**Bloor Collegiate Institute Parent and Community Council**

**MEETING NOTES**

Monday, September 24, 2018

**Attendees:** Catherine Ford, Susana Arnott (Principal), Kym Stadnyk (VP), Nora Rivaud (teacher rep), Luis Filipe (teacher rep), Annabel Cope, Avando Mitchell, Catherine Shepherd, Claudia Jno Baptiste, David Hildebrandt, Eric Zhang, Hanu Ganipineni, Hiang Hong, Julie Chan, Karen Kane, Mandy Tidy, Melinda Lo, Michelle McBride, Passang Negi, Philipp Gysling, Ricky Wang, Sandra Sierra, Shakera Mitchell, Suping Chang, Suzi Kuntze, Vaibhav Shah, Viktoria VanLeeuwen, Yanar Efendiev

Regrets: Janet Webster (co-secretary), Muhammad Nisar (co-chair)

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| **#** | **Item** |
| 1 | **Introductions & Welcome**   * Welcome to new and returning parents * No changes to agenda * A new sign-in sheet was circulated. It will make it easier to sign in, once you have done it for the first time. Please print your name and email address clearly. Phone numbers are optional. * June minutes accepted |
| 2 | **Welcome to new VP, Ms. Kym Stadnyk**   * Susanna Arnott introduced Bloor CI’s new VP * Ms. Stadnyk will be responsible for students with last names from A-L while Ms. Warner will have students with last names M-Z * Ms. Stadnyk has recently come from SATEC, a high school with a strong STEM focus |
| 3 | **School council “space”**   * Reminders were given that parent council has a bulletin board in the main office, and a mailbox, located where the teacher mailboxes are, also in the main office * So far parent council has been unable to put its materials in a cupboard in the Nursing Office as the key to the cupboard has not been located. Susana said she would look into this. |
| 4 | **New Parent Welcome Event & Curriculum Night**   * The Welcome will start from 6 PM with Curriculum Night starting at 7 PM on Thursday, September 27. * Catherine F. will do a short presentation about the council and how Curriculum Night works. This will be followed by a short period for asking questions. * Parent Council will have its materials available including Parent Handbooks (available for those who are not able to access it online), pamphlets and survey. Parent Council lending library will also be on display, as will other mental health materials. * This is an important evening for getting new parent emails. * Catherine F. asked for volunteers to help with food purchases, email address collection, monitoring the lending library, set up & clean up, and answering parent questions. Viktoria and Ricky volunteered. |
| 5 | **Elections of 2018-19 Parent Council**   * Catherine F. reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Co-chair, Secretary and Ward Representative. Materials about the roles was attached to the meeting agenda mail out. Treasurer remains optional as parent council does not have a bank account and does not do any fundraising at this time. * If you are not able to commit to a particular role, volunteers are always needed and appreciated. * Catherine F. volunteered to continue on as Co-chair but asked for someone to support her as a co-chair, especially as this will be her last year at Bloor CI, and succession planning will be important. * Janet and Karen will continue on in the secretary role if no one else comes forward * Michelle tentatively volunteered to be council’s Ward 9 rep. She will confirm that the Ward is similar for all her children’s schools, and if so, would be able to carry this role. * Ricky volunteered to be a member a member-at-large. * Please send an email to parent council if you have an interest in one of the executive roles. |
| 6 | **PRO Grants (new and old)**   * Parent Council applied for a 2018-19 grant, but no announcements have yet been made * **Parent Handbook**: The handbook was revised last March, however, since then the Late Start day has changed from Thursday to Wednesday. The change was made because students have the same classes on M, W & F, and therefore it was better to shorten one of these days than the classes students only have twice a week (T & Th). * **Mental health speakers**: Deposits were made on two speakers out of last year’s PRO grant funding, since funding was not required for last year’s events * Kate Jones will be doing a session called “Under Construction: The Teen Brain” at the parent council meeting in either February or March 2019 * Sue Hutton will be doing a session on mindful parenting and raising resilient children at either the November 2018 or April 2019 parent council meeting * **Postsecondary**: Options for presentations currently being discussed with the Guidance Office include a session on OSAP (as there was no time during last year’s general sessions), a general session on applying to postsecondary, course choice and the evening session for parents on November 1. * Last year’s general sessions were very successful but since one was held in June, the idea is that they will be held in late spring each year in order to prep parents and students who will be going into grade 12 the following year. * Announcements were made about the University Fair from September 28 to 30 at the Toronto Convention Centre and the College Fair on October 23 & 24 at the Enercare Centre. * There is still the intention to do a timeline to guide parents. Another parent from last year has volunteered to help out with this project. |
| 7 | **Principal’s Report**   * Brock Secondary School (site for new Bloor CI) is slated for demolition starting in October 2018 * The school continues to grow: 860 students are attending the school this year, with 259 grate 9 students (more than last year). Five years ago, the school had under 500 students. Growth has been attributed to the school’s reputation for achievement, fostered by EQAO results with grade academic 9 math at 85% and grade 10 literacy at 91% last year, safety and location in a desirable neighbourhood. * Grade 9s received a new timetable, though fewer than half actually had changes. Five new classes were opened for grade 9s, including math, science, visual arts and geography. * The school now has 52 science classes, and 220 students are enrolled in the TOPS program. * The main office has two temporary secretaries and 1 fulltime office manager * Late starts are now on Wednesday mornings. Schedules now include a flip in the timetable in the mornings (used to be only in the afternoons). * Grade 9 students have gone to Green Acres. TOPS grade 9 students went to Pinecrest. * Grade 10 mainstream students have been invited to go to Wanakita but only 65 students have signed up. Will try again next year before determining whether to continue on with this trip in the future. * There have been a few glitches in the Cash Online system. |
| 8 | **Planning for fall 2018**   * **Council meeting dates:** Catherine F. will send out an email with dates. Dates will also be put up on the BCI website. * **Outreach activities**: * Website development has not yet begun though it was decided last year that Google would be used as this is free and it is the system used by the TDSB. Luis has offered to support the site’s development. Suzi has also volunteered to assist. * Survey update: Many new parents completed the survey at the grade 8 Welcome event, but the results have not yet been tabulated. Catherine is hoping to send out the link to all parents soon. |
| 9 | Other business, if any   * **Student protest:** The student protest was a student led event re: the government stopping the use of the new 2015 sex education curriculum and the return to the old one. Participating students formally received permission to participate by their parents (written permission notes). The protest started at lunchtime but went into afternoon classes. Those students who missed classes were marked absent. There were no incidents during the protest. * **Fundraising:** * Previous discussions about this issue may be found in the meeting notes from previous years with respect to parent council’s role in:   + garnering financial support from alumni   + facilitating charitable donations to Bloor CI * Fundraising has not been done because:   + fundraising requires following general accounting rules and reporting to TDSB, and the setting up and oversight of a bank account   + parent council activities have focused on outreach to parents to encourage participation and engagement in council meetings and events   + parent participation in council has until last year been extremely limited – i.e., not enough parents volunteer to take on roles such as these   + students have traditionally done their own fundraising, and parent council would not want to compete with students for this funding * Council has previously discussed supporting donations to the school. This issue will be brought forward to the next council meeting.   + Charitable donations can be made to the school directly, and tax receipts will be given   + Support for donations could go out as a request to parents on behalf of council   + One activity that council could support is a scholarship or enrichment events that some students might not be able to afford   + Susana was asked to share a list of school needs with council * **School security & incident:** Police came to the school, but it was not put on lockdown as it was after classes had finished at the end of the school day and outside the school. The outside doors to the school were locked and windows closed. * Every classroom has doors that can be locked from the inside, though there is access to Alpha II in the basement as the doors lock from the outside. Susana has ordered a new lock. * Fire drills and other * Catherine S. suggested formally recognizing the EA who intervened to ensure Bloor student safety. She volunteered to follow up on this. * **Cell phone policy**: The official policy is that cell phones are not to be used in class unless the use is part of a learning activity. Teachers will not take cell phones away from students as the risk of loss is too high and parents have made a number of complaints not only loss but about the teachers removing phones at all. |
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**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the BCI library (2nd floor)