

Davisville PS/MTSD School Council meeting

December 1, 2010 minutes

Meeting commenced at 6:45 in the 3rd floor boardroom

In attendance were the executive council: Rob McCready and Sherry Giles (co-chairs) Nancy MacDonald (treasurer) and Tanya Murdoch (secretary) Leah Brand-Jacobson (teacher representative) and principal Tricia Boyce as well as Donna and another teacher from the after school care program. Also attending were the following parents: Kimberly Irwin, Wendy Crawford, Victor deRisio, Anne Sasu, Racheal Delamaine, Val Upfold, Vivek Bakshi, Lisa Kelleher, Susan Bakshi... some parents had to leave early so a few names may be missing.

Proposed outline for meeting:

1. Approval of Sept. 30 Minutes
2. Formation of Building and Land Use Committee
3. Report on Spectrum Move Planning Status
4. Discussion of Fund-Raising Plan
5. Report on Class Rep. Initiative
6. Principal's Report

Rob McCready and Sherry Giles (co-chairs) gave a report on the Spectrum Move Planning Status. They have met with the local design team architects deciding how to best accommodate the program within Davisville- they have another meeting scheduled for Monday December 6, and plan must be finalized by Dec 17, 2010 for a September 2011 start date. They will need 3 classrooms and an office to house a population of about 65 kids in grades 7 & 8.

This process and future possible changes around the school highlight the need for a building and land use committee. Before creating a committee though, Rob expressed concerns that the only voting members on the current student council were the 4 executive members and the teacher representative, and that with major possible changes at the school, he felt uncomfortable with such a small group fairly representing the will of the school community. To that end he proposed another committee to look at amending by-laws around the way decisions are voted on by the council, before any decisions came up for a vote. Principal Boyce offered to share some sample structures of school council by-laws.

Wendy proposed that we figure out election/voting rules and create a building and lands committee simultaneously, as the process of determining future development of the Davisville lands by the TDSB will be starting in earnest by February. She had some proposed steps for a working committee to get started on:

1. Find core group of interested parents (we passed around a list of parents from the meeting)
2. Create info package for new parents ASAP to bring them up to speed on recent history of the school (esp. ARC process and proposals from last year)

3. Find a way to get community input (a poll/A questionnaire)
4. Create a list of concerns to address
5. Reach out and engage other community groups in the neighbourhood

Motioned proposed to develop a working committee for building and land development issues motioned by Wendy, seconded by Lisa. Motion passed.

Some more discussion: should Spectrum be represented this year on the committee? And on the voting issue, should class reps be voting members? Concern was expressed that might be a deterrent for people volunteering in that position. Principal Boyce suggested that all self nominated council members be voting members, but this was never the case before. No resolution on voting members issue.

We discussed what the mandate will be of the building and land use committee. Any issues around use of the building and grounds would be run past this committee, and they would be responsible for taking a closer look at the proposed redevelopment of Davisville PS. A member of the committee would probably work with the Local Design Team around any changes, though this needs clarification- Rob offered to check it out further. Victor expressed concern that all members of the community be represented on this committee, and listed English (which includes the deaf students under special needs), French Immersion, Spectrum, the 2 daycares, teachers and staff. Rob pointed out that on any committee, as it stands now, they could make recommendations to the school council, and the council would vote on it. Generally, the TDSB could overrule any recommendations made by a school council, BUT in the redevelopment process beginning in February, the Superintendent has promised that nothing will proceed without a signed Memorandum of Understanding between representatives of the Davisville business community, the TDSB and the Davisville school council, so we have a big responsibility to understand and articulate the needs of our community.

Wendy and Lisa agree to co-chair the working committee for building and lands development, and the discussion is put to rest.

A new parent with a daughter in JK, raised concerns at the kinds of foods being served to kindergarten kids through the snack program. Tricia offered to meet with her or any parent to discuss concerns, but explained that the program was run with volunteers and the mother running it was working in conjunction with a TDSB nutritionist to develop a menu along Canada's food guide guidelines.

Susan Bakshi discusses fundraising plan. Rob and Principal Boyce explain that the mandate of school councils is to spend all the money raised on the school, and fundraising must be for a specific purpose (i.e. enrichment programs, field trips, new uniforms or smart boards, for example.) The fundraising events last year were the QSP fundraiser, pizza lunches, movie night, wine tasting evening, fun fair and the raffle. Susan proposed we consider eliminating the raffle as a fundraiser because, while it is one of the largest fundraisers, it a lot of work for the return. It is run under the provincial gaming guidelines and requires a lot of paperwork as well as legwork and volunteer hours.

Nancy MacDonald (treasurer) read some numbers from last year's fundraisers: raffle raised about \$5600, wine tasting raised about \$3600, pizza lunches about \$3000, fun fair about \$1400, penny drive \$1100, and other events (BBQ, Movie nights) about \$600.

Tanya Murdoch talked about progress made in developing a class representative system at Davisville. To date, it was proposed at the first council meeting in September, and Tanya offered to head it up. She then followed up by meeting with Principal Boyce and the two school council co-chairs. The three parents were invited to speak at the next teacher staff meeting on November 15th, where we received some overt and enthusiastic support from a few teachers, and no concerns were expressed to by the teachers at that meeting. A mention of the class system was in the newsletter sent home today, and Tanya promised to create a form to send home to all parents in the next week or two to solicit any interested parents to put their names in. We want to have the system in place for next term.

Nancy MacDonald gave a treasurer's report on funds raised so far this year: \$3200 for QSP magazine drive to date (may be more forthcoming from Visa... Sherry estimates about \$4000 raised altogether) \$2100 to date raised by pizza lunches, \$352 from the first movie night. Only expenses to date for this school year were the costs for "scientist in the school" program, but more forthcoming.

Principal's Report: Tricia brought in EQAO results for grade 3 and 6 from last year. All results were above board and provincial levels in all areas, despite the fact that kids that are exempted from the tests are included in the results, even though they count as 0. She offered to walk through the results with any interested parent. She said that these tests along with some other tests help to guide the professional development training for teachers to help them target learning needs for their students, and that it seemed to be working.

The next School Council meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2011.