

EYCI School Advisory Council
Monday, September 30th, 2024

Present: Steven Morris, Michael Atzemis, Nick Moutafis, Amber Taylor, Mark Peacock, Raymonde Lievens, Susie Tsianos, Soula Sotirakos, Sue Gill, Sharon Connolly, Sofia Parkes, Jennifer Gocky, Popi Caravasilis, Karen Thomson.

1. Call to order: 6:40pm

2. Approval of agenda: motion proposed by Amber Taylor, seconded by Popi Caravasilis.

3. Approval of minutes: motion proposed by Amber Taylor, seconded by Sue Gill.

REPORTS

4.1. Student Government (Sofia Parkes)

The Student Activity Council (SAC) participated in the School's Truth & Reconciliation Day (30th Sept.); it facilitated numerous classroom activities for students including reflections on Truth & Reconciliation which were displayed on the monitors in the rotunda. The SAC also facilitated the assembly on Friday, 27th Sept., at which a residential school survivor spoke.

Plans for the coming year include:

- October 22nd: club fair
- October 31st: Hallowe'en event (further details to be determined)
- December: White Ribbon Day; Winter Week and Talent Show.

After the turn of the New Year, there will be a short hiatus in SAC-organised activities whilst exams take place in January. Thereafter, there will be: the semi-formal, an event to mark International Pink Day (April), Wellness Week (May), Spirit Week (May). The school year will close with elections to the SAC for the coming school year.

4.2. Principal (Steven Morris)

Prior to the Principal's report, the School's two Vice-Principals, Tina Maestri and Emily Clair, introduced themselves and their respective portfolios at EYCI. Of note are two forthcoming matters:

- i. Grade 9 Identity Day (October 10th), about which the Principal gave details in his Community Update of 27th Sept.
- ii. Parent/caregiver—teacher interviews (24th October). During the week prior to this date, teachers will apprise students of their marks hitherto in the term; those whom teachers deem to be in need of extra support will be notified (as will their parents/caregivers).

As part of his report, Mr. Morris stressed the importance of VPs at the school, and he lauded the efforts and support provided by EYCI's VPs. Mr. Morris deems VP support essential, not only to the day-to-day running of the school but also to the execution of any special project which goes beyond the quotidian tasks of the school, of which there are several. Consequently, he is, with some exigency, importuning the TDSB for a third VP at EYCI. The school has had three VPs in the past, and Mr.

Morris holds that a third VP position would strengthen the school in its efforts to excel. Amber Taylor asked whether a letter of support from Council would increase the chances of securing a new position. Mr. Morris welcomed the idea, and Council will, in the course of the month of October, draft and send such a letter to the TDSB.

Universal design for learning (UDL): the Principal adumbrated the principles of UDL which the EYCI takes seriously. UDL aim's to make education more accessible by tailoring it to students' needs. Mr. Morris illustrated with the example of flexible in-class quiz/test times: if students requires extra time in class to complete a test, they will be granted extra time, even if it takes them beyond the envisaged duration of the test. Insisting that everyone complete a test in the same, predetermined time is not useful in the context of testing students' abilities. This, and other measures, are to be granted to students irrespective of whether they have an IEP. Students are advised to talk to their teachers if they believe there are ways of enhancing their performance through such methods.

Mr. Morris outlined the hall pass and monitor system which was introduced last year. He deems it a great success in both keeping students in class during class time and in reducing the number and frequency of inter-student skirmishes and shenanigans which, in the past, have taken place when students were outside class during learning hours.

Likewise, the Province-wide cellphone policy has brought salubrious consequences. There are very few reports of student cellphone use in class, and the policy seems, with minimal fuss, to have garnered widespread acceptance amongst thee EYCI community.

Enrolment: enrolment has increased to over 1100 students this year, thus reversing about a decade of secular decline in student numbers. This caused one or two teething problems at the beginning of term, with six classes having to accommodate 40 or more students. However, the school has been allocated two new teachers, and the large classes are being divided into smaller ones.

Capital projects:

- i. Auditorium: installation of a new sound system and air-conditioning system as well as the seating refurbishment will be undertaken during the current academic year.
- ii. Multi-purpose outdoor learning space: this space on and around the location of the old tennis courts will be developed during the course of the year. Mr. Morris circulated a draft of the plan which will include several sports courts and sitting/learning areas nestled in and around an arborous space.

Commencement: the Commencement in June, 2024, at the Danforth Music Hall was the best attended in EYCI's history (over 1000 people attended). Since the air-conditioning might not be installed in the Auditorium by the end of the year, Mr. Morris has pre-emptively reserved the same location for Commencement, 2025.

4.2.1 Nominations

Nominations had been accepted to the School Advisory Council since the week previous to the meeting. After nominations closed, the following offices were allocated:

- Co-Chairs: Nick Moutfis, Amber Taylor
- Treasurer: Christina Lagoudontis
- Secretary: Mark Peacock
- Voting members of Council: Raymonde Lievens, Susie Tsianos, Soula Sotirakos, Sue Gill,

Sharon Connolly, Sofia Parkes, Popi Caravasilis

4.3. Teachers' representative: no report

4.4. Guidance (Michael Atzemis)

Guidance has three counsellors: in addition to Mr. Atzemis (who is responsible for surnames beginning A-G), students may turn to Lira Lolja (H-O) and Karen McCormick (P-Z).

Booking guidance counselling appointments: Mr. Atzemis explained that the best way to book appointments with guidance counsellors is via a QR code scan which allows students to make appointments directly online. For more information about guidance, please see the "Guidance update" email of 30th Sept. 2024.

Food & Nutrition Program: the breakfast programme continues and provides food for students who can pick it up each morning as they enter the main door to the school building.

Advice will be available this term for those in grades 11 and 12 about life after EYCI. Amongst other thing, the Pathways Fair, at which over 40 representatives of universities and colleges will be present, will take place on Nov. 7th.

Grade 8 feeder school days will be hosted in October/November. There will be a grade 8 feeder school open evening on Nov. 27th from 6-8pm.

Course selection for the academic year 2025-26 will commence early in this school year's second semester (February, 2025).

4.6. Student Success: no report.

4.6. Chair (Nick Moutafis)

Due to lack of time, the scheduled introduction to the work of the PAC was not given.

4.7. Treasurer: no report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

The next meeting of the Council is to take place on October 28th.