



Thornlea School Council was invited to the YRDSB School Council Forum, which took place at Maple High School on February 13. Members of the School Council learned about mental health strategies and participated in workshops on destreaming, effective school council, and creating equitable and inclusive schools through authentic parent and family engagement. It was a very informative evening.

On the School Council's Parent/Guardian Survey, 73% of respondents chose Career Pathway as an important topic for our students. A School Council sub-committee is working hard to organize a Career Night, where students will attend career and pathway info sessions presented by our parent and guardian volunteers.

The Council is also organizing a mental health information session for parents/guardians and a Staff Appreciation Breakfast to show our gratitude to Thornlea's staff and teachers for their hard work throughout the school year. Dates and details will be shared later.



Superintendent Grant Fawthrop (left), Co-chair Myra Chow, and Trustee Jenny Chen (right) posed for a photo after the School Council meeting.

MEET & GREET WITH SCHOOL TRUSTEE AND SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

The Meet and Greet with School Trustee, Jenny Chen, and Superintendent of Education, Grant Fawthrop, took place at the School Council meeting this past Tuesday.

Ms. Chen is our newly elected School Trustee and a working mom who runs a small business and a non-profit organization for diversity arts. Her focus this year, as a trustee, is to get to know the schools and the parent communities by attending school council meetings and connecting with parents through newsletters or social media.

Our Superintendent, Mr. Fawthrop, oversees 3 high schools and 17 elementary schools in CEC (Community Education Centre) West. Parents/guardians may contact him for systemic concerns/questions that cannot be addressed at the School level. He advocates for Thornlea at the Board level and supports families within the context of the school board's policies and available resources.

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IMPORTANT DATES

March Break

March 13 to 17, 2023

Back to School

March 20, 2023

School Council Meeting

Thornlea S.S. Library
April 17, 2023 7pm



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RESOURCES



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agendas/minutes](#)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Below are highlights of some of the topics discussed at the recent School Council meeting:

Cafeteria catering service - The catering service in Thornlea's cafeteria is currently unavailable, as the third party vendor contracted by the Board is facing challenges in hiring staff. However, there is a vending machine operational in the cafeteria with snack items. The School Council has expressed concerns to the Board's Operations Department and the Superintendent has also relayed our concerns. The School Council will follow up with Operations regarding available alternatives.

Special Effects "Green Room" - An old photography room and an adjacent storage room need to be converted to a special effects "Green Room" for the ACAM (Academy of Creativity and Multimedia) Program, and the room will be equipped with the latest technology for audio and visual special effects. Approval needs to be obtained from the Board's Planning Department to renovate and convert the rooms into one big room. The School Council is engaging in conversations with the Planning Department and has requested support and assistance from the Superintendent.

Discontinuation of Pre-AP Program - The Pre-AP Program is not being offered for incoming grade 9 students in September 2023. The Pre-AP/AP Program will still be available for grades 10, 11 and 12 at Thornlea. Some parents have expressed concerns that the newly de-streamed courses may not be academically stimulating enough to prepare students for higher education, and that students should be offered options to enrich their learning.

The School Council would like to thank Ms. Jenny Chen and Mr. Grant Fawthrop for joining us at the Council meeting and sharing their insights on topics that the Council raised.