

**MINUTES**  
**HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 30, 2013, 6:45PM SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Present – Wilmar Kortleever, Sarah Dawson, Kathy Ribeiro, Mike Kennedy, Becky Jenkins, Andrew Alberti, Aly Alibhai, Julia Irwin, Sarah Stevens, Marina Kioulmetis, Kiki Plytas, Sylvia Franklin, Claudine Lukawesky, Frank Chang, Jeannie Sit, Julie Brown, Rachel Chernos Lin, Jacqueline Frazer, Melyssa Hollister, Stephen Peirce, Susan Brookes, Erica Robertson, Sandra Whittaker, Gina Fortsas, Kara Pearson, plus special guests; Gerri Gershon (TDSB Trustee), Rauda Dickinson (Superintendent)

Regrets – Shelly Lowe, Sue Thurow, Lynda Debono, and teacher reps Taggett Cornish, Guy Larivière.

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm

**1. WELCOME – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Welcome special guests Trustee Gershon and Superintendent Dickinson. Acknowledge regrets sent in.

**2. MOTION**

- Gina Fortsas, Claude Lukawesky  
APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AGENDA

CARRIED

**3. MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES MOVED TO END OF MEETING**

**4. GERRI GERSHON UPDATE**

- Thanked everyone for the invite
- TDSB having extraordinary year; despite ongoing turbulence still positive things happening in schools
- Bill 115 and associated problems main concern
- Regrets that Boards like TDSB were never included in negotiations especially as they are the teachers' employers
- Unions to consider includes CUPE as well as teachers unions
- Parents have been patient but are very frustrated
- 2 encouraging signs: 2 small Boards taking Unions to Labour Board to see if actions of teachers are legal – a decision is expected next week which all Boards will hopefully benefit from, and Kathleen Wynne is the new Ontario Premier Designate and has already met with Teachers Unions
- Every School has handled the situation differently, every teacher interprets the rules differently, but many are confused
- We all want normal School life to resume for our kids
- Facilities/Budget issues/Director of Education all still concerns
- Dr Spence was flawed but an inspirational leader
- Donna Quan will be interim Director – she has academic background, good reputation, hopefully calming influence

- Budget for 2013/14 will require further cuts
- FDK will be a focus and is of importance to Northlea
- French Immersion Enrollment boundaries changed for Northlea to reduce overcrowding and control enrollment
- (Parents): What are the plans for a new Director?
  - Gerri Gershon (GG): Public process will take place to find replacement over next 12 months or so.
- (Parents): What are teachers actually supposed and not supposed to do? What are their hours of work?
  - Rauda Dickinson (RD): Teachers not in legal strike position. Can legally only withdraw voluntary services.
- (Parents): Has the TDSB ever considered charging for parking?
  - GG: Yes, but rejected
- (Parents): What are actual teacher's hours/work day expectations? Some teachers are getting pressure to not go the extra mile for students.
  - RD: Collective agreement clearly states working day is 300 instructional minutes. They are salaried professionals with a defined day. Yes there are challenges, and teachers are getting advice which is flawed. Teachers are struggling and feeling a lot of peer pressure.
- (Parents): What are the hours they are supposed to be in School?
  - RD: They need to be in 15 minutes before and after School day, and are allowed a 45 minute lunch break. Planning and marking still needs to be completed. Summer hours not included in any calculation, and length of the School year or day may be reviewed in future.
- (Parents): Should there be extra help for students? And how do we communicate that?
  - RD: Any help needed can be done outside of the 15 mins at either end of the day and the 45 minute lunch break. Union still mandates the 15 minutes rule, so this is a challenge.
- (Parents): What happened to Kiwanis?
  - Kathy Ribeiro (KR): Some teachers want to perform at their best.
  - Parent: Private Schools are still practising.
  - KR: There are weekly teacher's federation meetings which creates lots of internal pressure. Out of respect for colleagues the Music department cancelled its participation in Kiwanis. The legal commitment to perform at Roy Thomson Hall has meant that teachers have agreed to work with Music department to juggle schedules to get choir practice during School time. It has been a challenge. Mike Kennedy (MK) worked with teachers to get schedules to work. The choir needs to get to a good performance level but it's not there yet. Teachers are still sensitive to each other but there are still lots of positive things going on: special presentations, some field trips and in-class activities (Scientists in the School).
  - RD: Excursions during the day are NOT extra-curricular.
- (Parents): Teachers can still say no to participating?

- KR: Yes
- GG: We are saddened by this and we want teachers to work with us, but there is no defined school day and responsibilities.
- RD: Parents are getting fed up.
- (Parents): Would TDSB take Unions to court as they are the largest Board?
  - GG: There is always a danger when taking Unions to court, but the TDSB will benefit from a positive outcome. Unions cannot fine members anymore.
  - RD: Everyone seems to have their own definition of “voluntary” and there is a lot of internal bullying and behind the scenes pressure.
- (Parents): Any comments on the non-strike day and the actions of the TDSB?
  - RD: Lessons were learned, but if teachers are going to come to work, Schools must be open.
  - GG: Could have been treated like a Snow Day where parents check media for updates.

## **5. RAUDA DICKINSON UPDATE**

- E-mail Gerri or herself with any questions on the dispute.
- Leaside celebrates its 100 year this year and every School will participate in activities from April 21 – 28 culminating in a Gala on April 27.

## **6. CHAIR REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Council Executive continue to attend the many committee meetings and external meetings
- School Statement of Needs has been completed and submitted to Superintendent Dickinson
- (Parents): Previous Superintendent had specific schedule for Admin changes, what is Rauda’s philosophy?
  - RD: No timeframe, depends on each individual School’s needs, SIP initiatives, and has to balance needs of Admin team at School too.
- Admin changeover times usually done September, Christmas or Spring (Rauda )
- Upcoming Coffee with Gerri on February 21<sup>st</sup> Artisanos
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> All-Politicians Town Hall Edwards Gardens
- Held December Coffee Staff Appreciation just before December break and handed out gift cards to all Admin, Office, Custodial and staff who do not receive class parent gifts
- Upcoming P4E survey to be completed
- OFHSA conference April 27<sup>th</sup> – all HSA members welcome

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE FILE**

- Circulated with many thank you notes including one from the Thorncliffe Snack program

## **8. EQAO RESULTS ANALYSIS – ADMIN TEAM**

Unpacking results – Mike Kennedy

- Graphs of results, including splits between girls and boys, and French and English students handed out

- School is focussed on moving Level 3's to 4
- (Parents): Several groups of 20+ students at level 2 is worry-some and suggests that the School should also focus on that
  - Becky: Level 2 is not a failure, but is approaching provincial standard

Special Education results – Becky Jenkins (BJ)

- Following chart represents results of EQAO test for children with special education needs – but not students from the developmentally challenged (DD) class, who are all classed as exempt.
- All children with special education needs are allowed specific accommodations in order to complete the assessment either as identified by the teacher or through their own individual IEPs (Individual Education Plan).
- The School EQAO results include these special education numbers, so it is interesting to see how they perform separately. The two lines for the Grade 3 Math show the English stream children first, then the French.
- Results show over last three years the special education students have performed better.
  - In table- SEd: special education students, Reg: regular students

	# students taking Reading test		Levels achieved where E=Exempt, L3 is Prov. Std, L4 is highest				# students taking Writing test		Levels achieved where E=Exempt, L3 is Prov. Std, L4 is highest				# students taking Math test		Levels achieved where E=Exempt, L3 is Prov. Std, L4 is highest			
	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4
Grade 3																		
2011/12	12	46	0	3	3	6	12	46	0	0	5	7	12	46	0	0	4	8
								Sitting test in French				4	47	0	0	3	1	
2010/11	9	40	0	3	2	4	9	40	0	0	6	3	9	40	0	1	4	4
								Sitting test in French				5	53	0	0	0	5	
2009/10	6	38	1	1	3	1	6	38	1	1	4	0	5	38	0	0	5	0
								Sitting test in French				6	48	0	0	5	1	
Grade 6	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4	SEd	Reg	E	L1	L2	L3/4
2011/12	23	104	0	0	5	18	23	104	0	0	7	16	23	104	0	1	4	18
2010/11	16	80	1	0	4	11	16	80	1	0	7	8	16	80	0	1	4	11
2009/10	14	97	0	0	3	11	14	97	0	0	7	7	14	97	1	0	3	10

- School will target students who are currently scoring 2.8 – 2.9 to move them up into 3.
- (Parents): How will teachers achieve this?
  - BJ: Good teaching practices and the 'pathways' have already been done and should already be embedded in the programs.
- (Parents): Level 3 and 4's should also be in achievement discussions. Frustrated that still after 10 years the same comments are being made concerning the same problems. Should

be a red flag as by Grade 6 everything improves. Is there a problem with primary teaching? Where is the plan?

- KR: not a problem with teaching, our High School kids are successful when you analyse at the lowest level by child. Report cards are a more accurate reflection.
- (Parents): Parents want kids to succeed, currently hire tutors to fix problems. How can we help otherwise? Should we lower expectations?
  - KR: Divisional chairs could be at future meeting to discuss all the tools and plans they have.
- (Parents): Grade 3 reading and writing is a problem. Pathways are always created, but why aren't the students testing well? Testing is a life skill – why are other schools better at this?
- (Parents): Can Kathy still hold team meetings?
  - KR: The last two weeks, leadership meetings and team meetings have restarted.
- (Parents): Standardised tests are important. Several years ago, there were plans for preparing to write tests. Would like to see that again.
  - BJ: Teachers meet pre-EQAO to make plan on how to do multiple choice for example.
  - KR: Many teachers in Grade teams, plans done in Fall for full year, meetings now wrapping up, pathway plans done together within the teams, but chairs could speak to that but not today.
- (Parents): School in US discovered the issue was with “linking” words and put in place campaign to remedy across all teaching areas and subjects
  - KR: Our plans look school-wide and by grade
- (Parents): Does this include writing?
  - KR: Literacy and numeracy are targeted – aware of other success stories.
- (Parents): We appreciate the Special Education analysis. Need to clarify that IEPs fall under special education, which means many different things not just cognitive disabilities.
  - BJ: Extra time allowed for testing for every student if needed
- (Parents): We want an overall good education for our children. Kathy said the report cards are better, how do we compare to other Schools' report card data? Is there data on that?
  - KR: Report cards always slightly better, but there is no way of knowing if other Schools are better too.
  - The Admin team meet in hubs (Bedford Park and Bessborough), they pick marker students they plan to move from 2 to 3 and discuss.

## **9. ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE – KATHY RIBEIRO**

- F.I. info evening success
- Home Alone workshop success
- Many other presentations successful
- Leaside 100 committee display in Hall – need artifacts/historical items
- Rolph Road want an Alumni hockey game to commemorate Leaside 100
- Lice checks completed
- Lockdown drills completed

- FDK committee meeting
- Signage audit completed 22 of 66 need removing
- Crossing guard audit by city to be done on 31<sup>st</sup>
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 8 parents workshop to support students
- Gate for NCCC to get underway next week (first week of Feb)
- Aware of lights out on field

**10. SCHOOL SUPPORT UPDATE – RACHEL CERNOS LIN AND KARA PEARSON**

- FDK committee will complete building walk around at next meeting to assess facilities
- PSP, Safe Arrival going well, but always need volunteers
- Grad planning underway led by Julie B and Sandra W
- (Parents): Will Grad be a day or evening event?
  - KR: If things change in March, we can review Grad plans including trip – all options are being considered for Grad
- Looking for help for September packages
  - Gina and Erica to assume role

**11. Q & A**

- None

**12. MOTION**

- Andrew Alberti, Stephen Peirce  
APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES, NOVEMBER 22, 2012 CARRIED

**13. MOTION**

- Sarah Dawson, Jacqueline Frazer  
MEETING ADJOURNED CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

**MINUTES  
HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING  
JANUARY 30, 2013, 6:45PM SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Meeting called to order at 9:10pm

**1. WELCOME – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

**2. MOTION**

- Aly Alibhai, Julia Irwin  
APPROVAL OF H&SA AGENDA CARRIED

**3. MOTION**

- Jacqueline Frazer, Jeannie Sit  
APPROVAL OF H&SA MINUTES, NOVEMBER 22, 2012 CARRIED

**4. TREASURERS REPORT – SUE BROOKES**

- Home and School financial statement to end of December 2012 presented and reviewed

**5. MOTION**

- Stephen Peirce, Andrew Alberti  
TO ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES CARRIED

**6. PRESIDENTS REPORT – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- None to report

**7. FUNDRAISING UPDATE – RACHEL CHERNOS LIN FOR LYNDA DEBONO**

- Rachel and Kara are FFN co-chairs
- Focus of FFN children only; no adult Silent Auction, no Art Auction.
- Sponsorship coming in
- Volunteers still needed
  - (Sarah): Adult only event scheduled for Spring where adult Silent Auction/Raffle items will be available, will be launched next week

**8. NEW BUSINESS – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- LRT meeting – Jan 31<sup>st</sup>
- Leaside Unite Fundraiser – Jan 31<sup>st</sup>

**9. NEXT MEETING – WILMAR KORTLEEVER**

- Meetings to be scheduled to School model and Fundraising – tbc

**10. MOTION**

- Kiki Plytas, Sue Brookes  
MEETING ADJOURNED CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm