

Davisville JPS/MTDS School Council Meeting Minutes September 30, 2010

Here's what happened:

Meeting opened at 6:45 pm... Rob McCready (current chair) explained that Sherry Giles had offered to co-chair the council this year- everyone seemed happy with this. Nancy MacDonald would stay on as treasurer and Tanya Murdoch (me) would step in as secretary and record the meeting.

Rob also said there was a need for a fundraising coordinator/committee and also a coordinator/committee needed for the spring fun fair. Some parents pointed out that there were people who already initiated the elements needed for both, but that a point person(s) was needed other than (by default) the parent council chair. Susan Bakshi was suggested, but not present...

There is an all candidates meeting for ward 22 school trustee candidates at the school gym on October 13th, 6:30-8:00. Details will be in the upcoming newsletter.

We have a stack of filled out information forms to create a list of parent contacts, and help is needed to enter this information. A few suggestions were offered on the best way to do this but nothing was decided. Co-chair Sherry Giles inherited the stack for now.

A suggestion was made that class reps might be a good way to break down the work of contacting parents and soliciting help for teachers. There is no class rep system currently at Davisville. I offered to coordinate with Trish (our principal) about how this could be approached in the near future, so she could take it to the teachers at their next meeting.

A parent Lisa Kelleher has brought in an eco-curriculum pilot program to the school sponsored by TD friends of environment (<http://www.fef.td.com/>) program. It's called Trees for life and you can find out more at this website: <http://www.trees4life.ca/> a few teachers have been responsive and 3 will be incorporating it first: Nancy Rawlinson, Ms. Chong and Ms. Harnick, with some more in the spring. Basically the kids learn about growing and caring for a tree and by extension their environment. This will be covered by Global tv.

Rob pointed out that redevelopment might become an issue for Davisville over the next year and beyond and parents need to be involved and stay aware of plans, because we have a say. The TDSB wants to sell off part of the school grounds to raise money. The TDSB superintendent, Chris Spence has committed that nothing will be done without a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the parent council, the ratepayer association and some other area group. Nothing is happening until January, but there may need to be some kind of discussion group around this as well. Rob says he will try to track down parents from North Toronto who went through a similar redevelopment process a few years ago.

The meeting passed to our Principal, Tricia Boyce.

Tricia pointed out that the beginning of the school year was complicated by having more students than were expected by board predictions, mostly in grade 3. The school had anticipated this, however and they were able to hire a teacher who had been a familiar supply teacher from last year, and was able to be a temporary fill in teacher (she shared the teaching with Miss Chong in the mega grade 3/4 class for the first 2 weeks of fall), and now has been hired to teach a grade 2/3 split: Gillian Harnick. So while it seemed messy at the beginning, it was actually not too weird for the kids.

There are 282 kids in the school this year, French immersion (SK/grade 1), Metro School for the deaf (about 40 kids, in all grades), special education as well as the English program.

Tricia said how successful the Barbeque/curriculum night was this year, lots of parents out.

Parent council needs to create a proper safety committee... Ian Allison from the board was mentioned, Kimberly Irwin was suggested as someone who might be interested in forming this committee (she was absent)

Alicia was introduced. She is running the snack program in the school. She needs volunteers 4 days a week between 830-11 to get the snacks out. Only one volunteer a day needs to come, and the more the easier. Anyone interested should contact the school office. Afternoon kindergarten is also included this year, and forms went out today. The snack program starts on the 12th of October (just after Thanksgiving.) Last year most of the children took part.

Tricia volunteered that the EQOA results were in and we did very well in both grades (3 and 6) well above 75% in all areas, but the results can't be posted because the data pool is too small. She will share information with interested parents if they drop by the office, or you can look online <http://www.eqao.com/> at Davisville's results.

Another parent (Meredyth Hilton) expressed concern that the daycare kids and the rest of the school were separated at lunchtime, and also that the grades were being segregated in the non daycare room. Tricia said she would address these concerns with the lunchroom monitors.

Co-chair Sherry said that the QSP magazine drive (big school fundraiser) is starting from next Tuesday (October 5) through the 19th and volunteers can just drop by the parent room most mornings to help out in many ways.

And then we all stacked up the chairs and went home.

Tanya Murdoch (parent council secretary)