

**BLOOR COLLEGIATE PARENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEB 13TH 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES: Blanca Perez-Marin, Nicole Aloise, Andrea Caorsi, Nora Rivaud, Muhammad Nisar, Janet Webster, Melinda Lo, Kevin Sun, Karen Kane, Luis Filipe, Suping Chang, Stephanie Wong, Catherine Ford

1. INTRO & WELCOME:

The minutes were passed with an amendment to add the name of attendees.

2. DISCUSSION ON TDSB RESPONSE TO EQUITY TASK FORCE REPORT:

Catherine Ford attended the TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) meeting on January 16, 2-18) where the report was discussed by the TDSB Executive Superintendent, Jim Spyropoulos, and highlighted key points for Parent Council.

Data showed suspensions from school clearly fell along colour lines. Black students were 4x, and Indigenous students 10x, more likely to be suspended from school. TDSB will no longer allow suspensions for breach of Code of Conduct.

Nicole Aloise added that students placed in classes that are not challenging often disengage them from learning, which frequently results in misbehavior. She predicts that with de-streaming (including appropriate supports), most students will re-engagement in learning, and as a result, student breaches of Code of Conduct and suspensions will decline.

It was also mentioned that at the Ward 9 Forum in December 2017, there was a presentation on Oakwood's efforts at de-streaming Grade 9. TDSB defines de-streaming as 'Enhanced Pathways.' Data demonstrates that overwhelmingly high numbers of black students are streamed in to non-academic courses, limiting students' choices and postsecondary aspirations. Although Oakwood's de-streaming initiative only began in September 2017, the school is reporting success. They are continuing to work on with specific issues in order to better support Grade 9s in academic courses.

Nicole Aloise, (VP) affirmed that Bloor CI has also put into practice de-streaming, and has only applied stream in mathematics for their students. Bloor C.I. teachers find that the students work harder, are more engaged and achieve higher standards.

3. WARD REPORT:

Last Ward 9 forum was Monday, February 5, 2108

Blanca Perez-Marin and Catherine Ford attended Ward meeting, with Dr. John Malloy presenting "Ask Me Anything."

Dr. Malloy discussed the Enhancing Equity Task Force Report (EETFR). He reported that the TDSB had analyzed the data and have identified successes and failures in the system. Dr. Malloy proposed to have an approach that is more child-centric, and improve access for all. He recommended less rigid teaching methodologies, with the implication that there must be more training of teachers to develop alternative methods of teaching. The TDSB will not be implementing an approach that makes all schools uniform. The TDSB recognizes that specialized programs and schools such as TOPS and alternative schools are important and successful. Instead, the board's approach will be to improve access to similar programs in all areas of the city for all students.

Dr. Malloy also discussed the new school for Bloor C.I. Currently TDSB is planning to build for 924 students, but expectations are that the population in the community will be much larger by the time the school is completed just over 4 years. The TDSB is having a conversation with the Ministry of Education to get the build to correspond to a higher anticipated number of 1,200. It will be more cost effective to build to this number, rather than expand from 924 once at a later stage.

Catherine Ford informed the council that TDSB tracks the state of disrepair of schools (the Facility Condition Index¹) on their website. Bloor C.I. is at 83% disrepair, in comparison to most others in the Ward, which are at a rate closer to 50%. More information about Bloor CI can be found at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/Schools/School-FCI/schno/5505>. For more information on the Facility Condition Index, please go to: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Accountability/Renewal-Needs-Backlog-and-Facility-Condition-Index/Facility-Condition-Index>

4. PRO GRANT UPDATE:

Catherine Ford handed out a Tool Development questionnaire to get ideas flowing on discussion developing a postsecondary resource for Bloor parents.

Luis Filipe (Bloor History Teacher) noted that students were curious about the prospective culture/lifestyle of University and town/city.

Blanca Perez Marin proposed a timeline tool that includes details such as deadlines for applications, scholarships and OSAP, and events such as college and university fairs and open houses. She pointed out that most competitive and specialized programs have supplementary applications that include information profiles, essays or auditions, which are time consuming and require thought. Preparation for some of these application requirements could be started the summer prior to grade 12.

Janet Webster asked that a cheat sheet of websites/organizations summarizing their information or capabilities be handed out at beginning of presentation for parents to follow.

¹ The Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating is a measurement of the condition of a school building expressed as a percentage. The higher the percentage, the more repair is needed.

Catherine Ford added that that parents can start looking at universities in grade 11 as they are time consuming to get to and attend. She also endorsed attending open houses as the students can interact with the professors and current students, whereas tours are more geared to showing the buildings. While most open houses happen in the fall, many universities also have them in the spring.

University and college fairs are another opportunity for students to interact with departments of interest and ask questions. Bloor CI hosts its own fair every year on November 1. Parents mentioned again that if possible, they would like to be able to attend the Bloor fair in November along with their children. Blanca mentioned that while university and college fairs are a good first step, they cannot replace visiting the actual campus itself.

Catherine Ford will ask the guidance department ACL, Leila Acharya to present the Postsecondary 101 session again in the spring as there was a lot of interest in the November presentation, and this will allow parents who may have missed first presentation to get this information.

5. OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION UPDATE:

Parent volunteers have reviewed the Parent Handbook. Costing is being checked for printing, and Council intends to make the handbook available on line.

Parents asked about translation. Catherine Ford will check if TDSB would help fund the cost to translate. Nicole Aloise recommended contacting Michelle Munroe from Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) to ask for assistance. Ideally the handbook would be translated to most commonly spoken languages at the school; Chinese (the Mandarin and Cantonese dialects written the same way) and Bengali.

Muhammad Nisar questioned whether the community could volunteer to translate the handbook. Catherine Ford was unsure if it would be allowed, possibly Council would be forced to use TDSB vendors.

Nicole Aloise suggested that Michelle Munroe could advise on this, and perhaps find an answer that is affordable.

Parent-Teacher interviews are on Feb 21st. Catherine asked for volunteers for the BCI Parent Council table. Catherine Ford said she would send out email requesting commitment closer to date. The BCI Parent table is to be located in lobby.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT:

The development project related to the sale of Kent Public School and Bloor CI has the local community upset, as they feel that there hasn't been much consultation on design of and they are not being listened to.

The developer plans for a very dense population – two towers over 40 stories high are shown on plans. Residential housing is to be small condos with 1 or 2 bedrooms. There is a desire for 3 bedroom units and affordable housing, but whether the design includes any is not clear. The community hub, which was originally promised to be 30K, is quite a bit smaller (possibly only 5K) with the existing daycare located in that space. The green space is also small, which is not what most community members want in an area already identified by the city as lacking in green outdoor areas.

Catherine Ford has attached the link to developer plans (including the environmental assessment) to this document. There is to be another community meeting in the next month or so. People interested in attending can send an email to the parent council address for contact information and further detail.

<http://app.toronto.ca/DevelopmentApplications/associatedApplicationsList.do?action=init&folderRsn=4250983&isCofASearch=false&isTlabSearch=false>

PIAC: TDSB reviewing advertising policy & transportation. The travel ban to US has been modified to allow travel to competitions, but otherwise travel is still not allowed. Parents as Partners Conference: Catherine Ford stated she has attended these in the past and found them very informative. The conference is a collaboration between PIAC and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). There are a wide variety of sessions including academic support (e.g. computer skills, math), special education mental health, school design, school/parent council development, equity and more. She will not be attending this year, but endorsed it to the Council. The conference will be on Saturday, April 28 at the Exhibition Grounds. For more information and to register, please go here: <http://www.parentsaspartners.ca/>

7. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Nicole Aloise reported that the 70% of students have completed their course selection for next year. The deadline is Feb 20th. Once the course selection is completed, the course availability and teachers will be decided.

Question: Does the guidance department look at the student's course load and give advice if they feel it is too heavy?

Answer: Yes, they do.

The Guidance Department recommends that parents set up a parent account on **My Blueprint** (<https://www.myblueprint.ca/>) to monitor course selections. There was an insert with the report card that explains how to do this. If there is a problem, please contact Guidance.

Ward boundaries will be changing for some Wards, particularly in central Toronto. Bloor Collegiate will be affected. There are still only allowed 22 trustees, however, so most TDSB Wards will be based on two municipal wards. Ward 9 will be split between in half along Bloor street. The new boundaries can be found on the TDSB website.

Nicole Aloise reminded council of parent-teacher interviews on Feb 21st.

She also requested 3 or 4 parent volunteers for a Grade 10 school trip to Ripley's Aquarium. Entrance fees will be paid for.

There will be an evening of classical music on Feb 28th, performed by Bloor C.I. students, and hosted by Mr. McNaughton (the music teacher).

Forty new students were selected by lottery for 2018-19 Optional Attendance (OA), with the expectation that thirty will accept. There were considerably fewer OA spots offered this year, as enrollment among the local community has been very high.

The incoming 2018-2019 TOPs will be comprised of 3 classes instead of the usual 2. Unexpectedly and unusually, most of the students offered a place accepted.

Nora Rivaud (French teacher) enquired as to whether there are enough classrooms for the incoming students. Nicole Aloise answered that there is enough room, even with the expected influx of new students who will move into the local area over the summer.

Nicole Aloise mentioned additionally that Central Toronto Academy has a very good description of University requirements – in reference to the Council's conversation about Timelines. Catherine Ford said that she would take a look.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 pm