

Minutes

Davisville JPS / MTSD School Council

Wednesday, January 26th, 2011

6:45 – 8:00 PM

TLC Conference Room, 3rd Floor

In attendance were the executive council: Rob McCready and Sherry Giles (co-chairs) Nancy MacDonald (treasurer) and Tanya Murdoch (secretary)

Leah Brand-Jacobsen (teacher representative) was in attendance with the principal's report, as the principal was unable to attend

Also attending were the following parents:

Meredyth Hilton , Anne Sasu, John Hiddema, Edie Shaw, Adrian Gravello
Lisa Kelleher

Proposed outline

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of January 26th Minutes
3. Principal's Report
4. Building & Land Use Committee Report
5. Proposal For Redevelopment Vote
6. Class Parent Update
7. Fun Fair Planning

Meeting convened at 6:50.

Everyone introduces themselves.

Lisa Kelleher (Building and Land Use Committee co-chair) gave an update on the Building and Land Use (BLU) committee's work to date. An ad hoc committee formed last School Council meeting to deal with the proposed redevelopment of Davisville Ps property by the TDSB. They have had one meeting so far, soon after forming committee, on Dec 13th, which mostly dealt with how committee would work and divided up action items, things to be researched before the next meeting. There has not been a second meeting yet, but much productive e-mail exchanged, lots of research done and information exchanged, very productive way to work to date. Wendy Crawford (BLU co-chair) has created a chart outlining school community representation. The TDSB sent a flow chart earlier in the day outlining how the consultation process works, but have not offered any other feedback. The lively e-mail discussion, Wendy's chart and the TDSB

chart will be posted on Google groups. Many parents present asked to be included on the Google group list and Rob will set them up.

There was a discussion of the focus for the next BLU committee meeting. Two main priorities were identified: Lisa felt that the committee should concentrate on generating wider ideas before getting bogged down in the details, Rob felt that the structure of decisions (esp rules around voting and decision making) should be formalized at the outset.

There was more discussion about the committee and process of working with the TDSB on redevelopment issues:

TDSB is slow starting the process - this is good at this point, as no one is pushing an agenda yet. John pointed out the importance (as with any bureaucracy and large development project) to get out ahead of the process. Rob discussed process- as with the ARC last year, 2 reps from council would be on the Local Development Team (LDT) and would ferry information back and forth between team and parents on council and committee. Rob also pointed out the need of short, clear and regular updates on the progress of the committee to share with community at large.

Conclusion: Lisa/Wendy will circulate e-mail about possible dates for next meeting, to try to find a day of the week that is good for everyone.

School council may also try to move around to a different day so that more parents can attend.

Second item to be discussed: proposal for redevelopment vote.

As Rob lays it out, the situation now is that executive council and teacher rep have the only 5 votes on any council decision, according to our default by-laws. Since we have formed the BLU committee and it will be doing a lot of work on making recommendations that affect the whole school in a big way, the vote on these recommendations is too weighty for so few people to control. One possible solution: add more voting members, say 10, for all council votes. But the problem is too many people needed at each meeting to vote on anything, unnecessary for regular council business. Rob researched the council constitution of another neighbourhood school (Maurice Cody PS) which allows for a vote by any parent present at general council meetings.

For adopting the recommendations of BLU when the time comes, Rob proposed that have a onetime solution for voting on the recommendations of the committee, when they are ready to present them. He proposes that this would be in the form of a onetime special vote. The committee would post the proposals well in advance (at least two

weeks) and publicize them widely, then have a general vote on one evening with as many members of the school community as want to vote.

Meredyth expressed concern that the vote would be decided not by thoughtful dedicated people who had worked and researched all the options, but a bunch of parents who develop an uninformed opinion at the 11th hour. Lisa felt that people would be kept up to date on what the committee was working on, and it was an open process. Anyone could join the committee or keep up with the process online. Sherry pointed out that even if no one read anything in advance of the vote, the committee would give a thorough presentation to those assembled on the evening of the vote, so everyone would be somewhat informed. Lisa suggested that the Class Parents could be a means of distribution of information and a means to poll other parents in each class to bring to the committee as feedback, not as votes.

Rob reiterated that the TDSB has been clear that it wants to make some use of the valuable property that Davisville PS sits on, as a way of generating capital for the boards operating budget. He also pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that must be signed before any redevelopment starts on this property must be a signed agreement between the TDSB, the ratepayer association, and the Davisville School community.

Rob is concerned about the process, and to that end, proposes two motions:

- Council executive prepare rules and procedures for a general vote of all Davisville JPS/MTSD parents/guardians. The rules must at least cover a vote on the BaLU recommendations around signing an MOU regarding redevelopment. These rules will be presented for vote at the next council meeting, and must be made available to the community at least 2 weeks prior to that meeting.
- Council executive prepare a Constitution formalizing the current Council structure and procedures. The Constitution should include additional common elements such as a Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest rules, as advised in the Ministry guidelines. The proposed Constitution will be presented for vote at the next Council meeting, and must be made available to the community at least 2 weeks prior to that meeting.

Both motions are forwarded by Rob and seconded by Lisa and Meredyth, in turn. These motions are voted on and pass by consensus.

The Principal's Report was delivered by Leah Brand-Jacobsen, as the principal couldn't attend. The newsletter will come out next week, along with the calendar. A partial list of significant dates:

- February 14th is a school dance (funded by school council)
- February 14th report cards out around, 17th-18th parent interviews;

- February 23rd Field trip of upper grades to play, the Diary of Anne Frank, will be on, as well as a few trips to Hodgson to skate. Grades one and 2 field trip to Nathan Phillips Square on the 23rd
- February 24th Winter Carnival (organized by Maria Mantello, volunteer coordinator Tanya Murdoch)
- February 25th Family Skate night at Hodgson on the 25th

A discussion of the state of the skate exchange: Leah and Meredyth pointed out the need for skates, and the fact that the skate exchange was not active, that it had been underused last year, but that there were still skates available. A suggestion that something be mentioned in the newsletter about free skates, and Leah said she will talk to other teachers about whether their students need skates.

More principal's report:

School council money has gone to fund field trips- thank you.

Leah brings up some other possible calls for school council funds: Ms. Chong wants to bring more art programs into the school, possibly via *inner city angels* program (<http://www.innercityangels.ca/Public/Home.aspx>). Leah talks about possible annual ski trip that could be funded by school council money. Nancy says she was also approached from Maria Mantello/ Tricia Boyce to get funding for snowshoes for Carnival.

Rob and Sherry pointed out to Leah that the teachers need to give us a prioritized wish list of funds needed for various projects, so that we can make an informed decision on how to spend school council funds. Nothing was decided, but Leah promised she would approach the teachers at the next staff meeting about collecting this information for us.

Security update: security passes on all doors, controlled by full time staff only with their key cards. This is more secure and also more convenient for teachers to get in. Front door by office still open to traffic, locked at 4pm.

Other general requests on funding: smart boards, school trips, scientist in the school.

No vote.

Fun fair report by Sherry Giles... Fun Fair is the 4th of June, first meeting proposed for March.

Some positions need filling:

- volunteer coordinator needed (Meredyth possibly taking this position)
- coordinator for rummage/book sales (to be combined)
- Kimberley Irwin ordering rentals
- bake sale coordinator

- Silent Auction- Susan Backshi offered to help coordinator, but not be it.
- Kids games
- Talent show

Sherry wanted to know about booking an entertainer for the day, and mentioned an excellent magician. Rob proposes another motion that Fun Fair committee have leeway with budget as long as it remains within 10% of last year' expenditures. Motion passes by consensus.

Sherry will also try to organize a meeting earlier, perhaps in February, to start planning.

Meredyth raised a question about selling Davisville T-shirts- she printed out some for the boys baseball team early in the year, and she was wondering about making more and selling them/ donating some to the school teams for interschool competition. Rob and Sherry agreed to approach the Principal to get her thoughts on this, and Meredyth offered to find out more about sizes and samples. Everyone agreed it would be good for the kids and the school to have new t-shirts.

Meeting adjourned due to time constraints at about 8:20pm.