

## **ROBERT BATEMAN PARENT COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018**

### **MEETING MINUTES - Co-chairs: Denise Davy and Wendy Burton**

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#### **1. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE**

- NA

#### **2. AMY COLLARD – talking about the role of the school trustee**

- Trustee for last 8 years; next four years
- Role is multifaceted; serve province, local taxpayer, student and staff in HDSB – also serve for local constituency. Ward 5; but has to consider needs of board across Halton region
- Sometimes challenging to balance
- One of the main things is to set policy; regarding changes/needs
- Multi-year plan is another thing they do - -community consultation; a lot of it is set on Provincial goals and needs
- Changes in provincial government – bylaw: changes to priorities; i.e.: change in their approach to education development charges; approach/builders – i.e.: site plans; so they know how much to charge to builders – to buy land and charge builders
- Cost of land going up quickly; trustees have to play catch up to changes; rather than putting a hold on the approvals, province let bylaws governance slide
- New government – new rates; impacts budgets
- Health and physical education curriculum grades 1-8– go back to old curriculum; many teachers aren't familiar with the old curriculum/guidelines – looking back to 1998 curriculum; will be tweaking it going forward (need to bring into the new millennium) – no changes to HS curriculum; other than consent
- Daily phone calls from parents, taxpayers - -special education needs being met primary concern – safe/healthy schools
- Sit on committees (boundary committee for example)
- Labour contracts – trustees across the province – labour negotiations
- Special education advisory committee, IT committees, Policy committees, equity committee– lots of committees
- Human rights symposium – December 4; United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous persons (this year's focus)
- PRO Grants; government put a pause on a lot of things – (Mark); we still have funds from last year so we didn't apply

- Question about where students live vs. where school is located (out of district) who serves the kids? Trustees are last line of engagement if teacher/principal/superintendent cannot resolve issues on their own. Operation of the domain is under the principal.
- What happens when/if Bateman closes? No public HS will be left in ward 5; student related issues – Margo Shuttleworth (ward 4)/Amy to work together
- What will happen to Bateman property – may become the new site of Gary Allan/hope is that HDSB will hang onto the land; how to use the space in joint efforts for the community? Amy pushing to keep the property
- Land is owned by different entities... green space/park land is protected
- What is the plan with the property? Unknown. Have to go to the province before anything can be approved/planned; options/ideas are things like joint ventures with the city (ward 5 doesn't have a community centre); Appleby library is very busy
- Have to wait until school closes – and government is still new and getting their legs; so nothing is going to happen - need to know what's going to happen in two years when the school closes - what makes the most sense and what serves the interests of the community (ditto for Pearson in the north)
- What can residents do? What youth programs are there? Nelson Youth Centre - specialized youth programs; no drop ins. Sherwood just started programs
- PAR/Nelson construction status – **(Action Item)**: recommendation to bring in superintendent Terri Blackwell to a future meeting to answer questions about transition
- MM Robinson/Pearson transition – key learnings? Apply to Bateman/Nelson transition?
- Denise – questions about smoking out front; how to manage this? Negative impression of Bateman – Ontario tobacco act in its third reading; looking at merging regulation to restrict smoking within 20 metres – includes vaping on school property; how to enforce?
- Increase in vaping; need to get message to kids much earlier in elementary system; Halton public health – has good resources on health effects of vaping – how to get this into the curriculum (i.e.: pictures of popcorn lung)
- Question about Paul Sharman comments about keeping special education here????
- Merger; capacity concerns - transition Steering committee – not calling for portables at Nelson, based on population projections

### 3. PARENT SURVEY

- 48 responses to survey (about 10% response)—top interests are Motivating Teens/Building their Confidence and Mental Health/Mental illness
- Financial literacy

- Beyond Bateman/Graduating lunch – what are graduates up to; former students come in and do Q&A before university – informal conversation and formal discussion (during lunch - before Christmas) – any opportunities to do at another time (vs. lunch time?)
- Preferences – not terribly limited on day of the week/during the school day not preferable
- We have about \$2,500 left for speakers – **(Action Item)**: Denise to reach out to potential speakers; in terms of timelines – January/February
- Once we have speakers/dates set – share with surrounding high schools (typically don't share with feeder schools)
- **Action Item**: Wendy to talk to Maureen – any interest in speaking?
- **Dr. Karyn Gordon** – highly recommended. Denise will contact her.

#### 4. PANGEA RESTAURANT

- Question came up about the status of Pangea – as it's a good way to get the community involved/engage seniors. Mark said currently no plans to reopen.
- Still working on special events a few times a semester– but not weekly food service; sit-down dining
- Bread cart is back

#### 5. OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE

- Question about optional attendance numbers ; this year had ½ numbers as last year; had about 12 requests; granted ½
- Down from last year (24 last year)

#### 6. PARENT TEACHER NIGHT FORMAT

- About 200 parents attended
- A number of schools do something very similar – moved parent teacher discussions from mid-term to 5<sup>th</sup> week
- Beyond grade 9 – only get 5 week mark email if kids grades are less than 60%
- All students/parents invited
- Not everyone liked the format – lack of privacy, busy, too informal. Others liked the format and getting to see other parents.

## 7. CAR WASH & AWARDS NIGHT - COMMUNICATION, etc.

- Garden – fresh produce; 45 pounds of produce donated to the food bank – want to double next year; Car was only for staff this year.
- Awards night – only kids winning awards were invited

## 8. SPORTS

- Extracurricular activities – can we be proactive about this next year so we offer all sports? Mark met with Nelson – looked at each school's curriculum; and who could play for Nelson (and reciprocal); OFSSA restrictions; but junior teams can merge together
- Working in the past year to get senior hockey team going – trying to merge schools to have a south Burlington team... logically doesn't work; couldn't send our kids to Nelson b/c they want to go to OFSSA
- Concerns around why Nelson/Bateman can't merge together to form teams (hockey, football, field hockey, etc.) – we're losing the teachers with experience/ability to coach – kids currently are losing out on opportunities – we applied to be downgraded to AA from A; were denied (would allow our kids to play for Nelson teams going to OFSSA declared schools) – based on rankings; doesn't apply to individual sports (i.e.: wrestling)
- Be more proactive to prevent what happened this year with girls' field hockey? Mark had a discussion with the athletic director – they will know this year who will be qualified on staff to coach next year – get interest going this year for next year (girls who are interested in trying it out) – if no coach then athletic director will get certified next year
- Any opportunity to do intramural? Run clinics outside of school? Give kids some exposure to field hockey (last year did clinics for cricket) – **Action Item:** Mark to investigate further
- Physical ed curriculum – more skill based; vs. playing team sports (basketball)
- Community coaches – works aside coaches
- Nelson – sports at Nelson vs. Bateman (anyone can participate) – **Action Item:** put forth to the integration community; how to work to find opportunities for kids
- Suggestion – intramurals between Bateman and Nelson to assist with transition?

## 9. OTHER

- Looking at ways to bring community together
- Formalized best buddies program with CPP and robotics team - forming connections now
- Promote collaboration between two communities

- How many teachers down this year? Only 5

## **10. PRINCIPALS' UPDATE**

- 268 students won awards
- Holocaust survivor came to speak
- Oct 5 PD day – problem based learning (I.E.: Climate change) – find a solution/ departments to weave into current learning
- Special Olympics soccer team – qualify for international tournament (soccer) – Toronto; going to Ancaster to qualify
- Had a couple CPP students swim for OFSAA
- Universities came in to speak to grade 11/12s
- Grads in action – annual show for grade 12's – Butlers for a day... \$1500 for Gift for Giving Back
- Dance – 175 tickets sold – all pathways represented – student DJ's
- Grade 8, 9, 10, 11 – Leap program – went to a corn maze
- This Thursday – Dr. Temple Grandin coming to speak to kids on autism (includes other HS) – push message around uniqueness, being different, etc.
- Next week – Gift of Giving back (sorting, collected and weighed) - recipients to talk to the kids regarding their collective impact of donations in the community (600 kids in the gym); agencies to pick up (we're the host site) – one big drive now; another in the spring
- Raffle – ends next Thursday
- Next Wed – schools dropping off their donations; hockey Tues/Wed evening drop offs
- Tomorrow – announcements for kids to volunteers and get hours in (4:30-9) – expects to have a lot of help – evening next week
- Parking – drop offs in front of the pool (close to the gym); parking around the school
- **Action Item:** Mark to connect with Superintendent Blackwell for November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting
- December 6 – Christmas craft
- Remembrance Day; November 9<sup>th</sup> – two assemblies (student run)