**Thorncliffe Park Public School**

School Council (2012-2013)

Minutes of the Meeting # 1

Date: October 23, 2012 at 6:30 pm

The meeting attended by the council members, school principal and parents.

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| **Council Members Present** | | **Council Members Absent** | **Parents** |
| 1.Abdul Azeem Mohammed | 2. Ejaz Rashid | 1. Ijaz Hussain | 1. |
| 3. Syed MubasharHussain | 4. Khalid Mahmood | 2. HabiburRahman | 2. |
| 5. Khalid Syed | 6. HamadLodhi |  | 3. |
| 7. MaimoonaAfroz | 8. Mohammad Arif Khan |  | 4. |
| 9. Mohammad IrshadSabir | 10. Muhammad Shafqat |  | 5. |
| 11. Muhammad Sharif | 12. NadeemQureshi |  |  |
| 13. NihalAzharKirmani | 14.Ossama El Sarraff |  |  |
| 15. Raees Ahmed | 16. RahilaHaque |  |  |

**Staff Members:**

1. Kevin Battaglia – Principal

**Agenda:**

* Election result on 15th position votes four – way tie
* SSON Forms
* Election for council positions
* Previous year council’s achievements
* Bill – 13 and community’s concerns
* Other business

**School Council Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting started at 6:40 pm with respect to the agenda.

**Principal’s presentation:**

Mr. Battaglia explained the present members and parent about the council election result. He also mentioned that there is no guideline in council constitution to deal with tie results.On his best judgement, he took all 4 tie members as council member and now the number of council member will be 18. He emphasised the council to review the constitution to deal with such situation in future.

Decision: Members agreed with Principal and had approved all 18 members as Executive Members of the Council for year 2012-2013. It is exceptional approval and the total members of Parent council should not exceed then 15 in future. The constitution will be revised to deal with this situation.

**SSON Forms :**

* Mr. Battaglia has explained the Council participation in School Statement of Needs (SSON), which is the outlines the parent/community priorities for the school that will be used by the Board’s superintendent to identify a School Principal and Vice Prinicpals.
* The Chair agreed and promised to fill the form and return to Principal.

**Election for council’s positions:**

Following members elected unopposed for following position.

**Vice Chair: Mr. Hamid Lodhi**

**Secretary: Mr. Mohammad IrshadSabir**

**Treasure: Mr. IjazHussain**

For Chair position 2 candidates nomination were filed

1. **Mr. Khalid Mahmood**
2. **Mr. Ossama El Sarraf**

Members voted thru secret ballot and Khalid Mahmood were announced as a Chair for year 2012-2013 by the Principal.

The Chair Mr. Mahmood thanked the members for their trust and confidence on him for the third term.

The Chair Mr. Mahmood presented the last year 2011 – 2012 council’s achievements and objectives for next year.

**Following were the main achievement in year 2011-12:**

* EQAO results improvement was our main objective for last 2 years, and we have tried our best to create awareness among parents. We are proud to mention that our school has made significant improvement in EQAO results, and this reflects that how Mr. Battaglia and his team worked hard to achieve it.
* In order to improve literacy, Council has fully supported Borrow book program.
* Co-ordinated between parent and school management for appropriate sex education
* Provided extra curriculum activities through Speech , Quiz and Art Competition
* Pioneered School’s Science Exhibition.
* Upheld the tradition of successful Fun Fair, where hundreds of kids and Parents have enjoyed the event.
* Raised $8,000 for charity in school and community
* Organized a Parent Seminar on Making Responsible kids, hundreds of Parent benefited.
* Organized a safety meeting to create awareness on Jaywalking
* On Bill – 13 achievements
  + Arranged a high profile Community & Council Meeting with Board’s Trustee, Superintendent and Principal on Sep. 18, 2012. Where Parent’s concerns over Bill 13 have been expressed. Majority of the Parents were concerned that anything which is against, any of the faiths should be notified beforehand. The opt-out option should also be allowed.
  + Council continue struggle till Parentshave their rights.
  + Invited and involved the parent, representatives from Musallah / Mosque
  + Will be held another follow up meeting soon.
* **Chair has highlighed on the role of our School council and its purpose; he said**
  + It is Council’s duty to encourage parents for their active participation in improvingour children achievement and also to enhance the accountability of the education system.
  + It is mentioned that we have to focus on improved learning for all students
  + We should maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
  + We are here to represent and communicate the views of the school community
  + We should put every effort for **Better schools , brighter future of kids**
  + The chair has stressed on council role who can help School in **Academic improvements**
* **Main Objective for the year 2012-13**
  + Upon the suggestion from Chair , Council is agreed for the overall academic improvement of school should be our Prime Objective for year 2012-2013.
* **Major issue of Parents is Bill 13**
  + Respect for all is council’s slogan for the year, we should make every effort to make this school free from all kind of bullies.
  + Mr. Mahmood has suggested to form a committee who should work with School and Boards to convey Community and Parent’s concern over Bill 13.
  + Chair has mentioned to arrange a parent meeting in November 2012 to discuss bill 13 with the delegate of Trustee and TDSB.
  + This committee will help school to make anti bully policies that no one should be hurt or bullied at this school.
* **Chair has stated that we should work hard with full team spirit to achieve our goals. He has suggested few task committees to get maximum results :**
* **Academic Improvement**
* **Bill 13**
* **Fund Raising**
* **Parent Involvement**
* **Event Management**
* **Science Fair**
* **Fun Fair**
* **Media and Web Launch**

**It has been advised that every member should must participate in these committees and we must encourage parents to participate for good cause.**

Mr. Rashid Ijaz has questioned the main reason behind low score in EQAO?

Principal , has stated that the extended absences are a factor behind this performance. Long vacations make children absent for 3-4 months which has a negative impact on children’s education. He also stated that approximately 400 kids go on extended absences each school year which impacts on school progress, budgets and staffing.

Ms. Haqueasked what programs are offered by school to improve student achievement?The Principalreplied that the school has many programme to help the student like ESL, Reading Recovery, LEAP and some afterschool literacy programmes etc…

Mr. El Sarraff also suggested for parent meeting.

There was a question on homework raised by a parent. The parent indicated that the teachers do not give equal amounts of homework for same grade. The Principal Mr. Battaglia replied that homework is not a good tool for “assessment of learning.” He indicated that when teachers who assign the most homework that doesn’t mean that there is more learning going on for their students. He encouraged parentsto ask the teacher for evidence of learning and to keep close contact to discuss your kids progress.

**Bill 13:**

Parents have raised their concern on education guidelines under Bill 13.

Mr. Ladhihas pointed out his concerns on principal’s letter to Parents on bill-13. He stated that 3rd paragraph is not clear to us and it contradicts with first two paragraphs where Parents have assured that they have accommodationright if it is against their faith. The Principal replied that paragraph 3 does not conflict with first 2 paragraphs because Bill 13 does not have a specific curriculum.

Mr. El- Sarraf and Mr. Sharif , Mr. Kirmani has also raised their concerns.

Chair has expressed that Parents are still concerned about the impact on kid’s learning after bill 13 legislation. He indicated that a number of parents have taken their kids to private schools and large number of parents are looking for alternate education resources to keep their children safe from any education which is against their faith. It was suggested by Chair and agreed by Council to call an extended Parent meeting to come and see with TDSB Trustee and their representative to clarify the situation.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 21, 2012 at 6:30 at staff room.**

**Adjournment:**

In the absence of any other business to discuss the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.