



BEDFORD PARK

BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Tuesday January 23, 2018 @ 6:30pm - Meeting minutes

STEM presentation

- Presentation by Stuart Lewis from Logics Academy – teaches teachers, the ministry and school boards.
- Logics Academy partners with the TDSB and is entitled to teach the curriculum during the school day.
- Logics Academy is a co-developer of software (interface), hardware (robots – Dash and Dot) and curriculum.
- The workshops offered by Logics Academy are 1 and a half hours and help the kids learn how to use robots and the goal is to help transition the staff to bring the coding and STEM into the classroom.
- Two workshops have been completed so far at Bedford (JK/SK and grade 5) and the goal is for all classes to participate in a workshop.
- A handbook for coding is available to teachers so they can use the robots even if they aren't familiar with coding.
- Two approaches to teaching the foundations of code.
 - Learn to code – Genius Lab extra-curricular activities – teaching how to code.
 - Code to learn – STEM in the class workshops – using high-tech means to learn which may include code.
- Exposed to design thinking, spatial awareness, creative storytelling, and computational thinking.
- Want to make STEM fun, accessible and normal. Want kids to understand how what they watch, play and buy got there.
- By introducing STEM at a young age it prevents the barriers many of us face down the road.
- Easy for teachers to book the workshops by grade and activity. Classroom teachers participate and no parent volunteers required. Every workshop meets Ministry of Education curriculum expectations. Topics include science, coding, math, language and art.
- Dima advised 2 robots were purchased last year and used in French to teach directionality. Used the oral expression to demonstrate the vocabulary. Used also in math and science. 10 more robots are available this year. There is no mandate to use the robots but they are encouraged to sign for workshops.
- The science budget provided by parent council can be used to subsidize the cost of the workshop.
- Dima advised that the school is looking at setting up a coding club.

Council Update (Cindy McKay, Beth Lauer)

- Community Night Committee: Janet Stone as Chair, Christine Perkins and Beth Lauer as Co-Chairs. Community night will be April 20th.



BEDFORD PARK

- No new news on the field project – expect by next meeting final details on budget will be available.

School Update (Dima Nijmeh-Mantia)

- STEM workshops introduced in addition to Science in the Classroom. Each teacher has been given a letter to send home. Cost is \$300/the number of kids.
- Scientists in the classroom will continue as it has a different focus than STEM. STEM works within the curriculum but with hi-tech means.
- Ensuring basement classrooms have access to technology. An iPad cart was ordered for grade 6 so they don't have to carry them down to the basement.
- Field – meeting this week to discuss the final master plan and understand what the board will cover.
- Other facilities items
 - Windows are all installed, working on final touches.
 - Phase 2 windows will start soon. There are three phases all together.
 - Roofing is delayed until the summer.
 - Other painting and improvements will commence.

Council Budget Update (Heather Turner & Sue Sclater)

- Council funds provided to teachers:
 - Teachers are not utilizing the budget provided to them by parent council – of the \$38,000 available, only \$3,000 has been spent year to date. There will be some spent on wellness but teachers should be continued to be encouraged to use their budgets.
 - There was a suggestion to remove the buckets (art, science, general) and rather provide a budget overall to be spent on different categories.
 - Another suggestion was for council to decide on a bulk item rather than leave it to the teachers to decide.
 - Council will look at the budget next year and move funds to where it's being spent or decide on bulk items that parent council wants to do (after consultation and direction from the school).
 - Dima to send the reminder for this year - and think about something that can be covered if not spent by March.
 - This item will be reviewed at the next council meeting.
- Fundraising doing well \$8,500 to date, and the pizza lunch is doing well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.