

HARBORD COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES  
286 HARBORD STREET, TORONTO M6G 1E5

**January 28, 2020 - 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.**

Attendees: James Murphy, Melinda Harris, Joanne Davies, Paola Giavedoni, Rosie Hampson, Debbie Childerhose, Katherine Araujo, Mary Romeos, Susan Gourlay, Gabriella Vicedo Luna (SAC rep), Maria Castagna, Cynthia Abernethy (Principal), Tamara Massey (Vice Principal)

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

Paola made a motion to approve the minutes. Debbie seconded the motion. Cynthia requested, if possible, that the minutes be drafted and shared within 10 days of the meeting to ensure the minutes are distributed well in advance in the school newsletter.

### **2. Student Activity Council Report**

Gabriella Vicedo Luna, SAC President, provided the following update:

The semiformal will be held on February 13 at Nest (College and Bathurst.) 300 tickets are available for the school at \$25 each. The tickets are first-come first serve and 140 have been sold. There is currently a waiting list as some students indicated they were unable to get the form. 50 extra forms were subsequently printed. Students must RSVP by February 5, 2020.

Results of a survey amongst the Grade 12 students indicated a preference to hold Commencement at the end of the year instead of October. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, June 25 and will be held at the school in the afternoon.

### **3. Website Updates and Web-based Attendance**

Ms. Massey (Vice Principal) outlined some updates made to the school website to make it more user-friendly to students and parents. The Course Calendar is now available online. Guidance Counsellors are currently visiting classes to discuss course selection. Course selection sheets are due at the end of February.

The school is switching to web-based attendance to address concerns about the accuracy of attendance and limit potential for reporting inaccurate information (i.e. students being marked present when they are not). Teachers who have signed up to web-based attendance have provided positive feedback.

Cynthia indicated that Harbord Collegiate no longer has optional attendance due to a the "Closed" status at HCI. The Toronto District School Board is working diligently to ensure that schools are not over-enrolled. Because of the school's "Closed" status, the sibling rule no longer applies. In addition, the Grade 9 Extended French program has moved to Oakwood Collegiate for the 2020/21 school year. Parents can still weigh in

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regarding the Secondary Program Review consultation process that is currently underway. More information is available on the TDSB Website.

#### **4. Principal's Report**

The LAWS program is being grandfathered at Harbord. The program, in its entirety will still be offered at Central Tech. There is currently no plan to replace the program with an equivalent, however many aspects of the LAWS program in terms of curriculum can still be delivered through regular courses at HCI.

Positions of Responsibility: Fourteen Assistant Curriculum Leader positions have been posted and interviews will be held over five and a half weeks.

Semiformal: Cynthia invited parents to attend the semiformal as observers so they can see firsthand some of the challenges the teaching staff have to deal with as chaperones. There have been issues in the past with students being asked to leave an event when they have been found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Further, when the student has been asked to leave by both the venue and the Administration, parents have challenged these decisions despite the behaviour contravening venue, school, and TDSB policies, as well as Ontario law.

Parent Teachers interviews are being held on February 27. Both afternoon and evening sessions will be held. Report cards will be distributed to parents on February 11, 2020.

Job Action Update: No additional information available other than what is being reported in the media. There have been three days of walk out so far. On calls are no longer allowed for teachers.

School Issues: A parent brought up vaping as an issue and asked about how the school is trying to prevent students from vaping. It is an ongoing challenge for the school. The Administration and Safety Monitors have been monitoring the bathrooms at lunchtime and at other times of the school day, with little success. There is no capacity to effectively monitor all washrooms at all times.

The TDSB's position regarding the Coronavirus is aligned with Toronto Public Health Communications. As an added precaution, the school has ordered 70 bottles of sanitizer to be placed throughout the school. Everyone is encouraged to take precautions as prescribed by the Toronto Public health.

The school has received some money through Student Success funding that will provide extra supports for students. Some of the money will be allocated to provide students (Grade 9 to 12) with help in math.

Meeting adjourned.