

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, January 29th, 2024

Present: Stephen Morris, Karen Thomson, Aubrey Hicks, Christina Lagoudontis, Kimber Tzogas, Cathy Ireland, Raymonde Lievens, Sue Gill, Cathy Ireland, Kimber Tzogas, Nick Moutafis, Lenore Brooks, Nardos Mekonnen, Popi Caravasilis, Melanie Locke, Mark Peacock, Andrea Palmay, Karen McCormick, Susie Tsianos.

1. Call to order: 6:36pm

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

3. Approval of minutes: motion proposed: Kimber Tzogas; seconded: Susie Tsianos

REPORTS

4.1. Student government: (Nardos Mekonnen):

Semi-formal: organisation is well underway; the S-F is to take place on Feb. 15th. The venue will be Celebration Banquet Hall. Tickets can be paid for via School Cash Online.

Talent Show: auditions took place in December; selection of performers to take place for a March 8th show.

A question was posed regarding spirit wear: orders are closed and delivery of items will be made in the coming weeks.

4.2. Principal

Mental health and exams: the school welcomes, indeed solicits, communication from parents/students who have concerns, particularly of a mental-health variety, during the current exam period. The school office, teachers and guidance counsellors are welcoming all with such concerns.

Semester-two grades: end-of-semester grades are not final until the very end of the semester. What appears on students' platforms before then is not necessarily final; those who think something be amiss with a final grade should report to the relevant teacher at the very beginning of semester two.

Construction updates:

- heating: the school has been experiencing extremes of warmth and coolth in the building due to wrinkles in the heating management; the problem is being addressed;
- roof: re-roofing to begin imminently; to limit disruption, the Principal has negotiated a schedule according to which noisy and odoriferous work will be minimised during school hours and/or completed during March break;
- water fountain maintenance: a water fountain near the gym is currently out of use but is being repaired at the Board's cost;
- mechanical maintenance (HVAC): in the context of scheduled HVAC maintenance, the Principal has used the opportunity to have the auditorium connected to the piping system so that it can, in future, be connected to the school's central air-conditioning system.

[Excursus on *commencement* arising in the context of the Principal's construction reports: survey results indicate that students and staff are in favour of a June commencement for which a functioning

air-conditioning system is a prerequisite; a permanent AC unit will not be in place by June, but a portable system will be installed for the period of commencement at a cost of approx. \$15000 all told. The Principal is awaiting word on whether this solution is in conformity with fire regulations. If approved, savings on catering for a daytime event will be transferred to the AC cost (approx. \$4000-\$5000); much, if not all, of the rest will have to be covered by admission fees for parents who wish to attend. The seating in the auditorium, which is in need of renewal (see immediately below), will not be ready for commencement, and hence the balcony seating will be unavailable; an over-spill room (the library with live video transmission) will seat 150 guests.]

Construction (continued):

Auditorium: a total cost of about \$800 per seat is estimated for the refurbishment of the auditorium. The Board will pay some of this; in the first wave of the project, the balcony seating is likely to be replaced.

New funding initiatives:

The following accounts have been set up to fund the following projects:

- 1) auditorium (seating, see above);
- 2) library: the library will be reorganised into a “Learning exploration centre” in which students will be able to work collaboratively in a welcoming and unobtrusive space;
- 3) field restoration: there is a need, *inter alia*, for a new scoreboard, likely to cost \$10000.

A question about commencement was posed, viz., that, if approval from the fire department for the June commencement plan is not forthcoming, could the Principal enquire at other schools, e.g. Rosedale, which have an auditorium which houses 750 guests?

The Principal replied that, in principle, the answer is “yes”, though other TDSB schools' auditoria are in great demand at the end of June, when EYCI's commencement is envisaged.

4.3. Teachers' representative: (Andrea Palmay):

Drama: Mr. Nolan conveyed a report on the preparation of a play, written by grade-12 student, Caitlin Yu, about blindness. Students involved have worked with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to help their understanding of living with blindness or sight impediments. The play – *Can you see me?* – is to be performed at EYCI on Feb. 28th. Mr. Nolan encourages students to consider taking drama as a subject in grade 12. Last December, the various dramatic groups performed at EYCI's Arts Night in front of an audience of circa 500 people.

Music: Ms. Bujac lauded the efforts of students during December's Arts Night, at which various ensembles (the Senior Band, Glee, the Grade 9 Band and the Concert Band) played. Miss Ward Bond is to teach vocal music in the coming semester. The Concert Band is to perform at the Ontario Band Association's festival in February.

Physics: grade 11 physics culminating project consisted in the building and testing of a self-propelling vehicle made from recycled materials. Ms. Palmay recounted how enthused students were about the project which culminated (no pun intended) in a race competition in January.

Sports: various athletic and sporting achievements were reported in girls' and boys' volleyball, hockey, soccer and basketball. Badminton is soon to be added to the school's sporting repertoire, and students are encouraged to get involved.

4.4. Guidance: (Karen McCormick):

Course selection for the autumn of 2024 is imminent and must be completed (via the Blueprint platform) by Feb. 22nd. Information session for parents and students will be offered in February; dates and venues thereof are to be circulated in the school's email guidance updates (to be expected during

the week of Feb 5th).

4.5. Student success: no report

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

4.6.1. *innovation grant*: the grant for which EYCI applied late last year was approved (\$1500). The money will be used to fund two workshops for parents of EYCI students on the subject of mental health. A date for the first workshop has been pencilled in for Feb. 22nd, and, for the second, of May 9th.

4.6.2. *statement of needs*: discussion of the statement of needs was postponed to the next meeting on account of lack of time.

4.6.3: *fund raising*: Stephen Morris solicited opinions from Council's members about the priority for fund-raising activities for the school. With little further ado, the following motion was proposed by Amber Taylor and seconded by Susie Tsianos:

Motion: *that the library renovation and reorganisation project (see Principal's report, above) be established as the school's immediate funding priority*. The motion was unanimously approved by the voting members of the Council who were present.

The next meeting of the Council is to take place on February 26th, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 8.11pm.