

**MINUTES**  
**GLAD PARK SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Thursday February 15, 2007**

**ATTENDANCE:** Drew McNaughton (principal), Micheline Joseph (vice principal), Carolyn Dobson, Pam Mandich, Jill Navaranjan, Graham Scrimgeour, Julie Smyth, Jodi Yasuda, Natalie Wood, Dalene Serebro, Allan Amos, David Moyer, Andria Stevens, Zoie Smith

**REGRETS:** Catherine McCowan, Judy Rentenaar

**PARENT OBSERVERS:** Dave Somasundaran, Dianne MacDonald, Liz Fairbrass, Heather Anderson, Anne Scott

**GUESTS:** Lorelea Carruthers (school trustee), Brenda Gillingham (Special Education Teacher), Tiffini Jacobs (Student Support Center Teacher)

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Carolyn Dobson opened the meeting by welcoming Lorelea Carruthers, school trustee. Each of the council members, guests and parent observers were also introduced.

**Guest Speaker: Lorelea Carruthers, School Trustee East Gwillimbury/Whitchurch Stouffville YRDSB**

Lorelea began her address by thanking council for the invitation to speak. Lorelea outlined the expected expansion/growth that Stouffville will be experiencing in the near future. Lorelea explained that two new public schools are scheduled to open September 2008 with an approximate capacity of 500 students each.

The new Stouffville high school scheduled to open September 2007 will be a composite school. Another new high school scheduled for construction in Unionville is in the early stages of developing programmes as well as the application process. It will be a regional school, so all attendance will be application-based. The school will open sometime between 2009-2010 and will have an approximate capacity of 1400-1600 students. Lorelea meets on a monthly basis with school council representatives for information sharing and update purposes.

Natalie questioned the implications of the expected growth on transfer students. Drew confirmed that the YRDSB policy will be followed.

Jodi questioned if the boundary review process was complete. Lorelea explained that after much input from various affected parties (communities and schools) the process had been finalized and the boundaries have been established. Drew told council a boundary map has been placed in the school office. Lorelea urged

council members to contact her at any time via e-mail if they have any further questions. (Her address is listed on the YRDSB web-site) Carolyn thanked Lorelea for her time and the information that she shared with council.

### **Minutes from January 18, 2007 approved.**

Motion to approve: Andria Stevens

2<sup>nd</sup>: Jodi Yasuda

Approved

### **Chairperson's Report—Carolyn Dobson**

Carolyn shared with council that she had received resignations from both Catherine McCowan and Judy Rentenaar. Carolyn will contact Trina Wick and Liz Fairbrass to give these former council members the first right of refusal. If necessary Carolyn will then begin to contact the other applicants for council from September 2006 in an effort to fill the two vacant positions left by the resignations.

Carolyn again thanked the various committees for their continued dedication and hard work.

### **Treasurer's Report –David Moyer**

Unfortunately due to technical difficulties, David was unable to distribute a hard copy of this month's budget to council members. David highlighted the months minimal activity from memory including available funds and investments. No questions were raised by council.

A copy of the budget will be distributed at next month's meeting and a motion will be made for approval at that time.

### **Principal's Report—Drew McNaughton**

Drew began his report by highlighting the events and activities on going at Glad Park in February including:

- Snow day—2 to date
- The power outage
- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> teachers were involved in various PD activities
- FI parent night was successful
- Basketball teams are currently training and touring
- YDPA will present Jungle Book on Feb 23 at GPPS
- Report cards will be distributed March 7
- March break Mar 9-16 inclusive

Drew explained to council that he had met with Carolyn regarding the review of the school plan for continuous improvement. Drew is expecting this will be a

lengthy review process. The ultimate goals will include effective curriculum implementation and student improvement and achievement.

A concern has been raised by the intermediate class teachers regarding cell phones/electronic devices in the school. A policy will be developed by a committee of teachers. The draft policy will be brought to council for review and input. Zoie Smith informed council that policies are currently in place at the secondary school level regarding electronic devices and "cyberbullying". Zoie recommended the teacher committee drafting the school policy refer to the secondary school policies.

Drew distributed a YRDSB pamphlet outlining the procedures in place to raise questions or concerns regarding school issues. Drew reiterated to council that he has an open door policy and would welcome any questions personally or via e-mail.

Drew explained to council that the projected student population for September 2007 is 900 students. The increase in population is due to the growing school boundary area as well as the fact that Glad Park is the holding school for Stouffville. The two new schools scheduled to open in 2008 will cause the student population to decrease; however there will be a steady increase of students over the year(s) as the natural boundaries continue to expand.

This dramatic increase in student population poses two distinct challenges to the school. The first issue is staffing as more classes will need to be created for the new students. As a result a larger staffing allocation will be required next year. Vacancies will be posted and Drew and Micheline will begin the process of filling the positions with new teacher applicants. The second challenge is space. Six individual portables will be required to house the additional students. Typically portables are used for junior students. Drew stressed to council that all decisions being made will be done so with student welfare in mind as well as his continued commitment to be an advocate for GPPS.

Several concerns were raised by council members including the placement of the portables. At this point the portables will be placed on the pavement (covering some of the painting); however, Drew will pursue the possibility of the portables being placed around the perimeter of the pavement.

Natalie requested that an update on the safe arrival policy be put in the upcoming newsletter outlining the procedure for the parent community.

Jodi questioned the feasibility of establishing an e-mail address to report student absences. Micheline and Drew will pursue the possibility.

Zoie questioned if there is an emergency procedure in place in the event of specifically another power outage. Drew will outline the procedures in place in the upcoming newsletter.

## **Staff Report—Graham Scrimgeour**

Graham explained to council that the staff are committed to managing the upcoming changes to the best of their ability. Jump for Heart is scheduled for Wednesday February 21. It is an entire school event and kids are encouraged to raise money for the event.

EQAO preparations are underway for grade 3&6 staff for the required May testing.

Natalie questioned if students are able to get to school on a snow day; whether the parents should send their children. Graham explained that traditionally the classes are combined and some type of theme work is done.

### **Guest Speakers:**

#### **Brenda Gillingham:**

Brenda, a special education teacher at GPPS, outlined several different types special education teachers including: reading recovery teachers, student support center teacher and learning opportunity grant teachers. Brenda teaches a community class (not available in every school) for children identified and/or diagnosed with some type of educational delay. Some of the students in the class are able to work on the provincial standards; however, each student has an individualized curriculum. Other skills are also taught in the class including: socialization skills, behavioral skills as well as helping parents deal with different issues that arise at home. Annual assessments are conducted for each student evaluating the effectiveness of the programme for the individual student. Brenda also facilitates discussions within other classrooms regarding her students. Such discussions build acceptance and tolerance for the students when integration occurs. Brenda relayed to council that she relies on the educational assistants to implement these types of programmes.

#### **Tiffini Jacobs:**

Tiffini is the student support center teacher for grade 3-5 identified students. Tiffini provides and facilitates modified programmes for the students in her class. Tiffini explained to council that she also supports staff during the integration of her students back into the classroom for other than core subjects. Her goal is to help these students be successful when they return to their original classrooms. Tiffini is currently in the process of writing a funding proposal for additional resources for her students.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Continuing Education Committee—Carolyn for Jodi**

Carolyn attended the Orchard Park education seminar on Kid's Stress. Some of the information from that session will be placed on the GPPS web site. The next seminar will be at Glad Park on March 6<sup>th</sup> with the last of the three seminars held at Summitview PS on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn will look into having the dates put on the community calendar as well as the web site.

Diane McDonald explained to council that the FI information evening was successful and registrations are well underway for September enrolment.

### **Health & Safety—Jill**

Jill explained that Diane McDonald has volunteered for help run the "You're the Chef" Programme. Announcements and flyers will be distributed requesting applicants for the programme.

The feasibility of a hand washing programme is still under review with Drew and the committee.

A "No Screen" week will be held in April (i.e. turn off the tv/computer)—more information will follow.

Tiffini Jacobs is the teacher representative on the committee.

## **Fund Raising**

### **Pizza Day—Anne Scott**

Anne explained to council approximately \$450 is raised for the school each pizza day. She told council she is having a difficult time trying to get parent volunteers to help serve the pizza. Six pizza days are tentatively scheduled for the remaining term 3. Liz will inform her parent reps that volunteers are needed to help with the remaining pizza days.

Anne also told council that she will be resigning from the pizza committee at the end of the school year. A request for a volunteer to run the pizza programme next year will be put in the upcoming newsletter.

Micheline interjected that she is having difficulty finding lunch monitors (a paid position). This need will also be put in the upcoming newsletter.

### **Fun Fair—Natalie Wood**

The next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Natalie's home.

### **Continuous Improvement – Natalie Wood & Zoie Smith**

Natalie distributed a handout to council members outlining the GPPS Council Funding Guidelines. The guidelines were recommended in an effort to help guide the fundraising, budgeting and funding proposal processes. Natalie Wood motioned that the GPPS funding guidelines as prepared by the continuous improvement committee be adopted by council.

2<sup>nd</sup>: David Moyer

Approved.

Drew recognized and appreciated the work involved in making the process equitable. The standardized process also encourages consistency as well as supports the school's initiatives for continuous improvement.

### **Communications Committee—Allan Amos**

Allan distributed a handout outlining the individual committee member responsibilities and contact information as well as the committee overall objectives.

Micheline forwarded the received permission slips for the electronic newsletter to Dalene for input. Graham's class will receive the pizza lunch for the class with the most returned permission slips. The committee will continue to review the possibility of integrating the two newsletters (school and council) in an effort to eliminate duplication.

Carolyn closed the meeting by thanking council for their time and urged everyone to work together to help make the rapid growth of the student population a positive experience for all students of Glad Park PS.

Next Meeting: March 22, 7:00pm

Council adjourned 9:15pm