

**Bedford Park School Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**

**1. Council Update – Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce**

(a) Wanless Stop Sign Letter - A number of parents have voiced concern over the number of cars not coming to a complete stop at the stop sign located at Wanless and Cardinal Way. It was agreed that the co-chairs would write a letter to the Toronto Police on behalf of Parent Council. Concerns over the stop sign at Leith were also raised and it was agreed that this stop sign would also be referenced in the letter. Mr. Battaglia noted that Jaye Robinson will also be having a community meeting on traffic issues in the area.

(b) Parents' Night Out Debrief – There was positive feedback from the evening and generally the evening was well received. It was also noted that teacher support at the event was greatly appreciated. We raised approximately \$6000 and sold 111 tickets. The ticket numbers were lower than hoped for and it was noted that it may be preferable to ask parents for a flat fee at the beginning of the school year to support parent council initiatives. It was noted that other schools have taken this approach to request funding at the start of the year.

**MOTION:** Cindy McKay moved that a letter go out to parents in September requesting money for parent council initiatives.

**SECONDED:** Silja Yates

**MAJORITY VOTE AND MOTION PASSED** (one opposed)

(c) Lunch Program Update – Kirsten Moore – there was a delay obtaining a license for providing lunches due to a terminal illness at TDSB however the license is now proceeding and should be obtained soon. The lunch provider would like to know how many students are interested and is requesting a period of time (perhaps a couple of weeks) to use recyclable containers until the numbers are established. It was noted that it would be preferable to ask parents to buy the containers and avoid the use of recyclable materials. Kirsten noted that it will take the provider around eight weeks to get the containers. Kirsten agreed to go back to the provider and ask whether she would like us to do a survey to further understand the numbers and will provide an update at a later date.

**2. School Update - Kevin Battaglia**

(a) Mental Health Program – Allison Blight – a proposal was put together and the school was granted funds for supporting mental health initiatives. Michael Eisen from the Youth Wellness Network has been working with some of the older kids on a number of initiatives with the general focus on positive affirmation. Anonymous cards with positive messages were distributed to students and grade 6's put together an inclusive recess game to involve a number of kids in recess activities. Guides were also ordered

for teachers to assist in reducing stress and anxiety. The results for the students have been positive and Michael Eisen's suggestion that teachers also need assistance was valuable. Ms. Blight noted the possibility of asking parent council for funding to have Michael Eisen come and speak to a larger crowd.

(b) Enrollment Data – Last year we over projected and this year we are projected to see 790 students so we will likely have a smaller number than projected. Based on the current data it appears that we may have an extra class in the building next year. Once we have final numbers the teachers will be assigned to classrooms. The process involves Mr. Battaglia speaking with the teachers and determining what grades they are interested in teaching.

(c) Sports Program – the sports meeting was postponed until the end of the current sports season. One current topic is looking at ways to incorporate intramurals.

### **3. Budget Update – Megan Segsworth and Ulviya Aslanov, Co-Treasurers**

Almost \$13,000 was spent on Chromebooks and Smartboard assembly. \$2000 was spent on Prologue and March 9<sup>th</sup> is the last performance (already paid for). Spending was low this month however it was noted that February often has low spending. Although final numbers are not in, approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000 was raised from Parents' Night Out. It was suggested that we use funds to bring a speaker in to speak to students and/or parents regarding internet security. Mr. Battaglia noted that PRO grants are available for these types of speakers but agreed that the grants can take some time to obtain. Megan agreed to research speakers and research the grants process as well.

### **4. Technology Update - Aaron Chan**

The Chromebooks have been ordered and received and staff has had a number of opportunities for training. There are not mandatory workshops for teachers however teachers are encouraged to use all varieties of technology, including Chromebooks.

### **5. Open Discussion**

(a) A parent contacted Mr. Battaglia and expressed concern over hair in the pool. It was noted that the pools are cleaned regularly and the issue could likely not be resolved given the number of students using the pool.

(b) A parent also voiced concern over appropriate supervision over the lunch period. Mr. Battaglia noted that it was not practical to take attendance over lunch and students tend to wander off property in the higher grades. It was agreed that parents have a general responsibility to have discussions with their kids regarding when it is acceptable to leave school property. Mr. Battaglia is able to intervene outside school property if there is a perceived threat, for example, bullying.

**Meeting concluded at 8:40 pm.**

**Next Meeting Scheduled for March 31, 2015 – 7:00pm in Library**