**Don Valley East – Ward 17 Forum**

**Monday, Feb 27, 2017**

**7pm to 9pm**

**Greenland Public School, 15 Greenland Road, North York**

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

Principal Audrey Ann Winsor welcomed all participants and introduced the Constituency Assistant from Denzil Minnan-Wong’s office. She asked the participants to introduced themselves. Ken Lister addressed the meeting and introduced the presenters.

1. **TDSB Virtual Library – Ruth Hall, Program Co-ordinator Library and Learning Resources**

Ruth Hall administers all libraries within the TDSB that include the virtual library as well as all physical ones. She distributed some basic information on how to log into the virtual library. She walked the meeting through the login process and how to navigate the library resources.

The virtual library consists not only of text but contains the complementary media. The current library is an amalgamation of the primary and secondary school material. This allows students to select whatever they need without being embarrassed. One of the great applications the Library offers is the **Bookflix** which provides audiobooks with the ability to play them at various speeds. The books can be downloaded and played off line. While the books are read, the application highlights the words that are being read. Most of the library books are not fiction. The other applications used by the Library are: **TAB-vue, Britannica on-line, Canadian Encyclopedia, Canadian Literary Reference Centre (**database articles), **Canadian Points of View (**database articles), **Capstone** (ebooks), **Career Cruising** (database articles), **CultureGrams** (database article), **Curio CBC** (stream media), **Encycopedie Universalis Jr and Sr** (encyclopedias), **Explora** (database search interface), Follett Shelf (eBooks), **Global Issues in Context** (database articles), **Gale Virtual Reference Library** (eBooks), **History Reference Centre** (database articles), **Infobase** (eBooks), **Jobs People Do** (database articles), **Learn 360** (streamed media), **Literary Reference Centre** (database articles), **Naxos Music Library** (streaming media), **NoveList K-8** (database articles), **OERB** (Educator Resources for teacher access), **PebbleGo** (animals, science database articles), **Primary Search** (database articles), Research/Inquiry guides, Science Reference Centre (database articles) and **Teen Health and Wellness** (database articles).

Ken Lister inquired if all the links are current. Ruth Hall indicated that all links are current. In case the links don’t work there is a way to report that on line so it can be fixed.

Superintendent Curtis asked if we know how many users?

The original platform did not allow to capture this information. The TDSB IT team is working to capture the number of users.

Some parents asked if kids know how to use the library or is it more for the parents who can promote to the kids?

Students are encouraged to access the Library when they do assignments. Most students will start using it around grade 5. More encouragement and training needs to be done so students get into a habit to regularly use the online library.

Ken Lister thanked Ruth Hall for her presentation.

1. **Superintendent Update – Superintendent Beth Veale**

Both Greenland and Norman Ingram have shared attendance boundaries. The Planning Department is currently reviewing this issue. Elizabeth Kwan spearheaded the need for that review as there are perceived problems with shared attendance boundaries. Beth Veale explained how the process of enrolment works at schools with shared boundaries. The Planning Department started already to work on the process that will be used to change shared boundaries and used during the transition period. The TDSB creates what is called a Local Feasibility Team(“LFT”) that includes central staff, superintendent and principals of the schools affected by the review. The LTF will propose a number of ways to manage the issue and is receptive to the feedback from the school community. The recommendations of the LFT are tabled with the Board of Trustees and if it approves them, the Board will authorize further action.

Elizabeth Kwan asked if the Planning Department can provide a recent sample of the boundary review process. Ken explained that because we don’t know yet if we are looking for a simple boundary review or maybe a grade change it is really hard to determine the timelines. Elizabeth Kwan would like to explore Greenland’s social capital.

Beth Veale indicated that Elizabeth’s ideas should be discussed at the School Council. The School Council can showcase all the positive points of Greenland. The developers don’t always include schools in the promotional materials because it is not always clear if that would be the home school for the future development. Elizabeth indicated that the School Council at Greenland worked very hard even sometimes getting itself in trouble so they need Beth’s guidance and information.

The transparency of the boundary review process is very important for Greenland because this issue has been on everybody’s radar for a number of years without any progress. There is a bus that is taking students from Greenland to Norman Ingram. Parents don’t like that as it creates a perception that there is something wrong with Greenland. Curtis Ennis and Ken Lister both mentioned that the TDSB is trying to eliminate all shared boundaries and limits bussing of children to schools. The Board promotes walking to schools.

Ken Lister indicated that because the process of changing the attendance boundaries is very time consuming, the Board is trying to complete this process this calendar year. The issue of joint boundaries was created by different practices of the pre-amalgamation boards. Aretha Philips indicated that the perception that not all schools are equal is very hard to eliminate.

Elizabeth Kwan indicated that the school has a lot of parents that are professionals and have resources that can create a social capital for the school. These parents already invested in the community and if approached they might be willing to invest in Greenland. She also wondered if fundraising could be shared between schools to help schools like Greenland.

Aretha Philips mentioned that PIAC is contemplating the issue of sharing of the results of the local council fundraising. They are in the process of checking how receptive various school councils would be to sharing their fundraising. Not all schools have the same capability to raise money. Curtis Ennis indicated that a number of schools in the area are model schools. This gives those schools some extra resources to improve the educational outcomes of the students. He also stated that the TDSB has a role in ensuring that not only students from the high social capital schools succeed in their educational outcome.

Aretha Philips indicated that Elizabeth Kwan might be interested in joining PIAC as the committee has access to a lot of information she is seeking.

Megan Cooper, Principal of Norman Ingram, indicated that she is there for 7 years and she started investigate the issue of shared boundaries as soon as she realized that there is a bus that takes kids from Greenland to Ingram. This was a legacy of two schools closing in the past. Ingram is trying to educate parents who are registering their children at their school that Greenland is equally good school and that it is a lot of closer to some of the potential students. The TDSB is promoting walkability to school and equal distribution of enrolment.

Beth Veale indicated that Elizabeth’s concerns were heard. The first meeting dealing with unraveling of the shared boundaries will be Mar 28th.

Ken Lister mentioned when he became a trustee, the shared boundaries issues was placed on the planning agenda to be completed in 2017 and that is still on track. If all public consultations are completed by December, the approved changes can be implemented in the September of the following year. Aretha Philips indicated that Elizabeth Kwan should be collecting parents’ emails and making them aware that their feedback is required for the process. Beth Veale mentioned that the timing and the monitoring of the boundaries review process is a job of the Planning Department and not that of the school or its principal.

Ken Lister mentioned sometimes the process is delayed because there are other priorities that the Board needs to attend to. He gave an example of Brian Public School.

Greenland’s principal addressed the issue of EQAO. The score represents only one point in time and at Greenland it is being addressed. The school is small and it is sometime very difficult to have a number of extra programs. The school has very committed staff and school council. The school needs to focus about what is important to its students.

1. **PIAC Update – Aretha Philips**

Aretha mentioned that PIAC had its appreciation day. There are two consultations that will happen shortly: on the sharing of local fundraising

School Council survey on fundraising (30% response).

1. **Trustee Update – Ken Lister**
   1. Update on the Mar 8th Long-term Planning and Strategy meeting that Ken will be participating. The shared boundaries between Ingram and Greenland will be on the agenda.
   2. Celestica lands development are projected to have 298 secondary students and 566 elementary students the consultation for this development will take place on Mar 21st at the Japanese Cultural Centre. Ken Lister is not sure if the developer has a school site available and he is not sure if developers are obliged to provide the space for school on their sites.
   3. Heritage Month –

February is the Chinese Heritage Month at the TDSB and May is the Jewish Heritage Month. We will celebrate the Italian Heritage Month in June of this year. Ken Lister is a member of the Heritage Month Celebration Committees.

* 1. Results of the City By-Election

The City Ward 42 by-election taken place on Feb 13 and Neethan Shan was elected to the City Council. Neethan Shan vacated his seat and the Board of Trustees decided to appoint his replacement. The vote will decide if the TDSB should appoint new trustee or hold a by-election. Ken Lister will be supporting an appointment which means that the TDSB will be accepting applications from the interested individuals.

* 1. Budget Update

Ken Lister indicated that for the first time in a decade enrolment level are up.

* 1. Upcoming Repairs in the local schools:
     + Ernest – parking lot repairs
     + George Vanier – new front entrance, new boilers and new lockers
     + Kingslake – parking lot and sidewalks repairs
     + Don Valley Middle School – parking lot repairs
     + Muirhead – upgrade to the playground
     + Shaughnessy – installation of new windows
     + Forest Manor – installation of new windows
     + George S. Henry – parking lot repairs
     + Fenside - upgrade to the playground
     + Rene Gordon - installation of new windows
     + Don Mills CI – parking lot repairs and new lockers installation
     + Victoria Park CI – new track and new lockers installation
     + Greenland - upgrade to the playground
     + Sloane - installation of new windows
  2. The TDSB Equity Task Force will be looking at how the TDSB is spending its money and how it can support its most needy students. This review is required due to cuts to the special education.
  3. This year TDSB budget will have same amount of funding for the special education despite the Province cutting $4 Million.
  4. We are looking for PIAC Alternative and if anybody is interested in serving, please let us know at the next meeting.
  5. Save our pools campaign – Ken Lister addressed the North York Community Council in January on the issue of the City of Toronto terminating lease for three pools. Pool closing will save $93,000 annually which would pay for 30cm of a new subway line. It costs the TDSB $130,000 annually to operate these pools. Penny Oleksiak (Canadian Olympic gold medalist swimmer) tried to advocate to keep at least one pool open but in the end the City decided to terminate its leases anyway.
  6. The Ward 17 newsletter will be in mailboxes soon.

1. **Questions/Discussion**

A question was asked if new developments such as the Celestica site will require a community centre with a pool. Ken Lister indicated that the need for the community centre is determined through the development process.

A question was asked if the TDSB would be interested in soliciting a donation to keep pools open? Ken Lister indicated that the TDSB needs to deal with the long-term maintenance issues and generally donations are one-time event. He pointed out that even Penny Oleksiak was unable to obtain a commitment to keep one of the pools open.

1. **Next meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM and next meeting will take place on March 20, 2017 at Muirhead Public School.