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

**Tuesday Feb. 19, 2019**

**Attendees:** Catherine Ford (co-chair), Karen Kane (co-secretary), Suping Chang, Aileen MacDonald, Mandy Tidy, Passang Negi, Peter Hilty, Emily Paradis, Hiang Hong, Nora Rivaud (teacher rep), Susana Arnott (Principal), Kym Stadnyk (VP)

**Regrets:** Muhammad Nisar (co-chair), Janet Webster (co-secretary), Michelle McBride (Ward 9 rep), Julie Chan

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

November minutes passed: Eileen made a motion to approve. Seconded by Karen. January minutes passed: Eileen made a motion, Karen seconded.

1. **Toronto Public Health presentation on Cannabis and Youth** (Jennifer Morin and Jessica Zhang)

Recreational use/non medicinal use - Laws and risks were discussed: age 19 and up. Edible products not yet legal (not legally for sale until later in 2019). For driving: Zero tolerance if under 21. Any amount and you are considered to be impaired.

Prevention and educational materials/resources are available. The brain functions are rapidly changing and not fully developed – neuromaturation in the pre-frontal cortex (executive functioning) continues until about age 25, so the impact of cannabis on this age group is greater. The receptors are very vulnerable. Likely more money and research will go into learning about this area this now that cannabis is legal. The Ontario student health survey shows that use increases by grade, with maximum use in grade 12. Canadian youth have one of the highest rates of use in the world.

Recommendations: have a conversation with your child, “normalize the conversation, don’t focus on consumption.” What can we do? Meaningful dialogue (explanation for reasons to avoid/delay/reduce, coping strategies), provide non-judgmental information, increase cannabis literacy. Key messages: delay onset of use (those ages 14 to 16 are more susceptible to developing serious mental health impacts, including psychosis), use less frequently, use cannabis with lower levels of THC.

Resources –

<https://www.drugfreekidscanada.org/order-cannabis-talk-kit/> - Cannabis Talk Kit available on-line (mock conversations)

<http://www.ccsa.ca/Resource%20Library/CCSA-Cannabis-Communication-Guide-2018-en.pdf> - Talking Pot with Youth (self-assessment) <https://psychologyfoundation.org/>

1. **Parent-teacher interviews** on Feb. 26 – Council will not have a table. Catherine will follow up with Susana and Danielle Buchner (librarian) to make “Ask Me” buttons for parent council.
2. **Mindful Parenting Workshop is March 27th**. Catherine unable to attend and will send an email looking of volunteers to help with setting up and clean up. A flyer will be circulated to parents, asking them to RSVP. Light refreshments (pizza) and child care will be provided.
3. **PRO Grant 2018-19** - $1000 available. Potential options include: 1) translation of a Macleans magazine Planning for Postsecondary Guide modified to suit BCI parents and students (the document is Canada focused and does not contain Ontario-specific resources) into the most common languages of parents at the school (Chinese, Bengali, Vietnamese); 2) have interpreters for the Postsecondary 101 presentation in May. Catherine will look into this. Aileen stated she would be interested in helping out.
4. **Parent survey results**:
	* Grade 9 parents were the primary group that completed the survey (74/85)
	* Preferred communications: email is the top form preferred by parents (77), followed by text/SMS (22) and face-to-face (21). Behind that were e-newsletters (19), website (12), print newsletter (5) and phone (2).
	* Interest in volunteering: maybe (41), yes (22), no (17)
	* Barriers to meeting attendance: too rushed between work and meeting time (30) and evening timing (15) were the main reasons, need translation/interpreter (9), need childcare (8), transportation is a problem (4), no interest (3), miscellaneous other (15) which included competing activities (other children), preference for another time, work/school related commitments, bad previous experiences/dislike of fundraising focused councils
	* Future topics of interest for presentations (in order of interest, highest to lowest): 1) postsecondary planning and transitions, 2) course choice, 3) advocating for their child and communicating with teachers, 4) mental health/wellness, stress & teens, building resistance, 5) substance use, addiction and problem gaming/internet use, 6) disordered eating and body image.
5. **Fundraising**: no update
6. **Ward 8 Forum:**

Topics discussed:

* Bloor CI redevelopment: new school capacity 924 with potential to expand to 1200, cost $34M funded by Ministry of Education, TDSB disposition from sale is $121M, Snyder Architects, target opening date September 2021, TDSB to hold a meeting in near future
* Opening of Jean Lumb Public School (K-8) in September (lots of new schools coming in Ward 9 as it is growing rapidly)
* Superintendent Mike Gallagher discussed the TDSB’s multi-year strategic planning.
* Currently recruiting parent volunteers for the VP selection panel (teachers applying to become VPs); training is required (a 2 hour session). Every panel must have a parent on it in order for parents to participate. VP panels include 1 Superintendant, 2 Principals and 1 parent.
* Public consultations on TDSB budget in March.
* PIAC/SEAC Parents as Partners Conference on March 30.
1. **Presentation and discussion: Build a Better Bloor-Dufferin** (BBBD)

[www.buildbloordufferin.ca](http://www.buildbloordufferin.ca). There is lots of information on the website.

Concerns are infrastructure not density. The Bloor-Dufferin community needs a community Hub with space for services and the arts, a school large enough for future students (now capped at 920 but this is the current school population and doesn’t allow for growth), park lands for all to enjoy (the city has determined that the level of parks is insufficient for the population), affordable housing.

The land purchaser has made an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. BBBD has party status for the appeal. Pre-hearing is on April 18.

Please tell Toronto City Planning what you think – Kirk.Hatcher@toronto.ca A vote was taken and the BCI Parent Council endorses this position.

BBBD fundraiser: March 27th
Steering committee meets monthly, with a larger meeting held every 3 months.

1. **Principal’s Report** (Susana Arnott)

School budget – the website says how much money we get and for what (does not includef funding for staff). The budget is augmented by applications for $100K in grants. SHSM grant used mostly for industry certifications required by the SHSM. Grant for Student Success (based on number of teachers); base for each teacher is 1.5 PD, used only to release teachers (e.g., for learning). Grant for renewed math strategy (6 years) for teacher training activities. Grant for science, used for consumables (e.g., piglets). Technology grants go towards art and computers (have to buy not lease). “Non-public” budget is collected through student fees ($50). This is discretionary funding that goes towards SAC, student activities, agendas, yearbook, partially subsidized field trips (transportation & teacher replacement). Nutrition grant, paid by provincial and municipal governments, funds 96 lunches every other day and pays for a coordinator 2 hours each day.

Enrollment for 2019/20: 53 TOPS students accepted so far, 2 declined, 17 outstanding. Deadline is March 1. Optional Attendance - 30 new students. International students cap at 70. Feeder schools – most students will come to Bloor. Estimate is 201 grade 9 students.

Grade 10 literacy test to be held just after March Break. Grade 9s will do mock exam. Grade 9s will do EQAO math later in the year.

Meeting adjourned 9:05PM.