

# **BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL – MINUTES**

## **Tuesday November 29, 2016**

**Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.** Heather Robertson welcomed everyone

### 1. Robotics Demonstration

- 1.1. Mr. Henneberry provided an introduction of the program and the teachers involved with the team.
- 1.2. Students participating in the competitions provided a demonstration and discussed the focus of their missions. They outlined the trial and error methodology used to advance their projects.
- 1.3. Tournament scheduled for December 10, 2016
  - Will be held at Victoria Park Collegiate
  - Teams will set up, practice, meet with judges, present a project, and complete a challenge. The challenge demonstrates how each team problems solves as a group.
  - Last year, Bedford Park Robotics team won an award for Robotic Design.

### 2. Council Update: Heather Robertson

#### 2.1. BBQ

- In response to parent requests, an effort is being made to make lines shorter.
- The bbq will be held at the end of the academic calendar (date TBD)

#### 2.2. Community Outreach

- The budget includes an allocation of \$2,000 to a sister school and \$2,000 to be donated based on proposals made to council. The latter will be based on guidelines and will be voted on by students.

#### 2.3. Field Revitalization

- Jeff Graham (co-chair), gave a brief introduction, asked parents to read the October 2016 minutes for detailed information on the field revitalization project, and discussed the current state of the field.
- Jeff and Heather Turner are working towards getting our school on the shortlist for 2018 turf installation.

- The goal is to be inclusive and discuss this opportunity with all stakeholders. This is an expansive “big picture” project that will require input from students, parent, teachers, administration and the community at large.
- If approved, TDSB will cover cost of field. Enhancements will require extensive fundraising and partnerships.
- Question from the floor: What can we do to ensure our school is on the list for turf?
  - Jeff explained TDSB has set criteria that must be met and measured. It would benefit our efforts to demonstrate that we have a cohesive plan and support of parents, associations and community at large.
  - Meetings will be held to get input from parents and discuss the process.
- Question from the floor: Is it to repair more than the field?
  - (Heather Robertson) While the TDSB covers only the cost of a new turf field, our plan should include a complete picture. Must look at this in a broader sense and plan for a wish list.
- Question from the floor: What is environmental impact of turf?
  - (Jeff) 2015 Public Health assessed the infill as being no risk. To go a step further in safety, TDSB uses sand to infill. Board staff assessed our Bedford Park field and agreed “natural grass” was not a real solution.

#### 2.4. Community Skating Party

- Preliminary inquiries have been made to Glen Long Park. This rink is not in the immediate area, however; it is a good rink and would be a great site for the skating party.
- The skating party will be in February 2017 date TBD.

### 3. TDSB update: Gerri Gershon

#### 3.1. Central Reorganization at TDSB

- Rather than decisions moving from the top down to the schools, new directive is to allow schools to be more involved and have resources closer to the school.

#### 3.2. Equity Framework

- 3 year plan looking at everything with an “equity lens”, including budgets and facilities.

#### 3.3. Aboriginal School with Aboriginal curriculum opening.

#### 3.4. School grade changes (jk-5, 6-8, 9-OAC)

3.5. John Fisher parents concerned about safety of children with condo construction in close proximity to the school.

4. Council Budget Update: Heather Turner

- Brief update of expenditures (flutes, tech, enrichment spending) and fundraising (pizza lunch, donation letter, grade 8's)

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5. Sister School Project – Stephanie Phoenix

- Launch of 2 weeks of giving
- Parent Council has committed to providing \$2,000 to support initiative
- Will be collecting breakfast items and weatherproof mittens (jk-gr6)
- Additional details will be in Bedford Blues.

6. School Update: Dima Nijmeh-Mantia

6.1.

- A learning coach has been assigned to our school
- Introduced teacher chairs for committees
  - Literacy Chairs - Craig Ashton and Erin Andrews
  - Numeracy Chairs - Aaron Chan and Georgina Davis
  - Community, Culture and Caring - Maria Ginis and Aviva Komlos
- Aaron and Georgina gave an overview of what is taken into account when planning for ideal numeracy programming (balance of computational skills, manipulatives and open ended questions).
- Maria discussed the unique Bedford Park community and character education.
- Literacy goals include writing assessments for each grade team, diagnostics, resource room for teachers (centralize resources to an area)

6.2. A Safety incident was reported and is currently part of an open police investigation. Information may be shared when it is appropriate and does not interfere with police investigation.

- School administration followed TDSB protocols and police were notified immediately.
- As a result of the incident, staff is reviewing safety procedures with classes, appropriate information is provided based on

grade level.

- The current front door camera is not set up to record. TDSB staff have assessed the entry/exit points and outlined a plan for cameras (recording).
- Police liaison safety demonstration was already planned for December 12.
- Will need to explore practices and develop a solution. Bedford Park is more than a school – it is a community.
- Courtney Lewis (Safe Schools Administrator) was at the meeting and elaborated on TDSB policies.
- Question from the floor: Will the cameras record? Where will cameras be located? Will visibility be improved? Are Parents able to fund the cameras?
  - Cameras will save for 4 weeks, they will be located inside and outside of doorways, clearer visibility and ensure there are no blind spots will be part of the proposed solution. Looking into funding and TDSB guidelines.
- Question from the floor: How will protocols impact Ranleigh Rascals daycare?
  - Will discuss safety of students, needs of all stakeholders before a plan is put forth. Will be as collaborative as possible so that everyone is heard.
- (Courtney and Dima) Cameras are only part of the solution. Parents need to be vigilant and as a community will need to follow protocols.
- A sign up sheet was made available to be part of safety discussions going forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.