

BENDALE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2018

Bendale Staff Room

Present: Doug Wylie (*Bendale BTI Council Chair*), Colin Dye (*Bendale BTI Principal*), Val Lusted (*Bendale BTI Community Representative*), Dan Hanbold, (*Bendale BTI Staff Rep*), Michelle Wylie, Aysha Kha (*Bendale BTI Student Council President*); Annie Lucas, Lynn Bellinger, Krystal Bruce, Gillian Rowe-Clarke

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Roundtable & Questions

3. Approval of Minutes from last meeting October 2, 2018 and May 8, 2018

- The minutes from last month's meeting, October 2, 2018 as well as the last meeting of the 2017/18 school year on May 8, 2018 were both approved

4. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) Report – Community Representative

- No new information to report.

5. Principal's report - Colin Dye

Upcoming meetings at Bendale BTI next week:

- November 11 – presentation by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- November 13 – Special Olympics basketball game
- November 14 – Take Kids to Work Day
- November 14 – IPRC reviews for all students with IEPs who requested an IPRC.
- November 15 – Bendale BTI Parent Information night – update on new school

Update – Lawrence Midland School

Teacher transfers

- Principal Dye was informed that David and Mary Thomson's staff will transfer to the new school via the staffing process while Bendale's teachers will have to apply to any vacancies. Decision based on the Accommodation Review Committee's (ARC) designation of Bendale BTI as the closing school.
- This has only been communicated to Principal Dye in the last few weeks.¹
- The new school may still offer positions to Bendale staff for likely areas of need, but nothing is official.
- Shirley Chan, TDSB Superintendent for LN 13(learning network 13) met with the staff last week about the school officially closing.

Other items

- Thomson has 5 classes of students with developmental disabilities
- Special Education classes have maximum class sizes of 14-16 set by TDSB
- There are about 200 students at Thomson with an IEP, Bendale has over 280.

Principal's Report - Update - Lawrence Midland School - Continued

- Bendale's Special Education classes for LD & MID students will move to the new school
 - New school will have extra 'UPHS' funding to help students and will be the only LD program in LC3 (learning centre 3).
 - Class sizes in new school for Applied and Academic courses will be significantly larger than those at Bendale.
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- Council encouraged to advocate for support for Bendale students as they will not have automatically have the same level of support offered at Bendale.

6. School Chair Report – Doug Wylie

Parent Teacher Night - October 25 - One dozen more parents signed up for the School Council's email distribution list, bringing the total to 50, excluding parents who come to Council meetings.

Parents Engaged in Education - November 3 - Organization formed by "committed parent leaders, teachers and principals who are focused on providing resources to school councils across Ontario". Their mission is to "empower parents with the skills and knowledge to not only support their own child, but, to make the educational experience at school better for all children."

- Attended sessions on School Council relationship with the Principal and School Council Chair responsibilities

Outstanding items from previous School Council meeting October 2

- Due to the rapidly changing situation regarding the new school's lack of alignment with Bendale student's needs, we are now in a crisis.
- Propose discontinuing action on outstanding items from the October 2 meeting agenda:
 - Item 6 – Interactive Exercise – Set Council's Priorities and Goals for the Year and
 - Item 7 - Communication with School Council Partners
- Instead, propose Council discuss and seek agreement on the following proposals:

Proposal 1: Arrange Meeting with TDSB Executives, School Trustee and Bendale's Parents

- Chair will seek to arrange a school council meeting and get as many parents out as possible to meet with Director of Education John Malloy, local school trustee David Smith and Superintendent Shirley Chan.

Proposal 2: 'Best Practices' Procedural Checklist

- Bendale's teachers create a 'Best Practices' checklist to be part of the new school's operational guidelines.
- Checklist will encompass those qualities that make up the 'Bendale approach' to student success.
- Request Principal Dye take request to Bendale's staff to draft and report back to School Council.

Proposal 3: Transition Plan for Bendale's Students

- Detailed transition plan for Bendale's students
- Plan promised by the ARC in their decision on the future of Bendale BTI.
- Council agreed to meet separately on November 20 to draft a transition plan.

Other Proposals:

- Media Outreach - Contact media outlets to stress the lack of equity for Bendale students.
- Legal Challenge via Ontario Human Rights Complaint

7. Meeting Adjourned