

**Bedford Park School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 31st, 2015, 7:00 p.m.**

1. Council Update – Cindy McKay and Marianne Boyce

(a) Wanless Traffic Update – Megan Segsworth spoke to Jaye Robinson regarding the number of vehicles failing to stop at the stop signs located at Wanless Ave. and Cardinal Way. Jaye Robinson has confirmed that she has notified the police and the police have agreed to provide extra enforcement to the areas of concern. However, Parent Council generally agreed that no extra enforcement has been noted and Megan agreed to follow up again with Jaye.

(b) Community Night – The Community Night Committee is looking for help and support in organizing the event and is also looking for donated items for the raffle and prize extravaganza. Further information will be posted in the Blues and on the school website.

2. Budget Update – Megan Segsworth

We are approaching the halfway point of the budget spend. The classroom money is being slowly spent however the spend is typical for this time of year and normally picks up at the end of the year. A letter will be sent to the teachers as a reminder to spend their allocation. Incubators have now gone into some of the classrooms and a lot of money has been spent on science initiatives such as Scientist in the School. It was also confirmed that the Parents' Night Out raised almost \$6000.

Question from the floor – Does Parent Council pay for lice screening? Parent Council in previous years paid for lice screening but the screening is now conducted entirely by the TDSB public health group at no cost twice a year (September and January). It was further noted that any students with lice are sent home and are screened again upon return to the school to confirm they are lice free. The cost to Parent Council in previous years to conduct a lice check was approximately \$500. It was agreed that it was worthwhile to continue to keep the office stocked with lice treatment products for parent purchase and no change to the current screening was recommended.

3. School Update - Kevin Battaglia

(a) Enrollment - We are projected to have 776 students this year (compared to 833 last year).

(b) Lunch Program – The TDSB will need to schedule a site visit in order to approve the lunch vendor.

(c) Sports Enrichment Meeting – a meeting was held to consider logistics with respect to alternate sports programs. It was noted that gym space is an obstacle and consideration was given to limiting students to a few sports or eliminating competitive

divisions for certain sports. Ultimately it was decided that limiting students to a few sports or one sport was not a good option given that some sports could be cancelled due to a lack of interest and other scheduling problems. The best option is likely the provision of clinics and intramurals particularly given that the first two and last two months of the year have increased gym space and could accommodate clinics/intramurals.

(d) Lunch Changes – Given that a number of parents voiced concerns about older students leaving the school facility at lunchtime, Kevin has met with students, parents and outside merchants to discuss the reasons for the departure and alternative changes to the current lunch program for the upper grades. Having an unsupervised lunch for the upper grades is not an option however there is thought being given to creating an area on the side of the building with seating for the older students. The upper grades will continue to go outside for a portion of the lunch period and proposals to stay inside for the entire lunch period will therefore not be considered.

(e) Literacy Enrichment – Allison Blight – Representatives from Nelson Literacy came to speak regarding a new literacy program that will be closely linked to the Ontario curriculum. A proposal will be put together, likely for September regarding funding for the new program.

(f) Lego/Robotics Initiative – Luke Persaud and Glen Henneberry

A lego club was started and a team of students is sorting through the lego that has been donated. There is interest in expanding the program to new grades and levels and there is specific interest in starting a lego robotics program with a long-term commitment. Mr. Persaud is currently assisting schools in setting up robotics programs and many of the schools have purchased Mindstorms kits (for older students) and Junior First Lego (for younger students). An MIT developed software called Scratch is used with many of the robotics programs as a method of learning coding and programming, and the software is free of cost.

It was noted that entry point kits for robotics for junior grades are approximately \$60-100 each and having six kits in a class would be a great start. The Mindstorms Kits for the older students are more expensive. There is also opportunity for grant money and the teachers could apply for grants. Competition entry fees for junior students in grades 2-4 are \$50/team and approximately \$100-300 for the older students. There is no cost for training given that a parent has agreed to be involved in the training. It was agreed that Parent Council supports the initiation of a robotics program in the classroom.

MOTION: Cindy McKay moved to spend \$2000 for kits for the robotics program.

SECONDED: Megan Segsworth

MAJORITY VOTE AND MOTION PASSED

4. Technology Update - Aaron Chan

The Chromebooks have been heavily signed out and the technical issues for getting onto wifi and other small issues have been resolved. Parent Council was thanked for the funding of the Chromebooks.

5. Open Discussion

Megan Segsworth was approached by three separate parents with a recommendation to use a specific vendor for a talk on internet safety. Megan has been provided with the vendor's contact information and will reach out to get a quote and to schedule a seminar for this year. It was agreed that the talk should be directed to parents but it would also be open to students.

Meeting concluded at 7:59 pm.

Next Meeting Scheduled for April 28, 2015 – 7:00 pm in Library