

Minutes of Bedford Park Parents Council
September 29, 2015

The following were in attendance: Principal Nijmeh-Mantia, Vice Principal Levy, Georgina Davis, Marianne Boyce, Cindy McKay, Terence Adams, Jeffrey Graham, Megan Segsworth, Ulviya Aslanov, David Wolle, Jason Vescovi, Kas Lingenfelter, Beth Lauer, Michael Colley, Zhinian Shu, Kirsten Moore, Leslie Rowland, Heather Robertson, Rane Lee, Wilson Leung, Silja Yates, Andreea Pintilie, Samara Enchin, Mathew Vienneau, Talia Klement, Jill Bellinger, Tracey Eakin, Sarah Cooper, Sabine Scheibehenne, Anita O'Connor - Richard, Karine Preiemer, and Jennifer Wilson

Marianne Boyce chaired the meeting and Jeff Graham acted as secretary.

The Agenda

The Agenda as posted at the Bedford Park website was circulated and without objection was adopted.

Election of Council

The first item of business was the election of the Council for 2015-2016. Upon duly made and seconded the following members of the Bedford community were elected as members of the School Council for the 2015 -2016 school year:

Marianne Boyce, Chair; Terence Adams, Co-chair; Cindy McKay, Past chair; Jeffrey Graham, Secretary; Megan Segsworth, Treasurer; Ulviya Aslanov, co-treasurer; David Wolle, (contingent treasurer); Members at large: Jason Vescovi; Kas Lingenfelter; Beth Lauer; Michael Colley; and Silya Yates

School Update

Principal Nijmeh-Mantia, in her first meeting of Council, indicated that she hoped

that parents and their children had a great summer and are revitalized for the new school year. She indicated that the learning environment they are entering is stimulating, and will challenge our students to think critically and communicate effectively. Principal Nijmeh-Mantia indicated that her goal to help students develop self-discipline and a positive attitude towards learning so that they can become productive, caring and responsible members of society. Principal Nijmeh-Mantia and Vice Principal Levy are visiting classrooms to meet students. She noted that the Fun Run was scheduled for the next day, September 30, 2015, the Pumpkin Grams program is scheduled for October 9 and Sarah's Food Drive that is beginning shortly is also being supported. The Principal noted that it was a difficult time at Bedford Park given the job action but that she was confident that the school would work through the issues as a team and would emerge stronger.

In response to questions from members in attendance the Principal explained that curriculum night was on hold, removal of the portables under consideration, and there was no movement from classes anticipated.

There was a discussion of the council fundraising efforts. It was noted that there was a need to clarify where fund raising projects were designed to support the activities of the Council and the School, as opposed to fund raising for the community.

Technology Update

The Principal outlined a prior request for 36 Chromebooks because of growth in classroom size. (A Chromebook is a laptop running Chrome OS as its operating system. The devices are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and data residing "in the cloud".) The cost of the Chromebooks would be approximately \$10,000. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Principal would consult with staff and students regarding their views on what they best feel will support their technology needs for the coming year, given a limited technology budget available from Council, and provide a report on her findings at a future meeting of the Council.

In addition, the Principal outlined plans to acquire 27 CPUs so there could be one 1 functioning computer in every class room. The cost of this project would be \$6,000. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, an expenditure of \$4,000 towards the purchase of the CPUs was approved.

Council Budget Update

Ms Segsworth reviewed with the Council the 2015-2016 budget. She reviewed the priority areas of the budget for 2015-2016 noting the following key priorities: STEM related expenditures, Art enrichment, General (teacher directed funding), Technology (from basket fundraising), Physical education and Music. Ms Segsworth highlighted some of the key areas of expenditures. Other areas of budgeted expenditure identified and discussed were library/French/pool, fun run, community outreach, Principal discretionary, Pediculosis screening (net of recoveries), Grade 8 Year Book Graduation, website maintenance and improvements, school council discretionary, BBQ, Teacher Appreciation and Other Social Events, Spirit, gifts/Honorarium.

Next Ms. Segsworth asked for a motion to update signing officers for banking purposes. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was resolved that the signing officers of the Council shall be as follows, until the successors are elected or appointed:

Marianne Boyce

Terence Adams

Megan Segsworth

Ulviya Aslanov

Jeffrey Graham

David Wolle

The following individuals are removed as signing officers: Heather Robertson and Cindy McKay

Social OutReach Presentation

Next, Wilson Leung and Rane Lee presented to the members of Council an overview of Thinking Forward's Anti-Bullying Character Education Program in inner-city schools in Toronto. Forward thinking is an official partner of the TDSB. The presenters explained that the main goal of Thinking Forward is to provide anti-bullying character education that aims to help children and youth make positive life choices. The programs engage children in creative and interactive activities that focus on 3 themes of leadership: Inward Leadership, Outward Leadership and Forward Leadership. The group has worked with schools in a number of inner city neighborhoods including Thorncliff, Regent Park, Jane & Finch, Woburn and Parkdale. The organization hopes to run programs in 100 schools over the next 5 years.

There was general support to study the opportunity for the Council to make a financial contribution to the organization and this issue will be considered at a later meeting of Council.

Other Business

There was a discussion of the availability of tennis balls that could be reworked to cushion chair legs, if the School felt that the balls could be used. The Principal was asked to consider the offer and report back.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40.

Next Meeting

Tuesday October 27, 2015 (Cancelled) Next meeting is November 24, 2015 at 7 pm.