

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016

1. Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chairs Terry Ko and David Tan
2. SAC Update: President, Mathew Ma
 - a. SAC events for the month of September were summarized, particularly the grade 9 orientation that took place before the school year started. The grade 9 students seem to be full of “positive energy” and the senior students have enjoyed helping them with the transition to high school.
 - b. The week of Sept. 19 is Spirit Week, which involves all clubs and leadership groups promoting their group. On Wednesday there is a Club Carousel at lunch for students to sign up for clubs. Grade 9 students are encouraged to sign up for something that interests them.
 - c. Friday, Sept. 23 is SAC Grade Colour Day as well as the grade 9 BBQ. Events and games are planned during lunch to encourage grade 9’s to get to know each other.
 - d. Additional clubs may be created, provided students have a staff advisor.
3. Principal’s Update: Sandy Kaskens
 - a. Facilities Update: There have been many upgrades and improvements including a new parking lot (completed on Labour Day week-end), 2 outdoor classrooms, library re-design, and additional furniture for students in common areas. Still awaiting bandwidth upgrade from the board. Director has assured schools that this problem will be resolved sometime this fall. Once bandwidth is upgraded, wifi can be re-activated.
 - b. Staffing Update: there are approximately 70 students more than what the TDSB projected. Many classes are very full, so there are limited opportunities for students to change courses. It is possible that the board will allocate more teaching staff, which could also result in classes being split or changed.
 - c. Student Safety –Drop off/Pick up, Recommendations at upcoming City Council Meeting: School has been working the City Counsellors for several years to address traffic and safety concerns in front of the school. Parent Council has also been apprised of the issues for many years and at many meetings. Originally, Counsellor Delgrande was involved and had a community forum to discuss the concerns and to seek feedback on the recommendations re: changing traffic signs. Counsellor Karygiannis has continued with this, and has conducted traffic studies and has also met with the community (last school year). The recommendations regarding traffic signs have now been supported by transportation services and will be presented at the next Community City Council Meeting. The recommendations are:
 - i. No stopping zone on Fundy Bay (opposite of the school side) during school hours (to prevent students from crossing the street and to prevent cars from creating congestion and prevent two-way traffic)

- ii. No parking on Fundy Bay (on school side) during school hours (to prevent congestion and ensure that there is still two-way traffic)
- iii. No U-turns on Fundy Bay (dangerous, and creates traffic chaos)
- iv. No left turn onto Fundy Bay (from Bamburgh) during drop off and pick up hours (this would result in motorists taking Warden (instead of Bamburgh) and dropping student off on the “school side” of Bamburgh, instead of the opposite side of Fundy Bay (which will be a no-stopping zone). If left turns were allowed, then motorists would then make the turn only to discover that drop off across the street from the school is NOT allowed.

If passed at the community city council meeting, the next step would be for Transportation Services to change the signs, then for Toronto Police to raise awareness of the change, and finally for Toronto Police to enforce through traffic tickets. The school will also inform the community of the traffic changes prior to enforcement.

- d. Grade 9 Curriculum Night (Sept. 15): All grade 9 parents are invited and encouraged to attend.
- e. Upcoming Events: Awards Assembly – Oct 6 at 1:00 p.m.; Report Cards – Nov. 25; Take me Outside Week – next week; Mindfulness Workshops – all grade 9’s in Geography classes.
- f. Board Updates: Interim Director, Dr. John Malloy, is now the permanent Director. He has made some significant changes to how the board is structured. Bethune is part of Learning Centre 2, and the school superintendent is Louis Papathanasakis.
- g. Code of Conduct/Dress Code/Emergency Procedures: A copy of the Code of Conduct, the Dress Code and Emergency Procedures was given to all in attendance. The admin have planned assemblies in the coming week for all grades to review emergency procedures and school expectations. There will be at least 6 fire drills and 2 lock down drills.
- h. Public Consultation meeting with Hon. J. Karygiannis – Sept. 22. City Counsellor Jim Karygiannis will be holding at public consultation meeting at Bethune on September 22 at 7:00 pm. All community members are welcome to attend to give feedback on his proposal to have a Skateboard Park in the park adjacent to the school.

4. Parent Council Elections – Elections take place October 17, 2016

Future Parent Council Dates: October 17; November 7; December 5; February 6; March 6; April 3; May 8