

MINUTES
NORTHLEA SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
LIBRARY – NORTHLEA SCHOOL – 6:30 PM
Thursday November 26, 2015

PRESENT: David Ehrlich (Principal), Jane Wadden (Vice-Principal), Sophia Danish (Vice-Principal) Alexis De Castro (Co-Chair), Rachel Chernos-Lin (Co-Chair), Kara Pearson (Co-Chair), Wilmar Kortleever, Nicole Cooper, Angie Novachis, Doug McCormick, Corey Deller, Jenn Adziovsky, Sue Gray, Arti Panday, Barbara Robson.

Guest: Krista Wylie

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Alexis De Castro, Rachel Chernos-Lin, Kara Pearson

2. MOTION Doug McCormick, seconded by Angie Novachis
Approval of School Council Agenda CARRIED

3. MOTION Doug McCormick, seconded by Corey Deller
Approval of School Council Minutes, October 15, 2015 CARRIED

4. Guest Speaker – Krista Wylie Fix Our Schools

Bethany introduced Krista Wylie from Fix Our Schools, whose mandate is about fixing the schools within the TDSB. This started as a movement in the west end of Toronto to fix our schools since they are not a priority within the budget.

Krista's children attend Runnymede where the school is 100 years old and is over utilized. There are 146 schools within TDSB that are over utilized and actually only 130 under utilized schools within TDSB.

Started with heat distribution in school not working with some classrooms as cold as 12 degrees and other sweltering. Parents gathered to discuss the implications of schools not functioning properly, with leadership focused elsewhere and teachers focused elsewhere resulting in kids not in an environment conducive to learning.

Fix Our Schools, started at Krista's dinning room table around the thought that if awareness was brought to the issue of schools needing repairs, everything would work out. Not the fault of principals, caretakers, teachers or students.

Pivotal role are all other levels of government. Provincial government is in the driver's seat with the ability to provide incentives for school boards. School boards then allocate the money from the provincial government to benefit the most children. Money over the last couple of decades has been short thus it hasn't focused on repairs of schools.

Municipalities also have the opportunity to levy taxes and direct them to school repairs. Federal government – provide infrastructure money to the province and can create policies to funnel the money to schools if they choose. Opportunity during the fall Federal election to target Ontario MPs candidates to fund school repairs

Fix Our Schools' Vision:

People advocating for safe, well maintained public schools that are conducive to learning.

Would like to see Public schools receive the same priority as Transit.

Officially launched campaign Oct 2014 (website, mailing list)

- Pitched to TDSB Trustees, they have then promoted Fix our Schools
- Just over 1000 people engaged with group as of last spring
- Requested email of those in attendance
- School Condition Improvement Funding
 - o This year when they allocated funds this year, it was transparent and done in proportion to the amount of backlog
 - o Realization that every school board in Ontario has a backlog
 - o Evidence that the current model of funding isn't working
- Working at expanding the base, targeting other schools with a large backlog
- Windsor, Hamilton, Burlington, Peel,
- Strength and power in a collective voice, citizens from across the city and the province
- Time is spent between building base of supporters and attending meetings to request more funds.
- Letter writing campaign, targeting the provincial government, specific ask is looking at new infrastructure structure money from the federal government and asking that they please allocate some of it to provincial schools.
- Trying to make political activism easier for working parents. Enter a few things to prepopulated letter.
- One potential solution is the EDC – education development charges – and Fix Our Schools hopes to see movement in this area in the next year. By asking the provincial government to relook at this charge in a new way so that it can benefit all schools and to be able to apply it as **Boards see fit** which is key to utilizing the money
- Currently there is a 3.5 Billion backlog in school repairs within the TDSB.
- Increase capital funding – leverage is the federal government and the infrastructure funding
- Current funding is about \$5 for every \$100 of disrepair to school board – doesn't matter how efficient you are - \$5 isn't going to come close to the \$100 needed.
- Have often heard the argument that if the TDSB sold some schools – then they wouldn't be in disrepair – If a school board sells a school – then the province then has to agree on how they are going to spend the money.
- Community hub – a way to get into reallocating the capital costs
- Longer term – built out enough across the province that public education will be on the election platform and position to create some noise about public education and how it is funded

Question: any other places in Canada or US

Yes across Canada and the States – tried to get this more traction on this over the Federal election – BC they also need Seismic upgrades

Alberta approached this the same way as Ontario (engineering 3 party survey VFA) (called deferred maintenance in Alberta), Quebec – extreme state of disrepair,

Further east a bit ahead of the curve – Crisis point in 2010 NB closed schools for health and safety reasons and then again 4 years later – resulted in \$1100 per child injection into the school boards for repair.

Now the TDSB is at the point where unless something in the school is broken, it won't be addressed or repaired.

Safety and Health are the number 1 priority for schools.

Northlea's capital maintenance backlog – money comes at different times. Heating and cooling has many units – not one system for the entire school. Fixes happen but all repairs seem temporary.

Health and Safety checks occur throughout the year and based on reports then work orders are created.

Discussed options of selling space above schools – such as what happened at North Toronto Colligate with developer building a new school and then the units go above the school.

Municipalities need to be part of the discussion as well.

5. ADMINSTOR'S UPDATE –

Jane reported that staff meeting discussed planning for this year. There are lots of field trips occurring, winter concert, sports teams, ITLC wrapping up, reading buddies, lost and found (not claimed clothes will go to the refugees), laptops and ipads used throughout the school. Also discussed Jurassic park (small outside area near entrance to North gym) the issue is the pond, and the stumbling block is getting the water out.

David presented the Northlea School Improvement Plan

EQAO data and what is the school focus for the year.

Plan will be on the web site.

Focus is very similar to last year, literacy supported by technology.

EQAO was not done last spring so plan is based on previous year 2013-14, also based on assessment done 3 years ago.

Strive for consistent use of EQAO questions through out the year but then focus on EQAO prep following March break

- Oral language developments to improve writing
 - o Use of the SLP (Ilanna Yaget)
 - o Strategies given to teachers
 - o Continue to work with her again this year
- Small group instruction
- Guided writing and reading
- Use of technology to improve student achievement
- Professional development in the area of assessment

What you will see:

At the Classroom level

- Learning goals
- Success criteria

- Descriptive feedback
- Differentiated feedback
- Oral language development

At the School Level

- a) Continued professional development in the area of assessment with a focus on:
 - Assessment “For” and “As” learning
 - Rich tasks and use of the achievement chart
 - Small group instruction
 - Beginning teachers – mentored within the school, professional development just for new teachers, classroom management strategies
 - Supported through staff meetings and grade / team planning

- b) Technology to support instruction and achievement
 - iPads (Grade K to 3 classes)
 - Laptops (Grade 4 to 8 classes)
 - Use of Google platform
 - IXL math
 - Online reading programs
 - Online newspaper

- c) Continued purchase of levelled text (non-fiction to support boys’ interests)

6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Extra-curricular – Monika has been vetting different courses to add to the extra-curricular program. She is listening to feedback from participants/parents. New courses may include typing and also looking at coding for kids. Coding will be tested out to see if they like it (December 4th).

7. NEXT MEETING

Will be some time in Januray

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A few weeks ago, looked at signage and traffic/safety of the school. Counsellor Burnside requested a letter so Rachel passed one along on behalf of the school.

9. MOTION

Angie Novachis, seconded by Doug McCormick
To adjourn the meeting

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

**MINUTES
NORTHLEA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 pm.

1. **MOTION** Sue Gray, seconded by Angie Novachis
Approval of the H&S Association Agenda CARRIED

2. **MOTION** Angie Novachis seconded by Jenn Adziovsky
Approval of H&S Association Minutes, October 15, 2015 CARRIED

3. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rachel, Alexis and Kara**

Alexis went to Counsellor Burnside's traffic meeting where Leaside Traffic issues were discussed.

The Home & School Association wrote a Letter to our Superintendent – related to the question why Northlea received an increase in a teacher to French Immersion stream for Junior and Intermediate but that the English stream did not. The Board flagged any class over 33 – red flagged to then get new teacher and we had a class of 34 in the French Immersion stream but the English stream was not over 33. Great conversation related to class sizes, options at high school level. Re-evaluating the process through out all of the TDSB related to catchment areas for what schools, and yes we should have more options for students transitioning to high school. Gifted stream now the high school would be Northern Secondary.

Currently there is a Pupil area review for East York high schools as there are 3-4 high schools under capacity.

4. **FFN**

Building new executive this year, some of the same faces and some new. All positions are filled with the exception of the social series. Kick off next week with a slow and steady build to get it all completed for March 3rd, 2016.

5. **HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION BUDGET – Angie Novachis**

Not much to report. Only real difference is increased income secondary to chess revenues. Not much change expected over the next couple of months.

MOTION Arti Panday, seconded by Sue Gray
To approve October statements CARRIED

6. **Correspondence file – letters mentioned and circulated**

7. **MOTION** Angie Novachis, seconded by Doug McCormick
To adjourn the meeting CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Reminder of Parenting night Monday November 30th at 7:00pm.