

## Minutes of Bedford Park Parents' Council

May 31, 2016

Marianne Boyce chaired the meeting and Heather Robertson acted as secretary. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

### Minutes of April 26, 2016

A motion was brought by Marianne Boyce to approve the Minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Beth Lauer.

### Council Update

Ms. Boyce thanked the Cooper family for raising \$850 for the Fort McMurray crisis and it was noted that TD Bank and the Red Cross will match the donation.

Parents were reminded to submit cheques for Blue Jays tickets if an order had been placed.

Ms. Boyce also noted that all positions on Parent Council are open for election, apart from the chair position, and those interested were encouraged to run.

With respect to the teacher appreciation luncheon it was noted that Kara Wells will be chairing the event.

Ms. Ginis introduced students from Ms. Nelson's class and the students performed a robotics demonstration and discussed how the class program was run. After the demonstration Ms. Ginis presented a robotics slideshow. On the robotics team are Ms. Ginis, Ms. Blight and Mr. Henneberry. Grades 1,2,3, and 4 had a lego club this year and a lego league and robotics club were also added. It was noted that we were one of only 7 TDSB schools to obtain a robotics grant this year. It is not known whether a grant will be obtained next year. This year parent council funded tables, laptops, containers and lego We Do supplementary kits. Looking to next year's program Ms. Ginis noted that the plan is to continue with the lego club and add robotics club for grades 5,6,7,8. With respect to proposed funding for next year the group is seeking 4 additional laptops for each division, first lego league team registration and supplementary ev3 kits for a total of \$5500. A question was raised as to whether parents could donate laptops to the program however it was noted that the TDSB is weary of private donations. Principal Mantia agreed to look into using private donations as backups.

### Financial Report

Megan presented the proposed budget for next year and noted that this was an unusual year with respect to spending. In particular, the amount spent on the arts was unusually low. The

proposed new budget lowers the art enrichment fund to \$6000 and it was noted that school wide art initiatives could be funded through any surplus.

Other changes to the proposed budget include lowering the phys ed amount from \$4,000 to \$2,000, adding robotics and technology maintenance, and lowering the general enrichment from \$14,400 to 11,000.

Questions arose as to the expansion of the phy ed programs and it was noted that many of the same students are on many teams. Principal Mantia agreed to have discussions with the phys ed group to see if changes can be made to accommodate more students.

A discussion regarding music support followed. Parents noted that other schools pay for extra music support such as a piano accompanist and it was questioned whether we could expand our music program and fund an accompanist. Principal Mantia indicated that while other schools have after school programs for music we are heavily permitted so it would be difficult to offer. It was also noted that parent council can't pay for staffing but could pay for an accompanist if a teacher is on board.

With respect to the Community Outreach the new proposed budget contemplates a total of \$4000 going to community outreach with \$2000 distributed by the students and \$2000 distributed by parent council. A motion was brought by Jason Vescovi to keep the funding at \$3000 but have students decide the fate of the entire amount. Tracy Eakins seconded the motion however the motion failed on a vote.

A motion was brought by Megan Segsworth to accept the proposed community outreach funding as set out in the proposed budget. Heather Robertson seconded the motion however the motion failed on a vote.

Further discussions followed regarding the idea of supporting a sister school project with another school in the Toronto area. It was agreed that this was a cause worth supporting and doing so through the community outreach budget would allow parent council to provide support without requesting further cheques from parents.

A motion was brought by Marianne Boyce to have \$2000 of the community outreach budget line directed to a sister school project and \$2000 directed by the students, seconded by Jason Vescovi and passed by vote.

The budget will be brought back in June for a formal vote.

### School Report

Principal Mantia noted that she filed an application to have a facility crew come in to discuss field improvement options. One option being presented is compacted mulching and more information will be available in the fall.

Principal Mantia attending the Traffic Meeting held by Jaye Robinson and provided a brief summary of the discussions held. With respect to the proposed crosswalk at Mt. Pleasant and Wanless Ave. those in attendance were not overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal and the fate of that intersection remains uncertain. In contrast, the proposed normalization of the Kappele/Wanless Ave intersection, with the removal of the paved triangle, received positive feedback from attendees. This proposed renovation will likely be a three year plan.

Beth Lauer asked, if there was an inventory of all technology purchased by Parent Council. Aaron Chan confirmed that a complete inventory of technology has been prepared and is updated on an ongoing basis. A motion was made on behalf of Mrs. Ginis for Parent Council to pay the registration fee of \$600.00 for the upcoming Robotics competitions in September. Megan Segsworth seconded the motion and it was passed.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2016.