



LPCI School Council
C/o Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute
125 Chatsworth Drive
Toronto, ON, M4R 1S1

August 30, 2019

Mr Aiman Flahat, Principal
Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute
125 Chatsworth Drive,
Toronto, ON, M4R 1S1

Dear Aiman,

We couldn't be more delighted with the announcement of your appointment to the position of Principal at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute. Our parent community is eager to welcome you to our school and to continue the good work that our partnership has accomplished in the past.

There will no doubt be many topics to discuss in the coming weeks, but prior to the official start of school, we wanted to ensure that we brought to your attention an issue of great importance to both LPCI students and their families – the consideration of a timetable change.

Prior to the end of the 2018/2019 school year, the Administration at LPCI began the process of implementing a move from a full-year timetable to a semestered model. The process was put on hold in June for a number of reasons, but it is our understanding that it will continue again this fall. As such, our goal in writing this letter, is to ensure that our recommendations regarding the process are captured, particularly given the change in Principals at this time.

We appreciate your consideration of our attached recommendations, and look forward to partnering with you in the coming school year!

Best regards,

LPCI's School Council Executive Team

Anna Richter Chair	Erika Boone Past-Chair	Ian Aukema Treasurer	Julie Sole Communications	Kelly Green Wellness Council
Liz Hanson Secretary	John Hiddema Community Member	Anne Marie Armstrong Fundraising	Veronica Bak Safe & Caring Schools	

c.c. Andrew Howard, Superintendent

Recommendations Regarding the Consideration of a Timetable Change at LPCI

August 2019

Background:

The proposal to consider a timetable change was announced to the LPCI parent and caregiver community around mid-March of 2019. This followed a vote undertaken by the teaching staff ten months earlier that favoured a move from a full-year timetable to a semestering one. Student assemblies were held at the end of March to communicate the change, and students were informed that a move to a semestered timetable would occur in 2020. One month later, a parent information session was held to address the topic.

During various forums, including LPCI School Council meetings and the parent information session, the parent community posed questions regarding the school's adherence to the TDSB Operational Procedures' timeline and critical steps, a desire for more specific information about LPCI programs that would be affected, and requested academic and fact-based information to illustrate how the change would benefit our students. Parents asked for information regarding how other TDSB non-semestered schools successfully made the transition and for an opportunity to give their input regarding the change.

Since the semestering process was put on hold in June, these requests still remain outstanding. Should the plan to change timetables continue this fall, LPCI's parent community will be hoping to have their outstanding requests addressed.

Recommendations:

Given this background, LP School Council recommends:

1. That additional opportunities for open discussion and input be made for both our parent/caregiver community and our students regarding a possible timetable change at LPCI
2. That all critical steps outlined in PR 542 be followed prior to a decision being made regarding the move to semesters, including:
 - Communication with stakeholders by the in-school committee, sharing the results of their investigation and analysis of their findings
 - A thorough account to parents and students of how a timetable change will affect specific, important programs such as French, music, athletics and students with IEPs, including more information supporting the suggestion made by staff that semestering supports kids at risk (highlighted as a key benefit) whereas parents of students with IEP's have expressed concern with a condensed 4.5 month course period
 - Balanced, substantiated academic evidence be provided to stakeholders showing the pros and cons of both timetable models, with particular sensitivity to wellness and equity topics
 - A survey of parents/caregivers and students be conducted to gauge support for the change
3. That the requisite staff vote which forms part of the 'Recommendation by the School' be re-conducted subsequent to an open dialogue with the school community, including students, parents and school council, prior to any timetable change being implemented, and that the number of participants in the vote will be shared.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Park CI School Council