

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, March 25th, 2024

Present: Stephen Morris, Aubrey Hicks, Amber Taylor, Nick Moutafis, Lenore Brooks, Nardos Mekonnen, Popi Caravasilis, Melanie Locke, Mark Peacock, Andrea Palmay, Karen McCormick, Susie Tsianos.

1. Call to order: 6:30pm

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

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

REPORTS

Preamble: Andrea Palmay and Karen McCormick noted that they did not receive emails with the minutes and agenda for Council meetings. This, Stephen Morris explained, was due to the fact that these documents went to the parental email list; the oversight will be rectified henceforth, and teachers will receive these documents, too.

In light of the relatively low attendance of the meeting, Mark Peacock was asked to contact parents who had attended previous meetings this year but discontinued their participation. The hope is that the circle of parents who attend will be widened.

4.1. Student governance: (Nardos Mekonnen):

Talent Show: the show will take place on Thurs., 28th March, during school time and is open to all students at EYCI.

Day of Pink (April 10th): a shirt sale will take place during the week prior to the Day. Proceeds from this event and that mentioned immediately following will go to charity. (For further information about Pink Day, see Principal's report, below).

Women's Day: to mark International Women's Day (March 8th), students were encouraged to write a letter to an important woman of their choice.

Multi-Cultural Night (May 10th): the event aims to showcase cultures represented at EYCI. The cafeteria will be the site of culinary offerings from different cultures; there will also be stalls/booths in the auditorium. The event is open to both students and community members – more details to follow.

4.2. Principal

Film Screening: the documentary film Scarborough will be screened in the auditorium on April 4th at 6:30pm (information, including a link to a flyer, was issued by email in the community update on 22nd March). The screening is in association with the TDSB's Model Schools programme.

Parent Teacher Interviews: to take place on April 11th in afternoon and early-evening sessions.

Credit Rescue: credit rescue takes place during the morning of April 11th. Students are invited to participate and may only expect to be allowed a credit rescue if invited by their teacher(s). Students who attend school on 11th without credit rescue invitation will be offered supervised independent study time.

Report Cards: mid-term reports cards to be issued during the week of April 22nd. April 12th will be a late start (9:55am).

Commencement: the Principal discussed two options for Commencement, which will take place in June:

- (i) Option (i) foresees Commencement occurring in EYCI's auditorium plus a spillover location (in the school) due to space constraints. This option would require that a portable air-conditioning unit be installed at a total cost of approx. \$12000. The auditorium holds 600 guests whilst 750 may be expected in total – hence the need for “overspill” in a satellite location. Ticket sales will be required to fund the event, with guests (not graduating students) paying \$15 per head. This would leave a substantial shortfall in covering the cost of the event.
- (ii) An alternative, external venue, which the Principal did not name, has become available. It holds 1100 guests, and the possibility of increased ticket revenue *vis-à-vis* option (i) would leave less of a deficit in covering the costs. The Principal expects to let the community know during the final week of March whether he has confirmed the reservation of this venue.

For Commencement, 2025, it is likely that the school will have its own permanent air-conditioning system, though it is unclear whether the seating refurbishment will have been completed by June, 2025. It is therefore possible that an external location will again be sought for the follow year's Commencement.

Pink Day (April 10th): EYCI was approached by the Board with a view to representing TDSB high schools for a Pink Day event to be held at EYCI. Some members of the community, including students, expressed disquiet about such an eventuality, as, in 2023, the same event attracted homophobic protesters when it was held at York Mills Collegiate. In light of security issues, the Board has elected to host the event at its head office (5050 Yonge Street). The Principal secured the agreement of the Board that EYCI would represent Board high schools at the event which will include a media showcase by students of EYCI. The involvement of the school at this event will redound positively to its reputation.

4.3. Teachers' representative (Andrea Palmay):

Art Exhibition: an impressive array of artistic works of students from various grades was displayed in the Meeting Room under the direction of Ms. Pereira. The works consisted in culminating work from semester one and was open to perusal by all EYCI students.

Athletics: winter sports have ended and their spring counterparts will begin shortly. Badminton continues during the hiatus between the winter and spring seasons. Athena's indoor girls' soccer team one the city-wide championship.

4.4. Guidance: (Karen McCormick):

Course selection, 2024-25: course selection has closed and requests for changes are to remain on hold until they are solicited in May.

University/College admission: grade 12s are reminded that university/college deposits come due soon.

Scholarships: various scholarships are on offer, including the Hagar-Hull-Miller scholarship. Some require an application and reference letter, and students are urged to prepare for the launch of these scholarships in the coming weeks. For more information on scholarships, see the Guidance Update (25th March).

Staffing: to complement Ms. McCormick's report, the Principal mentioned the sometimes dire shortage of teachers (including supply teachers and teachers on-call who cover absences of colleagues) at EYCI, a problem not peculiar to the school but a Board-, and indeed, Province-wide one.

The school's complement of teachers for 2024-25 is down very slightly, though grade-9 enrolment is up.

4.5. Student success: no report

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

4.6.1. *Graduate Breakfast and Staff Appreciation:* in all likelihood, there will be no grad. breakfast this year, as the June Commencement will supersede it; there will be a staff appreciation event, probably in late May; funding modalities were discussed, and more information thereon will be circulated in the coming meeting of Council.

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. Parents are asked to respond within two weeks of receipt of the questionnaire.

4.6.3. *Council's Media and Communications Modi:* efforts to improve the Council's social media presence and communications reach are still in their infancy, and a few comments were made as to the efficacy and challenges associated with the initiatives discussed in the previous Council meeting (see minutes to that meeting, 4.6.3.).

Comments were proffered on the Mental Health Workshops. The first of two workshops was held (see minutes February's Council meeting, 4.6.2.). Part two will be held on May 9th, and all parents of EYCI pupils are encouraged to attend. Two links to relevant materials are to be issued by email (and were, subsequent to the meeting, circulated on 26th March).

4.7. Treasurer's Report: no report submitted.

5. New Business: no new business was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 8.01pm. The next meeting of the Council is to take place on April 22nd, 2024.