programming will be offered. The automotive course(s) will be relocated to another nearby high school. The school is big enough with various spaces to be redeveloped, dependent upon ongoing market trends re career paths.

6. The current Bendale community is a small but mighty one, including its school council. What advice do you have for the current council members going forward on how to build a cohesive and strong parent voice within the new school environment?

Tonight's Council turnout is impressive, especially for a small school such as Bendale BTI or any high school, for that matter. Invitation to Thompson's Council was extended, but a rep was not present this evening. The Bendale BTI Council can continue to try to include Thompson parents in various events over the next two years in an effort to build cohesive relationships with students, parents and staff at both (current) schools.

Bendale Council parents (by virtue of so many of their students having longstanding special education needs) have a vested interest in continuing to have their voices heard by the TDSB.

Side Note: Shirley Chan offered to come back to a future Bendale BTI Council meeting to help facilitate a focus group for parents re: an inventory taking initiative around "What is the Spirit of Bendale BTI and what is important to include in order to maintain it within the new school environment?"

Q & A with Principal Dye

1. How will parent teacher night be structured to maximize parents access to their child's teachers?

Library and 1st floor locations, with student leaders available to help direct parents

2. Can you please share an overview of the current enrollment, your vision as principal for the current school year?

405 students currently enrolled; focus on math/numeracy skills; build on last year's improvements in EQAO math where the number of students who scored at or above the provincial level went up by 8%; continue to build on community engagement (including parents being welcome throughout the school year, at special events such as the upcoming

Thanksgiving lunch, sporting events, etc; continue improvements such as last year's school suspensions (went down) and credit accumulation (went up)

3. Can you please share current review of communication strategies to enable parents of Bendale BTI to keep current on school happenings, how to reach their child's teacher(s), etc.?

Parent/teacher night; TDSB and school website; all school call outs (eg. For upcoming Council meetings, other important school wide events); request individual conferences with specific teachers, through a call to the school office

Side note: *some parents shared their own experiences, communication 'tips': some use google classroom with their student's teachers, get emails back and forth, cc the VP if needed for further support*

4. What is the current 'climate' of the teaching staff at the school? What do they wish to see from parents of the school this year to help maximize their success?

Currently, no union grievances; Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant (\$1000) has been approved to continue to build on parent engagement activities; current teaching staff look forward to working with parents and students on ways to foster a successful school year; teachers and students in Gr. 9 look forward to Camp Robin Hood as a team building activity; Gr. 10 Civics students look forward to a trip to Ottawa in December; planning for a March Break Europe Trip is underway; teachers continue to support numerous before school and lunch time clubs/programming to help engage students; incentive/rewards programs have been implemented to help promote punctuality and reduce absenteeism

Appendix B

School Council Meetings (2017-18)

All meetings will be held on Tuesdays, 6 pm
Nov 14, Jan 9, Feb 20, Mar 27 & May 8

Note: Anne Murton-Park will be invited to present to parents at the Nov 14th meeting on use of technology to help students' success.