

## ENDALE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2018

Bendale Staff Room

**Present:** Doug Wylie (*Bendale BTI Council Chair*), Colin Dye (*Principal/Bendale BTI*), Rick MacDonald, Val Lusted, Mr. Hanbold, (*Bendale BTI Staff Rep*), Michelle Wylie, Aysha Kha (*Bendale, Student Council President*); Annie Lucas, Marie Coltman, Olga Ingrahm, Krystal Bruce, Gillian Rowe-Clarke

**Absent:** Tammy Price

### **Agenda**

#### **Welcome and introductions**

#### **Minutes from last meeting May 8, 2018**

**School statement of Needs** – Council was informed this task has been completed by Tammy Price (*former Chair*). The Statement of Needs is a Profile of the principal of the school requested annually by the Board.

**New School Project Lead** - Last year, David and Mary Thomson School Council and Staff were invited to an event to discuss merging the two councils. No definitive action came from the meeting although there was good interaction with Thomson staff.

**A Council Welcome Flyer** to revise and include with a package sent to parents at beginning of the year was not done.

**Student Survey** from June 2018 – Principal Dye stated that 12% of students surveyed never feel safe at Bendale.

#### **Parents Reaching Out Grant (ProGrant)**

##### **Background**

Per the Ministry of Education's Website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.HTML>,

"*Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario, 2014* recognizes and acknowledges that parents are a key part of their children's learning and of Ontario's success in education. The vision encourages a wide range of opportunities for parent, guardian and caregiver engagement in their children's learning.

Ontario's PRO Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement, human rights and equity, and well-being."

"There are two types of grants:

1. School councils of publicly funded schools in Ontario can apply for [Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils](#).
2. Parent organizations, Parent Involvement Committees (PICs), publicly funded district school boards, registered non-profit organizations and publicly funded postsecondary institutions operating in Ontario can apply for [Parents Reaching Out Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects](#)."

For the 2017/18 school year, Bendale School Council received \$1,000 for *Welcoming Parents to High School*.

#### **May 2018 School Council meeting**

School Council sought two volunteers to liaise with Thomson's Council Chair to make a joint school council submission for event funding of \$1,000 to support parent engagement for the 2018/19 school year. Unfortunately, the deadline to submit applications by end of day June 5, 2018 was missed.

This topic is to be revisited in the spring of 2019 to ensure there is adequate time to apply for funding.

### ***Elections for Executive Council Positions (2018/19)***

The ***Chair & Secretary positions*** are both open and available. *Principal Dye* noted that *Doug Wylie* had expressed an interest in being the *Council Chair* for this year and asked if there was anyone who wished to forward their candidacy. Hearing no volunteers, *Doug Wylie* was appointed *Council Chair* for the school year.

At the last meeting, *Tammy Price* had volunteered to be *School Council Secretary*, however, *Mr. Dye* said she wishes to be a Parent Council member. *Principal Dye* asked for a volunteer for Secretary, but no one came forward.

*Val Lusted* volunteered to be a *community representative of the Council*. A discussion ensued about having an additional community representative, due to this year being Bendale's last, but no other names were volunteered.

### ***Council Meeting Dates for 2018/19***

Due to the high likelihood of this year being eventful, the School Chair suggested monthly Council meetings. Meetings were agreed to take place on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meetings are Tuesday, November 6 and Tuesday, December 4.

### ***Principal's report - Colin Dye***

Special Olympics track and field and soccer took place in September and October. Field trips to Camp RobinHood were planned for October 3 and October 10.

The number of students by the end of Grade 10 who have attained all 16 credits is now at 32% vs. 22% in 2017. This shows that Bendale's teachers are better able to serve students' needs. There has also been an increase in pass rates for academic versus applied math.

**Grade 9 Math and Literacy results** - A Grade 9 diagnostic report showed 89% score below a Grade 8 level in Math while 50% of students are below the Grade 3 math level. More than 50% of grade 9 students score below grade 3 literacy. Only 12% of students passed grade 10 Literacy Test.

As of October 2018, Bendale has 342 students, 65 students are in Grade 9.

The biggest challenges for the school are attendance and mental health issues. *Principal Dye* is advocating for student transfers only for those who go through the IPRC process with Mild Intellectual Development (MID) or Learning Disabilities (LD).

One PA day this year will be dedicated to the Teachers' Union.

The PD committee at Bendale discusses the following topics:

- Literacy, Pathways, Environment and Sustainability, Learning Centre and the Learning Network

### **New school**

Teacher staffing ratios at the new school was discussed. Part of Bendale's appeal is its low student / teacher ratio. Would this be continuing with the new school?

For Bendale's Special Education students, there is a Board requirement for staffing to be capped at 14 – 16 students. However, for those students who are not in the Special Education program, no staffing model has yet been developed. Next year's staffing process takes place in March. Hopefully by then the new school's principal will be announced. Council was encouraged to question the Board about the staffing model as we get closer to March 2019.

Construction of the building is said to be on track, but some notable activities have not begun, such as dismantling the greenhouse along with construction of an access road.

Approximately 950 students are at Thomson, combined with Bendale's 342 population for estimated total of close to 1,300 students. The new school will have capacity for 1,500 students

### ***Interactive Exercise – Set Council's Priorities and Goals for the Year***

*Council undertook an exercise to identify the most important issues for the school this year.*

*Issues identified during the discussion were:*

1. *Mentoring of Students by non-staff members*
2. *Teachers being able to differentiate student behavioural problems versus mental health. This area was tied to the ongoing professional development of teachers.*
3. *Student safety – concern expressed about*
  - *Sexualisation of a course's content and opposite sex interactions*
4. *New School- Parent Council*
  - *Parent council may see pictures of the new school by contacting the school's website.*
5. *Reaching out to Parents*
  - *Parents from our visible minority population should be encouraged to attend School Council meetings.*
  - *Council to keep an email list of parents to inform about activities, similar to last year*
  - *Set up a Parent Council table at next Parent Teacher evening*
6. *Student Addiction Issues*
  - *Substance abuse and Vaping*
7. *Student Mental Health Issues*
8. *Access to further funding for Bendale*

Due to the lateness of the meeting, no decisions were made on what issues would be paramount for the coming year. A decision will be made at the **next Council meeting on Tuesday November 6** which will take place in the Library where there is access to a computer to help conduct the meeting.

**Agenda Item 7 - Communication with School Council Partners – TDSB, Parents and the Community** was not discussed due to time constraints. This will be followed up at the next Council meeting Tuesday November 6.

***The meeting was adjourned.***