

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, Oct. 23rd, 2023

Present: Stephen Morris, Tina Maestri, Markendra Smith, Theresa Smith, Laeita Mitro, Erika Paget, Christina Lagoudontis, Kimber Tzogas, Cathy Ireland, Raymonde Lievens, Sue Gill, Michael Atzemis, Zoi Lam, Luciana Hysenaj, Cathy Ireland, Kimber Tzogas, Nick Moutafis, Lenore Brooks, Nardos Mekonnen, Popi Caravasilis, Melanie Locke, Mark Peacock, David Seymour, Andrea Palmay, Julienne Smiley, Karen McCormick.

1. Call to order: 6:30pm

2. Approval of agenda: motion proposed: Mark Peacock; seconded: Lenore Brooks

3. Approval of minutes: motion proposed: Christina Lagoudontis; seconded: Popi Caravasilis

The minutes to the meeting of 25th September were subject to amendment to complete the list of voting members of Council. To the names listed under §4.2. of those minutes, the following are to be added:

Erika Paget (teacher)

Karen McCormick (non-teaching staff)

Nardos Mekonnen/Sofia Parkes (student representatives – one of whom is to be endowed with voting rights per meeting)

A “community representative” of Council, as foreseen by the Council's by-laws (p. 3: “Membership”) has not been appointed hitherto.

REPORTS

4.1. Student government report (Nardos Mekonnen):

The following activities/events have taken place:

- Club fair in October: there are 16 student clubs, including two newly founded this year (Dance and Muslim Students' Association)
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Grade 9 night (including bake sale).

Planning is underway for:

- Hallowe'en, in the run-up to which candygrams will be on sale and on the day prior to which an after-school movie night will be held
- White Ribbon Day to bring awareness to violence against women (with donations to be gathered for the Red Door Family Shelter)
- Semi-formal: pros and cons of two venues (Parkview Manor and Celebrations) are currently under discussion.

4.2. Principal

Important dates: reminder that Oct. 25th is a late start and Oct. 26th parent-teacher interviews.

Capital projects:

- Tennis court area to be fashioned into a multipurpose sports facility (in particular for racquet sports) and also to include an outdoor classroom. The project is to be financed by the TDSB; the Principal hopes that it be complete by the end of the academic year

- The roof renovation has, with the Board's agreement, been scheduled for the summer vacation. It is hoped that a renovation of the ventilation system be carried out concurrently
- Auditorium: a new projection system is to be installed (completion by calendar year's end); a new sound and light system is to follow with subsidization by the Board; seating and floor to be overhauled in a final phase. The TDSB is to explore the possibility of installing an air-conditioning system.

Miscellaneous

Hall passes: a pass system to regulate the number of students in hallways was instigated at the end of October.

Student Activity Fund (SAF): the Principal thanked those parents who had contributed to the SAF (see minutes to the September meeting, §4.2.). Parents who have difficulty paying should contact the school; the Principal assured Council that no student would be denied access to extra-curricular activities on account of not having paid into the SAF.

4.3. Teachers' representative report (Andrea Palmay):

A scintillating panoply of recent events and achievements was reported. These include class field trips to Forest Valley (Biology grades 11 & 12), a grade-11 English project on understanding indigenous voices as well as numerous intramural sporting accomplishments in volleyball, basketball, girls' rugby, golf and hockey. Two EYCI teachers were selected for their outstanding achievements in this year's Ontario Coaching Excellence Awards.

4.4. Guidance (Karen McCormick):

- The Atlantic universities and colleges fair at which approximately ten institutions participated took place on Oct. 20th
- Post-secondary pathways fair to take place on 23rd Nov.; grade 11s and 12s should attend, though grade 10s are also encouraged to do so.

For more information on these and other guidance-related events, see the school's guidance update emails.

4.5. Student success (Erika Paget)

The parents of those students whose grade is currently below 60% have been contacted and informed about credit rescue, the day of which is to be on Nov. 2nd.

The peer-tutoring scheme is running well with science and mathematics teachers supervising peer mentors.

Nov. 1st is take-one's-kid-to-work day; parents whose children are absent on this day are requested to inform the school about the absence.

Tours for grade 8s in EYCI's feeder schools are shortly to take place, with grade-8 night taking place on Dec. 4th.

4.6. Chair (Nick Moutafis):

4.6.1: Commencement. arguments were heard for and against two possible commencement dates (late June and early October). It is apparent that timing affects attendance, with June being preferable for high turnout. Costs of hiring a hall in June are approximately \$25000, whereby the school's auditorium was deemed to be too hot in June in light of its current lack of air-conditioning.

There was general support for canvassing opinions of affected parties concerning the date. VP Tina Maestri and Guidance Counsellor Karen McCormick announced that staff and grade 12s were to be polled on the timing of commencement; Council can use the results of this poll to inform its deliberations on the matter.

In a motion proposed by Co-Chair Nick Moutafis, eight (8) members of Council voted to pursue the aforementioned path with one (1) vote against and no abstentions.

4.6.2: Innovation Grant: a grant of approximately \$1500 is available to schools which successfully apply; typically the fund finances a guest speaker. Co-Chair Melanie Locke offered to write and submit a proposal by the deadline of Oct. 30th, 2023. In a vote, Council's members unanimously endorsed this offer and thanked Melanie Locke for undertaking this work.

Items 4.6.3, 4.6.4, 4.6.5, 4.7 and 5 were not discussed on account of the meeting having outlasted its scheduled length. These items will be discussed at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8.15pm.

The next meeting of the Council is to take place on November 27th, 2023.