

# 2014/15 Annual Report

Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute School Council  
Annual Report for the 2014/15 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community:

Welcome back! We hope you had a safe and happy summer. The Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute School Council had an active year. School Council consisted of Co-chairs: L. Gray, S. Paetkau, Treasurer: G. Wyett, Webmaster: M. Schummer, Secretary: J. Yacoub.

The school council held 10 meetings on Sept 8, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2014 (speaker) and January 5, February 2, March 2 (speaker), April 13, May 4, and June 1 2015. . These meetings were open to the public to encourage input from parents and other members of the school community. Minutes of meetings are posted online at <http://www.lpschoolcouncil.com>

The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council(s) of the actions taken in response to the recommendations.

At the 8 regular meetings, student reps provided updates on academic and extracurricular activities. Principal Jovanovic provided information on enrolment, staffing, school calendar, student support, process for student and parent concerns, course selection, postsecondary planning, school improvement plan and school budget and responded to questions, concerns and suggestions from parents. The top issues during the year were school overenrolment and proposed semestering.

## Top Issues

The issue of overenrolment at LPCI was top priority and D Boughner, G Wyett and L Addis documented student enrolment growth, discussions to date and possible actions. Enrolment has grown from 968 students in 2008 to 1328 students in 2014. The fire plan maximum is 1368 students. Parents concerns are safety and enough classrooms, cafeteria space , gyms and resources such as textbooks. LPCI school council met with Trustee Goodman and Superintendent Hainbuch in February, and May 2014 to understand why the Board has not closed attendance to students outside the school's catchment area and what action would be taken to deal with overenrolment. In April 2014, a space review was conducted and 3 additional classrooms were identified to accommodate students. On November 3rd, Superintendent Peter Chang and Trustee Jennifer Arp met with a subcommittee and Superintendent Peter Chang joined School Council to learn about the issue and hear parent concerns and suggestions. In response, Superintendent Chang communicated in December that LPCI attendance will be closed to those students residing outside the school boundaries and that a plan for monitoring student addresses would be implemented. He also communicated shortly after the meeting that after exploring the suggestion made by some parents to move french programs to another or standalone school, that this was not under consideration by the board. A full review of french programming is being done given the increasing demand.

At the January 5th meeting, Vice Principal Gurgol reported that the semestering of Grade 12 Functions and Calculus has worked well and the plan was to move forward with semestering

courses in math, business, social science, english and media. Arts, sciences, Latin. English literature and Physical Education would remain full year. Parents expressed concerns that the school had not consulted with students or parents; the purpose of the change is unclear, there was no notice and students have already planned their courses based on current timetabling; the potential negative impact of the change for students focusing on academics for university admission, and extracurricular activities especially elite athletic and arts. Later that week, Principal Jovanovic indicated the school would not proceed with further semestering for the 2015/16 school year and would follow TDSB policy and consult with students, teachers and parents. On April 13, M. Fisher from Guidance made a presentation on the pros and cons of semestering and presented 3 options: 1. Full semestered school 2. Traditional timetabling continues 3. Hybrid where Grade 9 & 10 are traditional and Grades 11 & 12 are semestered. This was the same presentation made the week before to all students in assembly and the full teaching staff. Principal Jovanovic reported that the majority of students and teachers had voted for traditional timetabling so LPCI would not be proceeding with semestering.

Other issues discussed at School Council and addressed by the school are listed below

1. Teacher contract negotiations and risk of labour unrest. No news to report during year. In spring, it is unlikely that work action will occur in TDSB until the fall.
2. Camp Olympia and Music camp are wonderful. What about field trips for Grades 10-12?: LPCI has more field trips than other schools and is making best efforts.
3. Students should have textbooks available to take home; particular concerns regarding Grade 12 math and physics as well as english novels. Teachers often use handouts in place of text. The school followed up and purchased the Grade 12 math and physics texts. R. Mancini, leader of english and literacy dept explained approach to english curriculum focusing on portions of novels, short stories and indicated there are enough novels for every student. The problem is students don't return the novels when handed out.
4. Security cameras are in most schools but LPCI does not have them. TDSB plans to start installing security cameras.
5. Communication to parents about Pathway Fair and curriculum. Requested curriculum night for each grade not just grade 9. LPCI Guidance explored how North Toronto ran their curriculum night for parents of all grades and will consider opening curriculum night for all grades next year.
6. Why french immersion and extended french students are combined in some courses. The Principal explained that in some cases like geography, there are not enough students to have separate classes and a combined class is necessary. Teachers should be accommodating the different streams in these combined classes.
7. Mental health and wellness: school committee meets monthly and parents are welcome to join. Newsletters from TDSB now posted on school's website. LPCI has created a 2 minute mindful moment each day. Student group meets Tuesdays at lunch. Teachers had a full PD day in November on supporting students with mental health problems and are implementing the "Caring Adult" initiative.
8. TDSB School climate survey: LPCI making efforts to have all students, staff and parents fill out survey, Students have been given time in class. Various reminders have been sent out by email

from the school to parents.

9. Process for reviewing and questioning final exam or grade: Principal to follow up on the process.

10 Extending "elite athlete" program to students pursuing other areas like music and dance. Principal agreed to look into doing this.

## Presentations

January 5, 2015, Ms. McDonald provided information on cooperative education and apprenticeship programs where students get work experience. Kim Mitchell from Guidance explained the course selection process including entry through My Blueprint. She noted there is an Individual Personal Planner in My BluePrint for career planning

On December 1, 2014 Dr. Marshall Korenblum, an adolescent psychiatrist, spoke to about 100 parents on mood disorders focusing on depression. He described the diagnosis, treatment, and links to anxiety and drugs and showed a video documenting the teen experience.

On March 2, Dr Blake Woodside discussed eating disorders, signals and triggers and the contribution of genetics and environment with about 20 parents

L. Turkish, a community representative, presented his analysis of LPCI from the results of the TDSB 2011 School Survey for the half hour before each meeting from March-June 2015.

## Fundraising

Fund-raising activities were also conducted, and the proceeds were used to fund projects in accordance with school board policies. The LPCI school budget includes up to \$1500 for administrative activities and general donations that can support school activities. In 2014/15, General donations \$7,190 (cheques) + \$494.52 (online) = \$7,684.52 and

General auditorium donations \$640 and Auditorium chairs \$1,800 were received.

Principal Jovanovic surveyed the various departments and presented a list of items requested by teachers totaling \$125,000. This list was shared at the School Council meeting in February. In April, Council agreed with the Principal's recommendation to direct funds to Science equipment such as a refrigerator and Labquest Probeware and to Math whiteboards and document cameras. It was agreed that next year's School Council's request for donations would specifically ask for contributions towards 3 carts of 30 chromebooks to support classrooms on each of 3 floors of the school \$30k and smartboards for math classrooms \$30K.

The financial activity related to the school council's administrative activities is attached.,

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council last year. Special thanks are due to the following members of the 2014/15 school council:

- G Wyett for providing continuity, guidance, support on activities and handling all financial matters;
- G Wyett, L. Addis and D. Boughner for working on the issue of overenrolment
- Michelle Schummer for keeping parents informed by sending out weekly emails to parents, maintaining the School Council website, writing School Council minutes, and hosting teacher appreciation breakfast
- J Rother for arranging Dr Korenblum and Dr Woodside to speak to parents and hosting teacher appreciation breakfast
- L Addis for working with parents to support the music program through fundraising and events
- J Yacoub for writing up minutes for several meetings
- L. Turkish for presenting information on the 2011 TDSB school survey about LPCI
- J. Bragg for preparing the 2015/16 Parent Reaching Out grant proposal to host events on

#### Postsecondary planning and careers

Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to the executive established for 2015/16 School Council at the September meeting. Issues that we foresee as being important matters for the consideration of the new school council following the September 2015/16 elections include overenrolment (school projection for next year is 1300 students) and postsecondary planning and careers. In June, School Council also agreed to apply Robert Rules to run its meetings and to try a new format allowing one hour for business and up to 1 1/2 hours for presentations/ workshops

Sincerely,  
 Lisa Gray and Susan Paetkau September 18, 2015

LPCI SCHOOL COUNCIL  
Revenues and Expenses  
2014/2015 School year

REVENUES

Donations (all donations received directly by LPCI)	\$0.00
Other – Revenue from the TDSB/PRO grant	<u>\$1,128.25</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,128.25</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

School Council and Staff Events	\$336.80
School Council Sponsored Events *	\$1000.00
Bank Charges	\$23.40
Web Hosting	\$158.20
Other Expenses (School Council Insurance)	<u>\$151.20</u>

Total Disbursements \$1,669.60

Excess Of Revenues Over Disbursements -\$541.31

Opening Cash in Bank \$2,382.98

Closing Cash in Bank \$1,841.63

\*\$600 – Dr. Korenblum (Adolescent mood disorders) – PRO Grant

\*\$400 – Dr. Blake Woodside (Eating Disorders)

DONATIONS RECEIVED DIRECTLY BY LPCI

ONLINE	\$494.52
CHEQUES	\$0.00
GENERAL DONATIONS	\$7,190.00
GENERAL AUDITORIUM DONATIONS	\$640.00
AUDITORIUM CHAIR DONATIONS	<u>\$1,800.00</u>

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED BY SCHOOL \$10,124.52