

**Minutes of Thorncliffe Park School Advisory Council
(Thorncliffe Park Committee)
held on Wednesday, December 11th 2013 at 6:30 pm in Staff Room**

Present council members:

Abdul Rauf Jangda	
Mariam Afzaal	Vice-chair
Mohammad Arif Khan	
Mohammed Azam	Secretary
Nasim Damani	Community representative
Nusrat Azam	
Ossama El Sarraff	Chair
Safeera Mulla	

Absent council members:

Alia Amer
Fahmida Lisa
Humair Shahid
Kamran Sedighi
Khalid Mahmood
Maimoona Afroz
Rahila Haque
Shakeel Ahmed

Present members-at-large:

Dr. Ahmed Afzaal
Erum Muqeen
Henna Khan
Mohammad Aamirullah
Musa Alturk

Present staff members:

Jeffrey Crane	Principal
Kurt Chin	Vice-principal
Shari Green-Brown	Vice-principal

Minutes

- The council members were consulted whether to carry forward with the existing 13 members or ask interested parents to fill in the 2 vacancies, and the decision was to fill in the vacancies. Safeera Mulla and Nusrat Azam were elected as new council members.
- Nasim Damani was nominated as a community representative, which she gladly accepted.
- Mohammad Azam was elected as the Secretary of the Council.
- The principal of the school, Jeffrey Crane, updated the school council on the construction of the new building and parking. He also mentioned that the parking heated ramp was tested and should be ready for the winter weather. He also requested parents to avoid parking on the school property to avoid traffic hazards during the entrance and exit of the students for the safety of our children.
- “Million dollar words” an activity in which one word is given to the students daily was introduced by the principal to enhance the vocabulary and the usage of the words was appreciated by the council.
- For “Donation Drive”, the members suggested to approach Red Cross and big businesses.
- Some parents receive calls from the office about their children’s absence despite the fact that they have been to school on some days where they participate in out-of-school activities. Communication between teachers and office was stressed by the members to avoid such situations, although this was accepted as a “good mistake” for the safety of the children.
- Bullying issue was highlighted by the co-chair Mariam Afzal, and was discussed in detail. All the members took part in the debate. The principal assured that the school management will take care of the issue. It was also agreed that any “true” or “serious” incident of bullying should be reported to staff to resolve it and to avoid similar situations in the future.
- Academic achievement is an important task and topic for parents at Thorncliffe Park Public School. Ossama El Sarraff mentioned that it was discussed during a school council meeting at Marc Garneau last year during the attendance of the former Superintendent of Education, Rauda Dickinson, that preparing our children for special programs shouldn’t start from grade 7 or grade 8. It should start from the early years during their existence at the elementary school. The children should be attracted to science and math from their early age to build up their skills and capabilities for special programs in high school, and for their learning enrichment. He also mentioned that there are academic competitions that are available for children from as early as grade 2 and up, in which our school can participate. As a start, teachers can print the previous years’ tests and use them to coach and train our children in solving these kinds of problems to get them ready next year. Also, to improve the academic achievement in school, Abdul Rauf Jangda suggested that coding (programming) should be taught at school and suggested visiting the www.code.org website to get more information.
- The chair, Ossama El Sarraff, suggested the following dates for the remaining meetings of the council which were accepted by all the members.
 - January 15th, 2014
 - February 11th, 2014
 - March 19th, 2014
 - April 16th, 2014
 - May 21st, 2014
 - June 18th, 2014

- The chair also asked for the early preparation for fundraising for the Fun Fair. There were several ideas discussed like movie nights, bake sales, etc. for fundraising. The council also agreed to write letters to the donors and to create pamphlets for this purpose based on previous years' experiences.