

Minutes- draft pending approval

Davisville JPS / MTSD School Council

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

6:45 – 8:25 PM

TLC Conference Room, 3rd Floor

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

Tricia Boyce (principal) and Maria Mantello (teacher representative) attending.

Also in attendance the following parents:

John Hiddema, Anne Sasu, Wendy Crawford, Susan Bakshi, Val Upfold, Danielle Lavallee, Renata Vaccaro, Lisa Kelleher, Sarah Miller, Jacintha Doner

Proposed Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Principal's Report
3. Introduction of candidates for school council positions
4. Election of 2011/2012 school council
5. Other business

Meeting convened at 6:50.

1. Introductions round the table

2. Principal's Report:

- 332 students enrolled to date, with 2 more coming Monday... this includes all the streams in Davisville PS/Metro School for the Deaf, but not Spectrum, which is housed at the school but is a separate entity.
- Kindergarten numbers were projected at 12 over the allotment in the fall, and were near that, so the board approved another kindergarten class after school began in the fall; Ms Breslaw had been half time, but agreed to take a full time position and now the JK/English SK classes are at a comfortable 16-17 students per class, with some shifting around of students.
- Some of the French immersion classes in the primary grades have shrunk from attrition, with 2 grade one classes at 15/16 each and 2 grade two classes at 13/14 each, opening up the possibility of split classes at the upper years in the

future but not this year. FI prep time coverage (gym, music, drama, library etc.) is being taught in French this year.

- Renovation of the library and computer lab complete, though some work carried over into the first few weeks of school. Computer lab now housed in a separate room, library occupies the full library, new flooring and air conditioners in both rooms.
- More students need epi pens, so staff is getting training on emergency procedures.
- Snack program starting **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** please come to the office to sign up.
- Terry Fox run tomorrow
- Many sports teams up and running: softball, cross country
- Parking lot not serviced now, leading to issues with parking, but the city is rumoured to be taking over service of the lot.

Official report concluded, principal responded to questions from parents:

- the in house network is now up and running for announcements and national anthem- technical problems at the beginning of school year, now fixed but school is short 3 TVs; a suggestion made that perhaps TVs in good shape could be donated, and they would be welcome, but contact principal first!!
- maintenance is not an issue, despite all this growth and change: the school is keeping budgets tight but the board has approved all requests for the school.

3. Introduction of candidates:

All positions that people had put their names in for had only one candidate present. Therefore all positions filled by acclamation:

4. Election:

Chair: Sarah Miller (acclaimed)

Treasurer: Val Upfold (acclaimed) note: outgoing Treasurer Nancy MacDonald will assist with transition

Secretary: Tanya Murdoch (acclaimed)

Redevelopment chair: John Hiddema (in this role John would act as representative from school council on the BLU committee and as one of two parents on the LDT (or

LSCDT-Local School Community Design Teams) looking at future use and possible redevelopment of Davisville school building and property by the TDSB)

Communication chair- no nominees present. However, one parent had confirmed with council through John that she wanted to fill the position despite her absence: **Michelle Kassel is acclaimed in absentia.** In this role the chair would work with John and Rob to keep content up-to-date on the developing website: www.davisvilleparents.com

Note: Tanya agreed to follow up with an absent nominee about being class parent.

Eco-school chair: Susan Bakshi (acclaimed) Another parent (Robyn Nelmes) had nominated herself but was absent. Tanya offered to follow up with her about working with Susan on the committee.

Fundraising chair- Jacintha Doner (acclaimed) Lisa Kelleher offers help in supporting role... in this role the chair keeps track of fundraising efforts that may be spearheaded by others. Input/help welcome!

Education and Safety chair- unfilled

Fun Fair chair- Rob McCready and Sherry Giles offer to co-chair, acclaimed other nominations were put forward on paper, but not present, who may want to help out on the committee in the spring: Jennifer Waugh, Mohammad Pahlahani, Shivayogi U.

5. Voting membership: a discussion about voting- especially the possibility of council members-at-large voting positions on council (i.e. parents that want a say but don't want to chair a committee.) Rob motions that the meeting be adjourned and reconvened immediately under the new chair before the discussion continues, John seconds the motion. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35**

New meeting reconvenes immediately, Sarah as Chair, and new positions in place.

Sarah Miller takes the opportunity to thanks the outgoing chairs, and to stress how important communication is, how as chair she will be open to all ideas.

Discussion reconvenes. A few points raised about voting membership:

- In the past there have only been 3 voting positions on this council (Chair, secretary and treasurer) and that has mostly worked just fine.
- The school is facing possible redevelopment in the next few years. With school wide decisions to be made in the near future, it is important to have a more democratic voting process, i.e. spread out the decisions between more voters.

Although the Building and Land Use (BLU) committee formed last year to discuss impending redevelopment issues, school council has the final vote on their recommendations, as parent representatives, So this would be a vote that should include more people, when it comes.

- an election committee could meet before the next meeting to consider options.
- Finally, agreement that details of voting should be put off for tonight, unresolved.

6. Communication issues:

Webpage: a discussion of the need for a functioning webpage for the school community. The official school webpage is not being used or updated, and the webpage being built by John and Gord Miller is very useful, if it can be coordinated with the school and the TDSB, and if parents know about it. One suggestion: build link to www.davisvilleparents.com webpage from the TDSB website. Tricia told John the name of the board member he should contact, and they agreed to meet separately.

Newsletter: produced every month by the principal- she welcomes contributions from teachers, staff and parents. Deadline for contributions is the last Friday of the month. In the future, newsletters can be posted online for parents to download, with some hard copies available at the office as e-mail/on-line communication improve.

Class Parent Update: Tanya Murdoch started class parent system last year, and this year process underway but still incomplete. Some parents agreed to be class parent again, but there are still holes. The class parents build an e-mail list as well as a contact sheet for the parents in each class, and through this we can contact all parents.

7. Volunteers needed immediately for two fundraisers: QSP and Pizza Lunch

QSP magazine subscription report: Sherry Giles is doing it this year, but she needs someone to shadow her to take over next year. It is a heavy short term commitment, organizing prizes, paperwork, being in the school every morning for two weeks. Renata expressed some interest.

Nancy gives brief treasurer report- last year QSP raised \$3400, Pizza lunches raised \$4500, Fun Fair raised \$4200.

Pizza lunch: someone needs to take over coordination from Kimberly Irwin. This person/people needs to set up orders, send out forms, make up class sheets, and research a more nutritious source of pizza. No immediate interest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.