

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, Nov. 27th, 2023

Present: Stephen Morris, Tina Maestri, Erika Paget, Raymonde Lievens, Sue Gill, Melanie Locke, Aubrie Hicks, Susie Tsianos, Popi Caravasilis, Kimber Tzogas, Andrea Palmay, Karen Thomson, Nick Moutafis, Lenore Brooks, Laura Ribadeneira, Sofia Parkes

1. Call to order: 6:30pm

- Introductions of those in attendance
- Aubrie Hicks welcome and introduction as the Community Representative on the Council
 - Resident of EY community for 70+ years
 - Graduate of EYCI, as is his wife and son.
 - Teacher in EY School board for 33 years

2. Approval of agenda: motion proposed: Lenore Brooks; seconded: Kimber Tzogas

3. Approval of minutes: motion proposed: Lenore Brooks; seconded: Popi Caravasilis

REPORTS

4.1. Student government report (Sofia Parkes):

The following activities/events have taken place:

- November 13th – held Remembrance Day Assembly, which included contributions from many groups (Dance, Drama, Black Students Association). Representatives from Student Council were the MCs for the even. Included two Veterans who were guest speakers

Upcoming Events:

- November 29th through December 6th - White Ribbon Campaign – National Day of Remembrance for Violence against Women
 - Delivering white ribbons to home room classes which will be given in exchange for a donation – All proceeds collected will be given to the Red Door Family Shelter
 - Drama club will also be holding an event on December 6th – Representatives from SAC will also be there to collect donations
- Grade 8 night – SAC will be speaking to students about life at EYCI
 - Tables will also be set up in the rotunda to help address any questions from families
- Spring Talent Show – Date TBD – Looking at possibly the last day before March Break
- Conducting auditions on December 13th and 14th to ensure they have sufficient time for rehearsals
- Winter week – the last week before winter break – will include many fun activities (candy-grams, spirit days,
- Semi-Formal – Early stages of planning – to take place on February 15th (Thursday before PA Day) at Celebrations Banquet Hall (same venue as last year)

4.2. Principal's Report (Stephen Morris)

Ms. Miestry provide follow-up on the Timing of the Commencement Ceremony

- Met with Student Council and Athletic Council – discuss pros and cons of Fall vs June Commencement – More that 30 students in attendance
- Provided snapshot of discussion points School Council

- Plan - 4 groups of student council members in pairs to visit Grade 11 and Grade 12 homeroom classrooms the week of December 7th (Thursday and Friday) and if needed the following Monday and Tuesday
- 5 to 10 minutes – to present the pros and cons of each option identified by Student and Athletic councils and will open up to students to provide feedback
- The idea is then to present this information on the voting form
- Student vote to commence on December 18th or 19th (vote open for 2 to 3 days)
- Grade 11 and 12 students will be voting, as well as EYCI staff, and parents of students for grades 11 and 12
- Looking at School Council feedback on this approach
- There have been some logistics concerns raised from staff that will not be shared with students
- Concerned raised that students have a limited experience with challenges of those who have graduated having to come back during the fall – basing their feedback on limited information.
 - It was pointed out that students have been provided solid framework for discussions including Ms. Locke’s letter as background
- Question: Were venues part of the discussion?
 - Cannot anchor down what the venue will be yet
 - If EYCI there are outstanding items to address – air conditioning, need to be able to host 700+ in attendance
 - If not at EYCI, an external event hall would be necessary. Would need to move quickly as most June venues are typically booked by schools the June prior
- Question: Anticipated number of Graduates?
 - Average 250 grads + 2 tickets per for seating of 750 (500 guests)
 - Auditorium has just shy of 800 if we use balcony (which is in need of repair)
- Discussion around auditorium renovations:
 - Would need to update all 800 seats at a cost of about \$400 per seat
 - Looking at ways to get the Board to heavily subsidize this + some fundraising, and the school kicking in some funds
 - Uncertain if it can be done this school year
- Main goal right now is to determine whether Commencement will be moved to June
 - Once decided, then would need to determine if it could be done for June 2024 or June 2025
- Discussion around all the stakeholders:
 - Student voice, parents, teachers, administrators, sponsors, community
 - Differentiating between wants versus needs
 - Need to give credit to students – they are aware of what is going on. Students are the starting point.
 - Student voice will be the strongest driver on principal’s decision
- Concern raised by members in attendance that too much time is being spent on the discussion of moving Commencement to June.
 - May be deterring some parents from attending Council meetings as they feel there are more pressing issues to discuss
- Motion put forward by Ms. Brooks to move forward with the proposed plan to present information to students and have them vote. Motion seconded by Ms. Tzogas. Motion passed.

Discussion then shifted to the Principal’s Updates:

- White ribbon campaign
 - Special event/production to be held on December 6th after school. Very unique

- Multistage production with 5 or 6 sets around the school. Walk from one scene to the next. An Immersive experience
- Very few people allowed to attend. Capped at roughly 50.
 - Principal's wish list to the Board has been submitted
 - Yearly submission that is very specific in terms of the ask
 - Must be facilities oriented/maintenance oriented – If the school had free labour coming in, what would EYCI want to have fixed up
 - Keeping in mind EYCI's 100th anniversary in four years - looking to update the façade of school. In addition to the auditorium, the school's beautiful foyer looking a little run down and would like to have it refaced (hopefully in school colours). Other wish list item – carpeting and tiling in the auditorium
 - Library catalogue being reevaluated – every school does this every 10 or so years ... well overdue at EYCI
 - Revamping a significant portion of the library content – looking to house clean what is not being used and to modernize the space. Average school cleans out about 50 % of the collection and opens up the library
 - Focus on making innovation centers, including lounges and spaces where students can collaborate in groups.
 - With the reduction in the collection, many of the shelves will not exist any more – moving to a modern open concept
 - Will take a few years to transform into “the” place where students want to be
 - Starting with cleansing and a few furniture pieces this year
 - Taking place end of December – library will be closed for 3-4 days to begin cleaning cycle.
 - Heating Issues
 - Certain parts of the school are very cozy
 - When they changed the boilers they did not reattach the BAS system – central system that controls the heating system (should all be automated)
 - As a result, the Boilers are working only in two states – on FULL or OFF
 - Until they can reconnect the BAS, the plan is to come in early to turn on the heat. Problem is that by the time you get to 10 -11 am parts of the upper floor get up to 80+ degrees – particularly the Science department.
 - Been working with board several days and they will act on it. May take a couple of weeks. Trying to resolve earlier.
 - Vent issue in auditorium that makes it very cold.
 - Library in same state. Sitting at 4 or 5 degrees
 - Emergency crew came in but did not resolve the issue
 - Tennis Court rejuvenation project
 - Plan for Pickle ball and volleyball courts + outdoor classroom surrounded by lush greenery
 - Soil tests have been completed with no issues identified
 - Hoping to have it done before the end of the school year
 - TDSB will pick up the maintenance on the project

4.3. Teachers' representative report (Andrea Palmay):

- Student work classrooms was highlighted. A collection of some wonderful work by Ms. Pereira's Grade 12 visual arts class was shared. Students enter visual arts in grade 10, but parents can advocate for their student to enter in Grade 9.

- Student athletic accomplishments included:
 - Junior girls basketball team finished 2nd in South Regions
 - Senior girls basketball team won South Region Tier 1
 - Senior boys volleyball won South Region Tier 2 championship
 - Junior boys volleyball lost in South Region semis
- Team Tryouts underway include Junior and Senior girls volleyball, girls indoor Varsity soccer, boys indoor Varsity soccer, girls Varsity Hockey, junior and Senior Boys basketball
- Athletic association activities:
 - Food drive – boxes distributed to each class to collect food for the Bethany church food bank. Donation boxes will also be available at all school home games.
 - Bake sale on November 29th – with all proceeds supporting school athletics

4.4. Guidance Report (Erika Paget):

- Very successful pathways fair - 42 representatives from different agencies and schools
 - Extensive pathways exhibit – more than any other school
 - Co-op pathway interest has been high, so much so that the Co-op pathway is now full
 - All pathway information is now posted for those that missed it – refer to the monthly guidance update
- Wrapping up grade 8 tours with 6 feeder schools coming through
- Open house next week – doing a lot to promote the grade 9 transition

4.5. Student Success Report (Erika Paget)

- Student Achievements at mid term
- Grade 9s and 12 in good position - about 15% of students with at least one failing grade
- Grade 10s and 11s seeing a higher rate - 21% of Grade 10s and 23% of Grade 11s
- Aiming to cut these numbers in half by the time final reporting comes around by supporting students

4.6. Co-Chair Report (Nick Moutafis & Melanie Locke):

- 4.6.1: School Improvements discussion took place as part of the principal's report.
- 4.6.2: School Fundraising discussion
 - Historically the school council has not done much in the way of fundraising
 - Did not want to compete with fundraising being done by student and athletic councils
 - Also, because we have not typically had many volunteers to support fundraising
 - What is being done at other schools?
 - School councils ask the administration to identify their wish list of 2 to 3 priorities. Determine how the council can help with these priorities.
 - Promote initiative and set up cash online – for direct donations from the community
 - Look to Alumni for support (legacy). Willing to donate funds to buy a chair for the auditorium or to buy books for the library. Could include recognition of the donation (e.g. plaque on the back of each chair)
 - Not many schools have an auditorium like the one at EYCI – can open it up
 - Board events could potentially be hosted here
 - Possibility of community productions that

- We will look to discuss further during our next meeting.

Items 4.6.3, 4.6.4, were not discussed on account of time. These items will be discussed at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting of the Council is to take place on January 29th, 2024.