**Bloor Collegiate Institute Parent and Community Council Meeting**

**Wednesday April 24, 2019**

**Attendees:** Catherine Ford (co-chair), Lucia Rincoraya, Melissa Hagen, Muhammad Nisar (co-chair), Janet Webster (co-secretary), Karen Kane (co-secretary), Mandy Tidy, Nora Rivaud (teacher rep), Michelle McBride (Ward 9 rep), Passang Negi, Helen Heayn, Aileen MacDonald, Susana Arnott (Principal), Alison Warner (VP), Suping Chang, Julie Yu, Hiang Hong

**Regrets:** Julie Chan

1. **Introductions and Welcome** (Catherine Ford)

Karen moved to pass the February meeting minutes, Janet seconded the motion. February minutes passed.

1. **Student update –** No student rep. in attendance. Susana noted that there will be aRobotics Fundraiser on May 16. Details to come.
2. **Yearbook photo** – was taken by a student from Yearbook Committee.
3. **Co-Chairs Report –** “Ask Me” buttons were made for parent-teacher interviews and any other parent council event (thanks Catherine)

Mindful Parenting Workshop was a success. Thank you Nisar for hosting.

1. **Grade 8 Welcome Event May 23rd** – Volunteers needed. The main role is to answer questions from new parents. Marketing and other materials include council’s glossy brochure, parent survey and the parent handbook. Susana will order a new banner for school events. It was brought up that the school can share parent email addresses with council as long as there’s an opt-in. Parent emails are collected when students register to attend the school. It is too late for this year, so council will collect emails on the 23rd. Catherine noted that the method used last year (one student volunteer with a Chromebook) was not sufficient and emails were largely collected on paper. This required input by hand, which is time consuming. Susana suggested having about 4 Chromebooks out with student volunteers assisting at two of them. This was the approach used 2 years ago, and it was successful.
2. **PRO Grant** – Not sure the application process will happen this year (for next year). There have been no notices from the Ministry of Education, and no indication the grant application process is being prepared. Michelle offered to write the grant if it goes ahead. It was agreed that if there are PRO grants 2019/20 that parent council would focus on mental health. Stress is a common theme for students and parents wish to help their children with this. The last two years have focused on postsecondary, and annual presentations on this subject have been well attended.
3. **New School** - A letter was sent (dated April 24th) from TDSB about the new Bloor CI/Alpha II building. Susana said the Grade 9 & 10’s were told at an assembly. Everyone will be relocated together for 2 years, starting September 2020-21. Central Technical School is the chosen school for both BCI & Alpha II.

Superintendent Mike Gallagher spoke about the move and answered numerous parent questions. Parameters for choosing an appropriate school included:

* 1. “Everybody together”: all students will be kept together in a single location for the full 2 years of the relocation. Bloor CI & Alpha II have close to 900 students.
  2. Close to the TTC: students travel long distances to get to both Bloor CI & Alpha II.
  3. Ensuring, as much as possible, to continue existing programming (e.g., gym, chem labs, auditorium access, etc.).

A decision was made to move students at the beginning of the school year, prior to when the building is required by the developer, as this will minimize disruption to the students. He said the TDSB has done over 500 school relocations. Intended return to the school will be the summer of 2022.

Central Toronto Academy (CTA) was also considered, but given the projections for student numbers, the space would be either too small or very tight. As well, CTA only has 2 small gyms and no regulation-size field.

Central Tech has space for 2400 students but currently has only about 1100 students. The school has a full-size pool, large gyms, a regulation-size field, part of which is covered in winter, and access to more technology resources (e.g., robotics). The TDSB will attempt to have Bloor CI students blocked into a single location (e.g., in a separate wing of the school) but there may be exceptions for specialty classes and resources.

Proposed Action – establish a transition steering group (parents, teachers, students).

1. **School rebuild/move** – **Tuesday,** **May 28th** was proposed for a special parent council town hall-style meeting, co-hosted with the Ward 9 trustee. Aileen volunteered to take the lead to organize this meeting.
2. By-laws were handed out. Get community member who wants to be involved. Comments? Thoughts? – blank on last page for this.
3. **Student Death** – briefly discussed by Susana. There is a policy in place which involves school social workers, psychiatrist etc. to support students. Students are made aware on a “need to know” basis as the privacy of the family and affected students is of utmost concern.

**Next Meeting: Monday, May 27th** – will include a Post-Secondary presentation @ 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.