

## Adam Beck School Council

Thursday February 25

6:30 to 8:30pm

Studio

### Attendees

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Kent Yee, Alison Hall, Mme Kneller

Alex Bellamy, Michelle Lavoie, Julie Middleton, Francesca Rea, Kate Milligan, Jenn Starr, Alisa Arbuckle, Karen McMullin, Lisa Telio, Lisa D’Innocenzo, Dana Gaiu, Shane Blondie, Janie Blondie, Lynne Downe

Leonard Van Bruggen, Victoria Kay, Michael Schulz, Andrea Kwok, Sandra Jackson, Jennifer Hamilton, Kristine Holder

### Welcome

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Alex welcomed the group and introduced Mr Yee and Sheila Carey-Meagher (TDSB Trustee Ward 16). Alex thanked Ms Carey-Meagher for making time in her schedule to attend this meeting.

### Principal Update

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Mr Yee presented the Principal Update.

#### Roof project update

- Roofing company will be working on project for next 20-25 days. They have requested to work on weekends in order to complete the work.
- Mr Yee clarified that they will not be putting asphalt down on the north wing of the school (but there will be asphalt on the gym roof) – the old roof will be removed and a new one laid, complete with insulation. Solar panels will be installed in May.

#### Read a thon

- Thanks to Kate Milligan, April de Melo, Tanya Barrett, Francesca Rea and everyone who helped out with the Read-a-thon.
- A total of \$7769 was raised! Mr Yee noted that significantly more money was raised in the lower grades than higher grades and the committee is looking at ideas to make it more equitable for all grades.

#### French Immersion program

- There was a high number of interested parents in SK immersion program for the 2016-2017 school year. There are 44 spots at Adam Beck and there are 19 students on the waiting list.
  - 36 of the 44 are currently enrolled at Adam Beck and 8 are siblings of students already enrolled in the French Immersion program.
- A French Immersion program has been opened at Birchcliff Public School. Students currently enrolled at Blantyre and Corcelette will now be first offered a spot at Birchcliff vs. Adam Beck.
- The 19 students on the Adam Beck wait list were offered a spot at Birchcliff.

- Sheila Cary-Meagher indicated that rates have increased dramatically in the last 5-6 years. She noted that there is a requirement to stay as close as possible to 50% English-50% French within each school. There is a push to open French Immersion programs in schools wherever possible.
  - Mr Yee noted that currently Adam Beck has a population that is 55% French Immersion and 45% English
  - At this time there are not space constraints in the middle and secondary schools as a result of increased elementary
- Mr Yee noted that when new condo's are built in the area, purchasers are generally given a heads up that they will not be able to enroll in the closest school if it is already full.

#### Dogs in the playground

- Mr Yee reminded parents in attendance that dogs are not allowed in the school playground at any time, but concerns have been raised that this is happening.
- Sheila Cary-Meagher noted that none of the local schools have had much success in tempering the issue of dogs in the playground. "No dogs allowed" signs at have not helped at other schools, and they are often mysteriously removed.
- Mr Yee presented a TDSB sign which will be posted, intended to deter dog owners from bringing their dog onto school property. He cautioned that any signs posted require legal signoff from the TDSB.
- Notes from parents in attendance:
  - Some of the "No Dogs Allowed" signs seem to be missing. Mr Yee committed to investigating this.
  - It appears that the issue is not nearly as bad as it has been in the past
  - Signs posted should be in the "voice of the kids"
- Mr Yee has spoken with Balmy Beach Public School about strategies they have used, and will also reach out to other schools in the area.

#### School Parking Lot

- Parking in the school parking lot is reserved for teachers – it is TDSB property and the Community Centre staff/users are not entitled to park there.
- My Yee noted that often staff arrive early in the morning but are unable to find a spot to park as local residents are parking overnight and not moving their cars.
- Alex noted that council has had difficulty in having cars removed for events like the holiday party, and there are liability concerns if cars are towed.

#### Upcoming Dates

- Movie night – Friday March 4
- "Read my Shirt" day – March 11
- Earth hour – afternoon of March 11
- March break - March 14-18
- Easter - March 25-28
- Recognition and autism awareness assembly-March 31.
- World autism awareness day - April 2. Autism Ontario will be at Adam Beck and do a presentation for grades 1-6 presentation. The kindie classes will see a different presentation than the older students. All students and staff will be asked to wear blue for the event.

## Numeracy

- Staff have been participating in learning communities focused on numeracy. There is a focus on continuity from kindergarten to grade 6, ensuring that language is the same across all classes (ie gym, arts, etc.) and not just in the home room class.

## Passing of the Minutes

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Alex proposed an edit to the January minutes, to clarify that the vote in the January meeting had executive quorum. Alex will send the edits to Julie.

Alex asked for approval of the January minutes, subject to the previously mentioned edits. Alisa Arbuckle proposed the motion and Lisa Telio seconded the motion. As there were none that we opposed, the minutes were passed subject to the edit.

## Treasurer's Report

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Francesca presented the Treasurer's report.



Budget update  
-2015-2016.pptx

Francesca noted the following points from the attachment:

- Pizza lunch has brought in significantly more money than last year.
- Movie night – All pizza cards were pre-purchased, so negative is because all pizza has been purchased for the year.
- Technology - \$13,000 has been given to Mr Yee and has been spent. Mr Yee purchased 30 brand new laptops (went to the library), more data projectors, document cameras (projects magnified images on the wall), a few laptops for classroom teachers. The school is “test driving” Google chrome books – the TDSB is moving towards using these. 3-year lease on the laptop cart has ended, so the school needs to replace them.

Budget committee – the committee will begin meeting in April. To be on the budget committee, you must be part of the council executive, but anyone may submit a budget proposal.

## Committee Updates

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**Movie Night** (presented by Julie Middleton) – the event scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> has been moved up to April 8<sup>th</sup>, to avoid the new PA Day. The March 4<sup>th</sup> movie choices are The Good Dinosaur, Shrek and Toy Story. There will be a raffle for a Munsch Treasury Book donated by Mme Dassios.

**Night on the Beach** (presented by Jennifer Hamilton, Jenn Starr)– The committee is looking for help to solicit prizes, for example gift cards for restaurants/hotels, services in the community (lawyers, dentist, orthodontist, etc.).

- Alex noted that this event brings in \$15-\$17k and it is important to recognize the work that this committee puts in!

### **Spirit Committee** (presented by Lisa Telio)

- Spirit wear forms must be in by next Friday. The committee is looking for one more volunteer to help with sizing – please email the spirit committee.
- Marlies game - forms were sent home on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The game will be on April 17<sup>th</sup>. It's a 3pm game and tickets are \$20 each. There will be a family skate after the game.

**Mayfair** (presented by Lisa Telio) – This event is for ages 3+. There will be a barbeque, bouncy castles, obstacles, etc. Wristbands will be available for sale. This is one of the largest events of the year and nets \$12-\$15k.

**Read-a-thon** (presented by Alex Bellamy)– a big thank you to Kate Milligan and the entire committee for all of their hard work!

**Visiting Artists** (presented by Michelle Lavoie) – artist visits are being booked. We did not get all of the available Ontario arts council grants so the only workshops occurring will be in the classroom. The kindie clay work is continuing, albeit prices have been raised and this is more expensive than previous years. The Grade 6 legacy project (dvd, scrap books) will also happen this year. Grades 4-5 are doing an environmentally focused project (“where does your shirt come from?”). Grades 1-3 are doing a butterfly effect project including a balance of dance, movement and visual art.

**Grant Committee** (presented by Victoria Kay)– the committee is looking at applying for the Indigo Love of Reading grant – it is different than the Indigo grant that we received this year. Victoria noted that the mandate of the committee is still being firmed up, but resources are limited with only 4 people. They will be looking at which grants are available, what is involved with obtaining a grant and how it lines up with school goals, etc. If parents are aware of programs/grants available, please let the committee know, or join the committee. Please email [chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca](mailto:chairs@adambeckcouncil.ca).

## **New Business**

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Michelle Lavoie announced that she will not be returning as council co-chair next year. Alex Bellamy will likely stay on for another year. If anyone is interested in being co-chair, they must have been an executive member and on a council committee. There is not currently a position description. Please reach out to Alex or Michelle for more information.

Francesca Rea asked if clarification on teacher Twitter accounts could be provided. Some teachers use their own personal account to show school classwork – are there TDSB guidelines on what may be posted? Mr Yee took this away and will provide more information to council.

~End~