

Dallington Public School, Parent Council Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2017

6:30 p.m.

In attendance: approx. 17 people in attendance (some may not have signed in)

Susan Pitre: Principal

Jackie Chau: Council Chair

Rachel Harnett: Council Secretary

Paul Wong: Council Treasurer

Adam Somer, VP

Doug Bennet – City of Toronto, Parks doug.bennet@toronto.ca

Trustee Ken Lister ken.lister@tdsb.on.ca

Miri Spencer

Jeremy Schwartz

Mahnaz

David Hawker-Budlovsky

Roxana Balescu

Vanessa Sandy

Elvis

Miriam Ddrukker

Intro from Paul (Finances):

-we're still on track to hit our average surplus of \$15k

-Parent council will have to decide on how to spend the money

-two parents (Elvis & Venessa) who are interested in taking over for Paul. Paul has been kind enough to continue on as our Treasurer even a year after his children have graduated from Dallington. For the remainder of the year, he is happy to help Elvis and Venessa with the transition as our new treasurers.

-Elvis introduced himself, said he grew up in Albania, educated in U.S., as a Math high school teacher for 3 years. Certified teacher in Texas.

-wants to participate in child's school, and also has a profession as an accountant

-said he was happy to accept new treasurer position with Vanessa

-Vanessa introduced herself, started helping out volunteering with pizza and is now supervising as Yelena had to step down, has some accounting background

-Paul asked if everyone was all in favour, everyone agreed

Trustee Ken Lister, Special Guest – Trustee Lister

-Dallington changes; K-5 school next year, change for French Immersion students

-Pathway was Don Valley MS for FI (6-8) but where would they go in Gr 9? (1 year @ Windfields, then York Mills for 10-12 was the plan)

-changes announced for Windfields & York Mills

-6-8 will be @ Don Valley MS., York Mills for 9-12. For FI students. As of 2018.

-There is another FI public school that will be opening - Ernest P.S. Ernest is another school nearby that can take some of the students who would have attended Dallington. Hopeful then the Dallington portable won't be required.

-Community hub – get acquainted with community -Feb 16 meeting, Feb 27 Board forum : ken.lister@tdsb.on.ca

-one parent asked Trustee Lister about the new childcare announcement:

-Lister said the Principals determine if there is an interest in childcare in the school. Province wants childcare available in school where there is sufficient demand. What is the demand? Most schools, with some space (e.g., Lescon), have space that can be leased. The city might run it, or the YMCA., preferably a not-for-profit. Principals collect info and decide who is interested.

-in a school similar in size to Dallington (with about 550 students), and if there wasn't childcare there (e.g., no Rendezvous), then the question to ask is: Is there room for expansion in those schools? Lister says he's not sure what will be done in this area. This takes a lot of work from the City of Toronto. The City is going through their budget., what will change (e.g., child occupancy grant, what cuts to be made, what will this mean for cost of childcare). Not sure what the rules and expectations will be.

-city has also been working on how to create the number of spaces needed in the school (e.g., creating an infant care classroom), where can the space be added physically (maybe just some coathooks, cubbies here). Some places will require more than others because of strict requirements from government e.g., requirements about window space, fridge space, labelling of these. Lister is still waiting to see if there will be some more definitive answers.

-hopefully by Spring 2017 there may be some more answers, if it's going to be implemented in the Fall.

-any other questions just email him or ask your Principal

Fundraising Updates (Jackie/Venessa):

-pizza lunch, over \$17 000 collected for term 2, another 5 more days to go. Term 1, \$1100 was raised for about each pizza lunch. It looks like we are on track to do same for this term.

-Moveathon forms went home today, DJ booked, March 10 is the date.

-dinner coming up hosted by Parent Advisory Council meeting, there will be more info for council members about this. Jackie will report back.

-Council is looking into how our PAC can become a registered charity. Once, we've become a registered charity, we would then be able to issue tax receipts.

Dallington Pollinators Presentation (Mahnez and Doug Bennet):

-Mahnez introduced Doug Bennet, from the City of Toronto, Parks department

-Doug Bennet is helping us with planning and control

-Doug:

-works for partnership team in Parks division, some form of 3rd party funding for a worthwhile project in varying amounts e.g., \$5000 to a million

-this is a great project to work on with Mahnez and provide some funding

-problem with community garden is lack of shade

-solution is to provide a shade structure that also provides a rainwater collection system

-It will be around the learning circle in the middle of the community garden

-many funding sources and partners: city of Toronto, Livegreen & Evergreen, Flemington Health Centre (trustee), Dallington Pollinators, local community, Park People (advocacy & support)

-construction timeline: looking to begin in late spring/summer. There will be fencing around the garden when it is being worked on – to maintain safety

-City hopes are that there is community and school engagement, community and school feedback and involvement

-most successful parks are when community gets involved

-book called "Sparkling Change" talks about five social impacts of park engagement: e.g., creates a sense of shared ownership, builds confidence).

-doug.bennet@toronto.ca

-hoping the garden can be used as an outdoor classroom

-question about insurance, if children use it, as it's not on school property: Susan spoke to that about the Walking Excursion form

-during construction, planters may be put out so that some plants can be grown throughout construction period (the garden will be closed off and digging in actual garden, so not possible to plant in the garden while work is being done). Mahnez is hopeful that they can plant in June (if rainwater project can be done by then).

-question asked by Jackie's husband if this rainwater project could coincide with the long term project, that would be great. Agreement that this is the goal.

-Mahnez spoke briefly about a \$1000 RBC grant towards school grounds

Long term project –(David)

-can we have more opportunities for kids to be engaged?

-project is on the road to getting underway. The viability review signed off, it's a go, coming in Feb 28 for a site visit

-once here, see the site, they will be able to talk to Jackie and Susan

-David feels very confident that a school masterplan will be decided on and then we figure out what will be possible and it becomes a 10-15 year plan

-this a huge step, it's great news

-either a masterplan or a stand-alone project., with pollinators presentation, should be easy to create a masterplan

-Jackie: to follow up with last time., a committee has been formed by Jackie, David, Susan, Mahnez, some teachers, eco club.

-David presented an Evergreen presentation with before and after pictures of outdoor play areas, on the website

-Dallington is a gold level school working towards Platinum., it's another checkbox for us. It's recognition, it's a plaque.

-Tammy asked if plan for the daycare to be involved in this., they may be involved when a masterplan is done (their playground is there, baseball diamond, soccer., community involvement)

-Jackie says ideal would be to have a little bit done every year., what can we do for those students graduating this year (Gr. 5/6's)?

-possibility of providing \$200 for each classroom teacher to provide something for their class and what they would need., it would need be purchased by teacher and school would reimburse (PAC needs the receipts).

- there would be some flexibility for teacher to purchase for ea. class or to go purchase something together for grade team
- Mahnez said she just ordered microscopes for garden, made of origami paper and was \$2 ea.
- what the teachers would purchase, is still restricted to some degree., items need to be purchased from school accepted catalogues (Susan)

Questions? Jackie

-Is something special going to happen for the double grad this year? Jackie said that if the DJ who is booked for moveathon goes well, maybe bring the DJ back for a dance

-added note from Trustee Lister: one other key area that does not involve the FI side.... George Vanier, the local high school, will be starting a new program next September called STEM plus. It's enriched Math, Science, it will be an in-demand program. This is an exciting change.

Principal Update

- Feb. 16/17 interviews, online booking system; open about a week before hand
- also on our website, a few changes have been made.
- staff engaging on prof. learning., started with 4 prof. learning teams
- at Dallington, we are lucky because we can bring 4 teams of 8 together, 2 teams began this about collaborative inquiry as a staff., they are taking that team where they feel it needs to go
- equity, wellbeing and student achievement (SIP plan)
- reading and math – each team focuses on this and above 3 from SIP plan e.g., how will the K team focus on reading and math, as an example
- also working on co-teaching., some lead teachers helping some other teachers teach

Winter Concert, Humbug performance

-working on those productions and if the school charges for the DVDs

- last point about lunchroom supervision
- how can we make lunchtime safer for our students?
- ea. Position funded from a formula through the ministry, lunchroom supervisors are not part of that
- lunchroom supervisors are not actual positions there, TDSB created these jobs and the ratios
- for K's it's 1 per class, for Gr 1 – 8 , it's around the 1:100 ratio
- here with our 400 students in 1-6, there are roughly 400, so that's 3 according to the formula., with the knowledge that a few children go home for lunch
- superintendent at the time said 4 for Dallington, even though financial formula for 3
- Susan requested for another lunch supervisor, but initially declined
- went back to the ratio, the numbers
- in continued conversation with superintendent, 1 more supervisor came in and is now supervising in the primary grades, younger children get more support that way
- right now 3 for our primary groupings (about 220 students) and the Jr. students with 2
- after Family day weekend, change will be made that Jr. students, who currently eating in lower gym, will eat in their classroom. The 11 primary classrooms will eat in gym.
- well being lense; Susan wondering if this could be recognized as volunteer hours for the students who assist with lunch supervision duties
- caring and safe schools is looking at longer term solutions (above is short term solution)
- this has been an ongoing issue for years., the accidents happen, words get exchanged
- we are trying to reduce those risks from happening
- Tammy: her daughter was injured during lunch, Susan has been very supportive, level of supervision is not acceptable; at time her daughter was injured, 1 supervisor watching 100 students, Tammy is grateful for new extra lunch supervisor to watch primaries., next step is to talk to Trustee to fund another lunch supervisor
- what's the cost - \$500/month
- possible parent representation in each classroom

More questions:

Kiss and Ride program

-looking at different zones for this, Susan spoke with Officer Neil

-it will give some alleviation to morning, but not after school. There are also issues with after school

-ECE's who leave @ 3:15, cannot leave, because cars have blocked the middle of the parking lot going up the whole L

-a point to mention in newsletter that students can be dropped off as early as 8:30a.m. during the week because there is yard duty supervision

-----next meeting planned for Thursday, March 30, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m. -----