

McKee Public School

School Advisory Council
Tuesday February 16, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Jeff Kwong

Nancy Ng-Charron

Katia Robles

Hengameh Vahabi

Sara Biglari

Jennifer Nguyen

Bonnie Yu

Eman Khairallah

Zahra (Afsaneh) Shahsavari

Charles Yang

Domenic Giorgi

Ravi Kumar

Hannah Tudo

Jinah Kim Lee

Maritza Soles

1. Call to order: 6:35 pm.
2. Introductions.

Special Business:

3. Traffic Concerns:

- a) Jinah volunteered to participate in the committee to discuss traffic concerns around McKee P.S. with the TDSB, city council, and our councilor Mr. John Filion. She invites participation and recommendations from the parent community to present to the relevant authorities.
- b) **Principal's Response:** when Mitchell Field was constructed, there was a plan to split Kenneth Ave. North/South between McKee Ave. and Church Ave. The plan was to have an enclosed walking / playing area (from McKee's east fence to Mitchell Field's parking lot, there is a visible circle on the Google map view, indicating the initial plan)
- c) Council can provide recommendations to the authorities to reduce traffic on Kenneth Ave. (between McKee Ave. and Church Ave), such as partial closure of Kenneth Ave. during school hours, marking Kenneth Ave. "One Way," etc.

4. Play Area improvements:

- a) Reviewed the presentation by Jennifer Smith. Phase 1 is done and Phase 2 requires planning by Council.
- b) Council has set aside some money (\$4000) for Play Area improvements. Considering that TDSB has approved installation of AstroTurf, Council could plan to spend this fund for other upgrades in the Play Area.
- c) Concern regarding disadvantages of AstroTurf: some parents expressed concerns about more heat on the surface during summer, more traffic during non-school hours due to popularity of the upgraded surface, and chemical compounds used in the AstroTurf.
- d) Principal's Response: there have been multiple unsuccessful attempts over the years to grow grass in the Play Area. TDSB has chosen McKee as one of 9 schools for installation of AstroTurf.
- e) Recommendation from the Principal: Council could potentially plan to combine the other Play Area upgrades along with the TDSB plan for AstroTurf installation. It would be worthwhile to invite TDSB staff to discuss the proposal.

5. Coupon Books Fundraiser:

- a) Eman: can we get a discount for the coupon books considering that we are almost 3 months into the year?
- b) Council agreed to plan for communication in the school newsletter and procurement of the coupon books in September 2016 for the 2017 calendar year.

Principal's Report (Domenic Giorgi):

6. **Health Outbreak:** The outbreak started in Kindergarten and Grade 1, with 220 children affected in total. Toronto Public Health did a visual review of the school campus and review of its hygiene practices. They

also conducted a thorough cleaning of the classrooms including carpets. The outbreak was suspected to be because of norovirus.

7. Had a wonderful celebration for Lunar New Year on February 8. Thanks to council for covering the cost of fortune cookies for the entire school (~\$100).
8. **Enrollment Numbers for 2016:** The April meeting is critical for Council to understand the staffing numbers and placement of classes.
9. **Board Excellence Awards:** Our principal is on the board selection committee for excellence awards. Nominations are welcome until 22 March 2016.
10. **Yearbooks:** have been ordered. There is an addition of 16 pages from this year. The cost of the books has been increased to \$25 from \$20 (last year) to factor in the additional pages and the increase in costs. Yearbook sales is not a fundraising activity for the school.
11. **Winter Policy:** As per the TDSB policy, it is considered cold when the temperature is -28C with wind chill. If the temperature is below -28C then the school has indoor recess and lunch sessions. If the temperature is between -20C and -28C then it's the school's discretion to have an indoor recess or lunch time. It's critical for the parents to understand the winter policy and prepare children appropriately. Unfortunately it's a logistical challenge if there are discrete requests from parents to keep their wards indoors due to weather or health conditions, and the school has to enforce the recess and lunch schedules as per TDSB policy.
12. **Dance-a-thon:**
 - a) It is scheduled to happen on March 4, supported and coordinated by staff. This is a critical fundraiser activity for the school. Parents are encouraged to donate and there are raffle prizes. The funds are used to support the school's technology, music, and physical education enhancement programs. The goal for this year is to use the funds to increase the number of Chromebooks and tablets.
 - b) Moved to Thursday March 4 to ensure participation of Grade 5 students who will be away March 1 to March 3 for an off-campus trip.
13. **Extra-Curricular Activities:** A new Owari club has been added by the school. This is a game from Africa and it is being introduced to children in Grade 5, to be subsequently expanded to cover other grades. Request to Council to approve a cost of \$364 to cover the cost of the Owari games. **Council:** Nidhi raised a motion approve the cost of the game, seconded by Afsanah.

14. Upcoming Events / Important Dates

- a) **Dance-a-thon: March 4**
- b) **Spirit Week: March 8 to March 12**
- c) **March Break: March 14th to Mar 18**
- d) **Persian New Year: March 23**
- e) **PA Day: April 15**

Financial Report

15. Not discussed at this meeting. Treasurers to combine the report at the next Council meeting.

Chair Report:

16. **Approval for January Meeting minutes:** the wrong version was circulated so approval was deferred to the March meeting.

New Business / Open Questions:

17. Graduation:

- a) Eman: there is a conflict in the dates with Cummer for graduation. Principal's Response: it should not be an issue since McKee's Graduation is scheduled in the morning and Cummer's Graduation is scheduled in the evening.

18. Survey by TDSB for evening Day Care: purpose is to plan for new after-care spaces and licensing to McKee McKids.

19. Acorn card sales:

- a) Bonnie: was cancelled in the fall due to the work-to-rule policy of staff. The organizers requested if they can do the activity in spring. Council: There are too many fund raising activities planned for the rest of the year; Council agreed to cancel the Acorn card sales for this year.

20. Barbeque Event:

- a) Bonnie to request for the deposit back from the catering company since the event was cancelled for this year. Council to plan for event again in the June meeting.

21. Parent Question: how do kids get the events flyers? Are they trusted and reliable sources? Principal's response: All communications are managed by TDSB's Communications Department. It is safe to assume that there is review by TDSB but the school does not verify the contents of flyers or their sponsors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm ☺

Important Decisions and Action Items:

1. **Action:** Get it touch with Claude Watson regarding Astro turf upgrade experience.
2. **Action:** Form a Sub-Committee for Play Area Improvements & Management.
3. **Action:** Discuss Staffing and Placements at April Council meeting.
4. **Action:** Discuss hiring a professional videographer for school performances to minimize disruption by parents trying to record their children.
5. **Decision:** Deferred the discussion on coupon books to September 2016 meeting.
6. **Action:** Council to discuss the long-term plan for fundraising initiatives and goals.
7. **Action [Closed]:** Change the password for Council Gmail account.
8. **Action:** Plan for the funds maturing from the term deposit.
9. **Decision:** Council to cancel the Acorn Card sales for this year.
10. **Action:** Hannah to request the deposit back for the Barbeque event.

Future Meeting Schedule:

1. Tuesday April 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm
2. Tuesday May 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm
3. June Schedule TBD