

DRAFT

Ward 10 Council Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, October 12, 2006
Central Technical School

In attendance:

Doreen Grover (Contact), Jean Rajotte, Chair (Hawthorne II), Paul Edwards (V.P., Central Tech.), Willa Marcus (Central Tech.), Nancy Goodchild (Central Tech.), Daryl Chiang (Principal, Orde Street), Martha Davis (Palmerston), Karen Bell (King Edward), Andy Buxton (Central Tech.), Suzanne DePoe (Delta), Diane Jewell (Central Commerce), Maritza Guzman (Lord Lansdowne), Colette Snyder (OOOPS), Mary Jane McNamara (Principal, Harbord), Lina Moreira (Harbord), John Willis (Niagara), Skylar Lim (student rep., Central Tech.), Tyler Johnson (student rep., Central Tech.), Jutta Schaaf (Dewson), Chris Glover (Dewson), Terry Silverman (Montrose), Andrew Munger (Dewson), Jim Prince (King Edward), Chris Bolton (Trustee, Ward 10), Esther Levin (C.A. for Trustee Bolton), Georgina Balascas (Superintendent of Education)
(apologies in advance for any errors or omissions)

1. Dessert, Coffee/Tea and Catching Up

Everyone enjoyed the delicious pies made by Central Technical students.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Jean Rajotte, Chair of the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table. There were many first-timers to a Ward 10 Council meeting.

Overview of Host School, Central Technical School

Paul Edwards, one of three Vice-Principals at Central Tech., provided a brief overview of Central Tech.:

- the school has the highest enrolment in grade 9 this school year it has had in a number of years – approximately 300 students (the norm has been 250);
- these students have responded extremely quickly and strongly and have become involved in the school environment over the first three weeks;
- there are over 2000 students at Central Tech.

Two student representatives, Skylar Lim and Tyler Johnson, conducted a 'visual' tour of the school via an audio-visual presentation. They provided a brief history of the school and highlighted the variety of programs offered, including co-op placements and the LAWS Program (handout) and the vast array of clubs open to the students.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to approving the agenda, the following changes were made:

- Items #3, Overview of Council's Scope and General Process, and #7, Presentation of the Updated Guidelines for Ward 10 Council Meetings, were combined;
- Item # 13, Trustee's Report, was moved to follow Item #3, Approval of Agenda
- It was also suggested that all information included in the agenda be sent to Chris Bolton or Esther Levin prior to the meeting so that it can be circulated to council members before the meeting.

Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.

Moved: Suzanne DePoe; **Seconded:** Martha Davis; **Approved.**

4. Trustee's Report

Tonight at the TDSB offices, the consultants, who have been working with board staff to investigate the board's financial shortfall, will make a presentation to the Board with their recommendations. That meeting necessitates Chris Bolton leaving the Ward Council meeting early.

Chris provided two written trustee reports and a copy of the TDSB Budget Consultation Feedback (see appendix). He then briefly reviewed the written reports highlighting:

- the TDSB trustees insured that communities, parents and employee groups had an opportunity for input in how the schools in Toronto should be used (see Budget Consultation Feedback report);
- parents in other parts of Toronto, for example, Scarborough, want the same school programs, overall, that downtown Toronto schools have.

Ward 10 received 7.5 more teachers at the end of September to accommodate the smaller class sizes in elementary schools in the Ward. The staff planning process is flawed and has caused problems for many schools in the past. Elementary schools have to rearrange classes in the new school year after students have already settled into their classrooms.

Chris talked about the International Languages program, and the trip he took to China with 40 teachers who were attending a training program to learn to teach Mandarin. The trip was paid for by China.

It was during Chris's absence that the TDSB chair, Sheila Ward, agreed to re-open discussion of the rental of Essex West to Lycée Français, a private French school. Next week, on October 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., a community meeting will be held at Essex West to discuss leasing the school to either of two potential lessees, Lycée Français and ICAN, a charitable organization that provides after school, evening and vacation programs for children and programs for adults.

Last week, a community meeting at Heydon Park discussed the use of its schoolyard for a basketball court for teens, 12-18 year olds, in the Beverley/Dundas Street area. This project seems likely to proceed.

Discussion ensued about the use of the old Heydon Park School at Dovercourt and Dundas Street. When a property is declared surplus, the Toronto District Catholic Board, then the French board and then the City of Toronto have the first options on renting it. The city was considering moving a police station from a building across the street into the school building, which is a much larger property.

Q. Has the TDSB considered a long-term lease for the property?

A. No. Facility Services approach seems to be one of selling property rather than leasing it. They are considering a 10-year lease for Essex West but the private French school, which is being considered by Facilities Services, would make so many changes to the school and the schoolyard that it is questionable whether it would be able to be reclaimed.

Q. Was the Ministry of Education's \$5000 designated for school boards in the spring a one-time grant or will it be available again?

A. Chris Bolton thought only the \$500 per school might be available again. The person to contact for information about it is Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, Parent and Community Involvement office. Her contact information is michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca.

Another concern raised was the need for money for translation and interpretation of school information. The amount for translation and interpretation for 2005/2006 was \$500,000 total with \$150,000 being kept at the centre and \$350,000 being dispersed among the 24 families of schools.

Trustee Bolton will keep Ward 10 constituents informed about the budget proceedings through Esther Levin, his constituency assistant. The new Minister of Education, Kathleen Wynne, has sent a letter to the TDSB informing them that she expects budgetary decisions by October 26, 2006. This is the day after the next TDSB meeting on October 25th. Any motions of support for Chris Bolton's stance would be helpful for this meeting.

Motion: In this current budget discussion, the Ward 10 Council directs our Trustee that no cuts be made to the budget this budget year, and the Council commends Trustee Chris Bolton for his stand in this regard.

Moved: John Willis; **Seconded:** Willa Marcus; **Passed unanimously.**

The Council members also expressed concern that the cause of the budget problems is not being dealt with and needs to be. The council was reminded that all trustees are personally liable if they do not balance the budget.

5. Information Sharing

Jean Rajotte, the Chair for this meeting, provided a brief overview of the history of the Ward 10 Council. It originally operated to assist school councils and to provide a forum for information sharing for parents and school councils. Sometimes there were themes, such as sharing an event or idea that worked well at a school or safety issues or problems. With the difficult political times, the focus changed and the meetings became more strategy meetings than information sharing ones. Now that the political situation is somewhat more settled, people are requesting a return to the information sharing. Due to the long agenda, there was a shorter time for sharing at this meeting than there often is.

Jim Prince, King Edward: The school has a new principal who seems to be working out well so far. A Welcome Back Bar-b-que was held in September and this helped bring the community together. Although the school is a grade K-8 school, over half the population are in grade 7 and 8.

Jutta Schaaf, Dewson: Jutta raised concerns over problems with bussing for her son and who to contact to resolve problems. She resolved the situation by finally talking directly to the bus driver. The whole experience was frustrating and dangerous for her young child.

Jean Rajotte, Hawthorne II: Hawthorne also has buses stopping at the school. Both the school and the city have a no idling policy. The drivers don't always follow the policy. Jean resolved the situation by also talking directly with the bus driver.

Terry Silverman, Montrose: Montrose has had a hot lunch program. For the past few years, an administrative assistant who had limited time to prepare the meals operated it. At times the meals were not up to the parents' wishes. The school is now talking with the daycare to see if they can provide lunches.

Jutta Schaaf mentioned that Food Share would work with a school to provide a salad bar. John Willis added that the organization is in the process of moving, and once they have moved, they are going to focus on nutrition in schools.

Chris Glover, Dewson: He and Andrew Munger are organizing an all-candidates meeting on Tuesday, November 7 at Dewson. The tentative schedule is for school board trustee candidates for Ward 10 to speak from 7-8 p.m. and city council candidates from Ward 19 to speak from 8-9 p.m. Ward 19 runs from Bathurst to Dovercourt and Joe Pantalone is the incumbent. Each candidate will give a short (5 mins.) presentation and then the floor will be opened up for questions from the audience.

Once the date and time are confirmed, Chris will inform Esther and she will send out the specifics via the Ward 10 share list.

6. Approval of Minutes, June 6, 2006

Under **Information Sharing**, insert “in June” in the blank in the second paragraph.

Under **Superintendents’ Report**, delete the sentence beginning with “New FSL funding...” and ending with “...in the Ward.”

Motion: That the minutes from June 6, 2006 as amended be accepted.

Moved: Jim Prince; **Seconded:** Terry Silverman; **Passed unanimously.**

Action: Donna Harrow be asked to report on the project to develop outreach materials for which she had applied for funding. Either Chris Bolton or Jean Rajotte will invite her to do so at the next council meeting.

7. Updated Guidelines for Ward 10 Council Meetings/Overview of Council

Jean R. explained that the agenda is developed by the Steering Committee based on past minutes and input from council representatives. More people are needed on the Steering Committee.

Attendance at Ward Council meetings consists of parents representing school councils, superintendents, the trustee, the trustee’s constituency assistant(s) and school administrative representatives. There have been concerns that at times there have been more school staff/administrators than parents, and that this might get in the way of the purposes of the council. The chair requested that if the professionals notice that there are more of them than parents at the table, to “tread lightly”. The chair also stressed that everyone is welcome and that everyone’s voice matters. This is about the children -- to ensure that they thrive in school and that parents have a place to raise and discuss issues/concerns.

Ward 10 Council Guidelines

Jim Prince brought to the council’s attention the available information on School Council Regulations and the Summary, and the Guide for School Councils (see appendix). He explained that through Lloyd McKell’s work with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, ward councils are now a part of the TDSB policies.

School councils should elect representatives to the ward council as stated in the Ward 10 Council Guidelines (see appendix).

Action: Council members to review the Trinity Spadina Ward Council Operating Guidelines in preparation for discussion at the next council meeting.

Daryl Chiang, Ward 10 principals’ representative, questioned the meaning of the phrase “tread lightly” used by the chair when talking about school

staff/administrators. The principals are there as a resource and support for the parents -- how can they help?

The chair repeated that the principals are there as a resource and to listen to the parents. A discussion ensued about past meetings where sometimes there were so many principals in attendance that some council members felt that the discussion was stifled – this would have happened particularly in situations where there was some conflict with a particular administrator. Sometimes, if the optics were that there are “too many” professionals, perhaps it was because there were too few parents. The council must work on getting out more parents, who also do want to meet the professionals and be able to talk with them in person.

Georgina Balascas told the council that this year the trustee asked that there be two representatives from each level of the school system: 2 from the secondary and 2 from the elementary level, plus the administrator from the host school and the 2 superintendents. She emphasized that this is a partnership amongst all of the council members. For the administrators, it is very different to hear issues discussed than to read about it in a report.

The 2006/07 representatives are: Daryl Chiang, Principal, Orde P.S. – elementary representative, and MaryJane McNamara – secondary representative, and Georgina. They need two more representatives. Other administrators wanted to come but weren't clear about the numbers.

Action: Discuss the issue of attendance at the next Ward council meeting.

8. Elections

Positions:

- **Steering Committee:** 4-5 members, each carrying equal weight; elected for 1 year; have authority to make decisions between meetings; meet once a month for an hour or so to plan for meetings and set agenda, otherwise as needed;
- **Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC):** Board level advisory committee; meets at TDSB offices, 5050 Yonge St. 4 times per year; comprised of representatives from all 22 wards and some community groups; representatives report back to their ward councils;
- **French As A Second Language (FSL):** Board level advisory committee;
- **Sub-committees:** established depending on need.

Steering Committee: Current members are Jean Rajotte, Jim Prince, and Terry Silverman.

PIAC: Chris Glover is the current representative, and John Willis volunteered to be the alternate.

FSL: Jutta Schaaf volunteered.

Motion: That the people nominated/who volunteered be considered elected.

Moved: Willa Marcus; **Seconded:** Andrew Munger; **Passed.**

Campaign for Public Education (CPE): Chris Glover volunteered to be the official representative for the Ward 10 Council on the Campaign for Public Education. He requested that another council member come to the next CPE meeting and report back to the council. Terry Silverman offered to do this.

9. Foci for 2006-2007

For posting of information and finding information, go to the Ward 10 Council website: www.myward10.ca Minutes and agendas are posted there.

Participants can have 'conversations' about this year's foci on the website.

It was suggested that Campaign for Public Education topics could become one of our foci. Another focus suggested was money for translation and interpretation (see Item # 4, above).

10. All Candidates Meeting

Motion: That Ward 10 Council co-sponsor an all-candidates meeting.

Moved: Jim Prince; **Seconded:** Willa Marcus; **Passed.**

An all candidates meeting is being planned for November 7, 2006 at Dewson P.S. (see Item # 5, **Information Sharing**, Chris Glover). Once the details are confirmed, they will be circulated to Ward 10 council members via the share-list.

It was suggested that members of the ward council prepare questions for the trustee candidates to address, for example, about the use of vacant space in the ward. These should be sent to Esther Levin who will forward them to Jim Prince to compile and then forward to Chris Glover.

11. Ward 10 Space Issues

No report.

12. Superintendents' Reports

No reports.

13. Agenda and Date for Next Meeting

Due to Chris Bolton having to leave the meeting early and the lateness of the meeting, a date for the next meeting was not decided upon. This will be decided and communicated to the council representatives via the usual communications route.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.