**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Committee Name: Inner City Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, March 9th, 2017 –

Bliss Carman Public School

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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| Present: | Ingrid Palmer (Co-Chair), Sheila Cary-Meagher (Co-Chair), Abhishek Anawal, Shabana, Benoit, Diane DeiAmoah, Christine Dimitris, Karen Falconer, Helen Fisher, Lee Ford-Jones, Alison Gaymes San Vicente, Laurie Green, Michael Griesz, Joanne Griffith, Daniel Jeffers, Shaila Krishna, Gail Miller, Zahid Musa, Neoline Omdoso, Alison Rutherford, Sharma Queiser, Nicole Seck, Bob Spencer, Vanessa Watkins |
| Recorder: | Maria Valente-De Sa |

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATION/MOTION** |
| Call to Order/Quorum | * Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. and everyone introduced themselves. * Principal Kurt McIntosh & Vice-Principal Andrea Samartzis welcomed everyone and provided a brief background on the history of the school. * Quorum was confirmed. |  |
| Approval of Agenda | * A request was made to add “Split Grades” under other business. | Sharma Queiser moved to accept the agenda; Lee Ford-Jones seconded; All in favour. |
| Approval of Minutes | * A correction in the motion was made | The meeting notes were accepted, seconded. All in favour. |
| Declaration of Conflict of Interest | Nil |  |
| Co-Chair Report | Co-Chair Ingrid Palmer:   * Ingrid had made a request to speak with the Ombudsmen re the LOG funds and the misuse of the funds. Still waiting to hear back from the Ombudsmen. * Ingrid has been selected to sit on the John Tory Tennant Advisory Committee at City Hall to look at housing, improvement and how to improve service to clients. Will report back after the first meeting. * Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy – Ingrid has heard that some schools are asking parents for their status and are being denied entry to the schools. * Under Operational Procedure 518 (Admission Eligibility Requirements) and according to the Education Act, the first 6 months that families are in the Country, they may need to pay fees. If families are requesting refugee status, the fees may be waived, if they have a letter stating such. If families do not have the letter, the fees cannot be waived. * As a Board, we are obligated to ask for address and status because of the fees that are charged to International Students, $14,000.00. * Is the procedure available on the website in different languages for parents to understand? Superintendent Karen Falconer will follow up with the regards to the different languages. * A request was made, if we as a committee can put forth a motion to the Programs Committee to bring this clash of PR518 and Education Act to the attention of all Trustees. * Bob would like to move that we protect our Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy with regards to other regulations and that it be sent to the Programs Committee and that our point of view is more important than the Finance and can the Finance take it forward. Everyone was in agreement – all in favour. The Intent of the Motion is to be presented at the next meeting.   Co-Chair Sheila Cary-Meagher:   * The Enhancing Equity Task Force has begun the process with setting up meetings. There will be community consultations forthcoming. There will be a community consultation meeting in the Spring and again in the Fall. * There will be 9 opportunities for communities to provide feedback. Wards will be pairing up for these consultation meetings. * Will there be an opportunity for people to make presentations? Yes. * The meetings will be facilitated and will focus on real issues from the community. * Will the meetings commence this year? Yes, in the next two months. * How will parents be informed of the consultation meetings? Through school newsletters, trustees. | PR 518 – is it available in different languages?  Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell - Intent of a Motion is to be presented at the next meeting. |
| Model Schools 2017 Summer School Sites | * Everyone received a map of all the summer school site locations for this summer. * This year is the year that we have the most summer school sites – 24 sites. * These sites are all open to the 150 Model Schools students. Bussing will also be provided to these students. * The programs are run by the local school principal. * There are 33 Continuing Education sites that are offering summer school programs. If Model School students wish to attend the Continuing Education programs, they are welcome but there is no bussing. * Will there be French programs this summer? Yes in both Model School and Continuing Education sites. * All the information pertaining to summer school will be posted on the TDSB website. We will be promoting the programs and tweeting throughout the summer. * Where do you feel that it would be best to promote the summer offerings? Email, letters to parents, flyers, posters, school council listing. * The programs will run from 9:00 – 12:00. There are a few Continuing Education sites that will run a full day program. * Summer School runs from July 5th – 28th, 2017. * Summer school runs for the month of July to allow the caretakers the opportunity to clean and get schools ready for September. * We also offer summer school programs for our secondary students for credits and credit recovery. We have Grade 8 students attending their local secondary school and allowing them the opportunity to get familiar with the school that they will be attending in September. |  |
| Community Support Workers (CSW’s) Update | * CSW’s promote parent engagement and community. There used to be parent academies through the clusters of schools. With the new structure, we are working in 4 different Learning Centres. * Learning Centre 1 runs from Islington and Albion all the way across to the Don Valley. The parents in this learning centre wanted to break it up so that we met in learning networks and 3 times a year as a learning centre. * We will be holding a week of training for parents, ie., CPR, resume writing, food handling courses, etc… * There is a Parents Conference being held on April 1st at the Allstream Centre. Workshops are being run by some parents within our area. * Coffee & Tea sessions are held so that there is an informal way for parents to voice their concerns, advocacy and feel that they can speak up. * The key role for the CSW’s is to support parents and bring their voice to the table at the schools. Another example, newcomers that arrive, some do not feel comfortable to speak up or it is not customary for them; CSW’s are available to support and provide assistance to them. * We offer support to parents that are seeking recreational programs. We partner up with Parks and Rec and try to coordinate programs to the schools and parents for those that are having difficulty in getting into programs, try to make it locally based. * Parks & Rec – a lot of their programs are full with more than 60 people on wait lists. If we could have a program in the schools after school, it would help the parents/community. Parents were encouraged to contact their local City Councillor and make them aware of the shortage and/or the wait list for these programs. Why are there no additional programs? * For the next meeting, can we have Intent to Motion around the Parks & Rec? Yes | Intent to Motion re Parks & Rec Programs |
| Secondary Pathway Presentation | * A presentation was provided to the parents (please see attached power-point presentation |  |
| Other Business | Split Grades:   * Parents presented their advocacy and how detrimental it is for our students to be in split grades; a petition was presented if parents wished to sign in. * Parents were encouraged to speak to the administration at the school and have a right to be a part of the staffing committee at their local school. Staffing information is shared with the school council at each of the schools. * Principals will be receiving their staffing allocation for the 2017-18 school year after the March Break. |  |
| Adjournment | * The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m. |  |