

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, April 22nd, 2024

Present: Stephen Morris, Aubrey Hicks, Amber Taylor, Nick Moutafis, Lenore Brooks, Nardos Mekonnen, Cathy Ireland, Christopher Fardis, Patty Gionopoulos, Maia Skinner, Mattea Skinner, Vanessa Donaldson, Melanie Locke, Mark Peacock, Andrea Palmay, Laura Ribadeneira, Karen Thompson, Christina Lagoundontis, Sue Gill.

1. Call to order: 6:33pm

2. Approval of agenda: motion proposed: Mark Peacock; seconded: Amber Taylor

3. Approval of minutes: motion proposed: Amber Taylor; seconded: Lenore Brooks

REPORTS

4.1. Student governance: (Nardos Mekonnen)

Day of Pink (April 10th): a shirt sale took place during the week prior to the Day and a bake sale took place on the Day; proceeds from this even will go to charity.

Wellness Week (first week of May): the Wellness Week will include therapy dogs in school, time dedicated to yoga and meditation, board games etc.

Prom (6-11pm, May 29th): venue: Parkview Manor; theme of “Meet me at midnight” will characterise the evening. Tickets are on sale until May 8th via School Cash online. N.B. Grad hoodies will soon be available for grade 12s.

Multicultural Night (6-8pm, May 10th): the event aims to showcase cultures represented at EYCI. There will be multicultural food sampling followed by a show in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$10. Part of the proceeds will go to charity.

Blue and Gold Day: a group of students who represent sports teams at EYCI lamented the planned cancellation of Blue & Gold Day (scheduled for May 10th). They appealed to Council to hear arguments in favour of reinstating the Day, the cancellation whereof would deny them an opportunity to demonstrate their talents to their peers, something not denied to other clubs at EYCI. A petition containing 574 student signatures which calls for Blue & Gold's reinstatement had been compiled during the days before Council's meeting.

In response, the Principal recalled the egregious events of Blue & Gold, 2023, on which day a number of interlopers came to EYCI with the apparent intention to “cause trouble”. There were fights and costly acts of vandalism. The Principal has been advised, *inter alia*, by his predecessor, not to stage such an event on grounds of lack of security. The Principal stressed that events at EYCI were approved on a “safety first” principle, and he was sceptical whether he could maintain adequate safety if Blue & Gold were held as usual. He was nevertheless open to discussing ideas with the student representatives about a modified Blue & Gold Day if his safety concerns could be assuaged. A meeting, at a time to be specified, was agreed between the Principal and the student representatives.

Numerous ideas were floated by the students for making the event safer. These include making it a ticket-only event, issuing wrist bands to eligible attendees and using an external security team to monitor the event and keep order.

4.2. Principal: (Stephen Morris)

Commencement: the Principal divulged the venue for Commencement, namely, the Danforth Music

Hall. Tickets, at \$15 each, would be available for up to 3 guests for each graduand. A gown and cap would be provided for graduating students, each of whom would be allowed to keep the aforesaid items *in perpetuum*.

Library refurbishment: the Principal recapitulated the plans to refurbish the library and the fundraising campaign surrounding the project (see his email of 19th April to the EYCI community).

Auditorium: a plan for a new “state-of-the-art” sound system for the Auditorium is about to be unveiled. The new system should be in place later this year or early next.

Parking: as the Principal had already announced by email (19th April), the parking situation has become so out of hand that he has asked the City to enforce parking by-laws in the EYCI car park. Myriad warnings were given in school to allow non-authorised parkers (especially students) to make alternative arrangements. City inspectors will be continue to monitor the parking lot and, where applicable, issue tickets henceforth.

4.3. Teachers' representative: (Andrea Palmay)

Eid Celebration: a party was held on April 29th in the Meeting Room to mark Eid.

Mini-Filmfest (April 26th): the History Department will be screening a documentary film *Coextinction* during period 4. Teachers who have classes during that period are invited to allow their students to attend.

Athletics: spring sports have commenced and include girls' soccer, slo-pitch softball, baseball, rugby, badminton, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee and track & field. In track & field, EYCI qualified for the regionals. An EYCI alumna represented the school in badminton at the City Finals.

4.4. Guidance: no report; see the regular emails from Guidance to the EYCI community.

4.5. Student success: no report

4.6. Co-chairs' report: (Nick Moutafis)

4.6.1. *Staff Appreciation:* a date for the staff appreciation event has yet to be set; the Principal will discuss appropriate days with his administrative team. How to fund the culinary offerings is still not clear, but it is likely to be accomplished through in-kind donations from local retail outlets and financial donations from parents.

4.6.2. *Statement of Needs:* the questionnaire whence the school's statement of needs is derived will be circulated to parents during the week following the meeting.

4.7. Treasurer's Report: (Christina Lagoudontis)

Hitherto this year, no expense receipts have been received by the Treasurer. Hence Council's budget of \$1500 remains pristine. It is possible that \$1000 will be allocated to the funding of cupcakes for commencement.

5. New Business: no new business was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 8.03pm. The next meeting of the Council is to take place on May 27th, 2024.