



BEDFORD PARK

BEDFORD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL Tuesday April 10, 2018 @ 6:30pm - Meeting minutes

- Meeting commenced at 6:35pm
- Motion to approve the February minutes made by Heather, seconded by Cindy.

School update - Dima Nijmeh-Mantia

- Dima recapped the background process leading up to the grounds revitalization project. Teachers, parents, daycare and caretaking were involved as stakeholders.
- Main feedback provided by the kids via survey for play places, unsafe areas and wishlist items. Looked at the areas they had identified as unsafe. Mulch was put down as an immediate fix to a rainy day to prevent mud tracking into the school.
- Master plan has now been shared with the school. We are fortunate that the TDSB is covering the turf. The sports and play area to be covered by fundraising.
- Other things coming in the future include the upper pavement issues.

Grounds Revitalization presentation by Richard Christie, Senior Manager for Sustainability, Plant Operations and Sustainability of the Toronto District Board of Education.

- In 2013 a board report was approved on artificial turf. Ability to grow natural turf was becoming impossible. Particularly in small school playgrounds that have heavy community use. This was the first time the staff recommended to the trustees to pay for artificial turf where playgrounds are considered to have extreme use.
- The worst 9 were done in 2013 and the schools were named.
- In 2016 Christie's group reported back on all the fields and sought approval for an additional 10 schools. This time criteria were established rather than schools being identified specifically. Bedford met the criteria and the Board identified the school as a priority.
- Turf fields are an unusual investment for the TDSB as there is currently a \$4 Billion backlog – roofing, parking lots, and boilers. So it's quite significant that funds are available for turf.
- Turf was a big deal when it first started but people's concerns have diminished. The concerns were:
 - Infill originally was "rubber crumb" which is rubber from old tires. The Board worked closely with Toronto Public Health and TPH believe it is acceptable.
 - After 2013 the Board investigated alternative products and now use enviro-fill which is a sand-based product. It performs well and one of the benefits is that it doesn't get stuck on shoes and clothes like rubber crumb. Enviro-fill is less dense so doesn't get tracked.
 - Water on the field. Traditionally water from a turf field was directed to the storm sewers but this has been problematic with more intensive storms. The TDSB committed to build infiltration trenches. In the case of Bedford trees are at one end of the field and the water is directed there, to a deep underground trench. Pipes at the top of the trench take the overflow water to the storm sewer.
 - Turf fields are perceived to be hot. While turf fields do tend to get hot tree-planting is done to provide shade. And to date there have not been any instances of someone getting a burn from the heat of the field.
- Turf fields need to be maintained and after a number of years they need to be replaced. In 2013 approval was obtained to maintain a reserve for repairs and replacement, funded by the revenue from permitting of the fields. The schedule for permitting is decided annually between the principal and Richard and is cognizant of maintaining some unpermitted evening and weekend hours. Permits provided primarily to local baseball, soccer organizations etc...



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- The tender is currently out and closes April 17th. Report to the Board's finance committee will be delivered on May 9th. The Board has to approve the contract before awarding. After which a pre-construction meeting will take place with the principal and project supervisor – starting date, securing the site etc...
- The project will likely take longer than anticipated and be more inconvenient. If something is uncovered then extra work will be required.
- Typical timeline base is 6 to 8 weeks. Possibly inconvenienced well into the fall but a better timeline will be known at the pre-construction meeting between the contractor and principal.
- Board takes responsibility if things go array as it becomes part of facility management.
- The areas of the field not being done as par to the project (drainage near the parking lot) should not affect the turf.

Council Update - Cindy McKay and Beth Lauer

- Field project fundraising update. As a reminder, \$40,000 is required in order for the project to go ahead as planned.
 - \$6,500 family plaques have been purchased to date that will be located in the play zone.
 - Overall the fundraising total is less than \$10,000 to date.
 - Council has committed almost all of their reserve funds, and the balance of \$40,000 is what is needed.
 - Community Night funds next year's budget but the Silent Auction will go towards the \$40,000.
 - Corporate sponsorship is underway.
 - Silent Auction has a number of items so far.
- Parents Night out event
 - May 31st save the date.
 - Funds to go towards the field project.
 - More details on the night to come.

Council Budget update – Heather Turner

- Heather and Sue will start to draft next year's budget.
- Executive counsel trimmed down the budget in March in order to accommodate the field commitment.
- Continuing to push cash online.
- Ms Corner – teacher budget suggestions – Dima spoke on behalf of Ms. Corner
 - The lack of simplicity is an issue with funds utilization. Heather confirmed it will now be lumped together by teacher for next year. Already planned for that with the next year budget.

Community Night

- Bracelet sales via cashonline are going well.
- 40 high school students are available for volunteering.
- Still looking for class leads for 2 rooms and parent volunteers for rooms.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.