

## MINUTES

### **QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH:**

Paul Denomme, *HWDSB Superintendent*  
Dawnk Danko, *School Trustee, Ward 7*  
Dave Hazell, *Temporary-Principal, Norwood Park School*  
Caitlin Evans, *Vice-Principal, Norwood Park School*

Meeting Chairperson: Heather Lambert-Hillen, School Council Co-Chair, Norwood Park School

*Meeting called to order by D. Hazell at 6:35 pm*

- D. Hazell welcomed everyone to the Town Hall Q & A, and introduced Superintendent Denomme and Trustee Danko.
- D. Hazell introduced Norwood Park's new permanent Vice-Principal, Mme. Evans.
- H. Lambert-Hillen took role as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.
- Questions were submitted to our guest speakers prior to the meeting; the following minutes represent a summary of the answers provided, and discussions held.

### **What resources are in place to support math curriculum being delivered in French?**

- Human Resources training sessions take place between Board and school staff members.
- Anticipated student responses.
- Identifying students who struggle, and those who excel in math.
- School teachers/staff attend training sessions, then share information with the other teachers during professional development sessions.
- Resources teachers work closely with students who are struggling in math.
- Class number-talks, math manipulatives, iPad apps, etc.
- [homework@voilalearning.com](mailto:homework@voilalearning.com)
- [www.hwdsb.on.ca/mathhelp](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/mathhelp)
- Staff can use an extra PD to learn more, to work on French-English translations, etc. These sessions are distributed as needed by the Board upon request.

### **How are split-classes decided?**

- Based on projection of the number of students per grade, therefore number of classes and staff.
- Cap of 20 students per class, hard cap of 23.
- Split classes are formed in order to fill classes within Ministry guidelines.
- Norwood Park will see an increase in grade 3-4 split classes for the 2018/9 school year.
- There is a Ministry mandated reduction in grades 4-8 class sizes coming, timing TBA.
- Discussion held around the social challenges of split-classes; students who are easily influenced by peers, or who are much younger than the majority of their class, special-needs students, etc.
- Classes are carefully built, taking into consideration student needs, friends, who works well/poorly together, developmental needs, learning resources, etc.
- Discussion held around differential teaching (curriculum).

### **Transportation issues were supposed to be improved with this year's bell-time change. They have been much worse. What is being done to improve the bussing issues?**

- This is a Board-wide issue, not just a problem at Norwood Park.
- There is a school bus driver shortage, mostly due to contract and funding issues between the drivers and the bus company, Attridge.
- French Immersion is not technically funded for transportation; HWDSB funds it.
- Bell times have been examined to alleviate the challenges; some bus drivers complete another school route before their Norwood route.
- Different procedures and options are being looked at.
- The school bus issues at Norwood have improved greatly since September.
- There is a current investigation into the inefficient communication between the bus company and the parents (eg. when a bus is running late).
- Discussion held around procedures for late bus pick-up/drop-off, communication with parents, etc. Parents should not have to put their children in before/after school care because the bus is unreliable.
- Parents should voice their concerns directly to the Ministry of Education.

### **Safety concerns around pick-up/drop-off areas:**

- A paved path from Warren Avenue to the playground, beside the parking lot fence, has been requested.  
\* D. Danko will request that this be considered by the Ministry.
- Concerns raised about cleared snow piling up at sides of Terrace Drive and Warren Avenue, makes parking crowded and unsafe.

- Kiss 'n Ride will not be approved, it is not a safe practice; Norwood Park will not have an approved "drop zone".
- The gate at the back of the field (on South Bend Road East) is now open.
- Parents are encouraged to use the 15 minutes of before/after school supervision, therefore lessening the traffic close to bell-time.
- A new path or pavement area will not be put in due to green space zoning, safety, and maintenance reasons.
- Parents are not permitted to park in the parking lot during school hours, and students are not permitted to walk through the parking lot.
- Discussion held around parent behaviours and unsafe practices.
- There is no capital plan in place to alleviate drop-off/pick-up congestion, but Norwood Park is in line to be examined.

**Flooding at front and back fields is unsafe and unhealthy:**

- Field revitalization is now being evaluated; the 2017/8 revitalization plan for field drainage was presented.
- Front and side City catch basins will be fixed this Summer.
- Back field will be graded this Summer.

**Second floor bathrooms and lockers are in need of upgrading:**

- Lockers are being looked at; permits will be needed to replace the bottom of the lockers and paint the entire units.
- Lockers should not have locks on them.
- Schools are moving toward not having lockers, rather open concept storage areas, therefore lockers will not be replaced.
- Bathrooms were upgraded ten years ago, and therefore meet Code.

**Administration Changes during the 2017/8 School Year:**

- Mme. Rodney-Bartalos is Norwood Park's Principal. Per Ministry of Labour regulations, Temporary Principals have been brought in in her absence. Attempt was successfully made to bring in Temporary Principals who are familiar with Norwood Park.
- Mme. Evans is our new (bilingual!) permanent Vice-Principal.
- Discuss held around long-term Administration, so that they can have mutual familiarity with the students and parents.
- HWDSB has an active recruitment process for Principals and Vice-Principals.
- Mr. Hazell will finish out the school year as our Temporary Principal.

**Timetable Adjustments for 2018/9 school year:**

- Norwood Park staff is being reduced by one 0.5 teacher.
- 14 periods don't not have a regular teacher eg. Special Needs programs, zones of regulation, Minds Up, etc. due to frequent roster changes.
- Assembly planning, reading programs, special needs support, etc. will continue to take place.
- Staffing is built around a student/class/program formula; classes will be smaller than in previous years.
- School spirit events will continue to take place.

**Classroom incidents and evacuations:**

- Concerns raised about how parents should handle such occurrences, and how to discuss them with their children.
- Request made for information to be provided to the parents by the school, without infringing on affected students' privacy.
- Discussion held around the supports that need to be in place not only for the students who create incidents, but for students and teachers who witness events and are affected by them. Trauma to these individuals must be addressed.
- Discussion held around how to speak with children about violence etc. taking place in the classrooms.
- When an evacuation takes place, the school has a de-escalation team that works with the student/teacher involved.
- HWDSB now has a Superintendent of Special Education who will be looking at policies and procedures around classroom incidents.
- There must be a middle between communication and privacy, as parents must have the information in order to know that their children are safe at school.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Renovations are being looked at though Facilities Master Plan to upgrade the science classroom (possibly for 2019).
- Facilities Master Plan will consider an LED sign for out front of the school.

*Thank you to Superintendent Denomme and Trustee Danko!  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm by H. Lambert-Hillen*

**The next School Council Meeting / TOWN HALL MEETING  
will be held at 6:30pm on Monday, May 28, in the Norwood Park School Music Room**