

## **TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

### **RESPONSE TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL REPORT**

**TO** Board

30 January 2008

#### **RECOMMENDATION IT IS RECOMMENDED:**

- 1. That the School Community Safety Advisory Panel's final report be received; and**
- 2. That the timelines for development of a comprehensive response to the issues raised by the Panel be approved.**

#### **RATIONALE**

On May 23, 2007 Jordan Manners, a 15 year old student at C.W. Jefferys Collegiate Institute, died after he was found in the school with a gunshot wound. Following this incident, the Director appointed the School Community Safety Advisory Panel (Panel) to make findings and recommendations to improve practices in schools with regard to school supervision, discipline, security and prevention which will create a positive, safe and welcoming school environment.

In August the Board established a Trustees' Work Group to support an effective and coordinated response to the Panel's recommendations and other issues concerning safe and caring schools. Appendix A sets out the Board's decision and the work group's mandate.

On 31 December 2007, the Director received the final report of the Panel. This report contained one hundred and twenty-six recommendations.

The Director has initiated some immediate steps to respond to the recommendations and to develop a comprehensive response for consideration by the Trustee Work Group and the Board. Appendix B lists the immediate steps that have been taken.

Appendix C sets out the proposed time frame for development of a comprehensive response to issues addressed by the Panel's report.

Trustee Dandy, as Chair of the School Community Safety Advisory Panel Trustees' Work Group, will be inviting trustees to

a series of meetings over the next few weeks, to provide trustees an opportunity to discuss the Panel's report and to discuss proposals for response.

The Trustees' Work Group will also be developing ongoing opportunities to work with community partners in developing its proposals.

The Leadership Action Team – the staff team developing proposals – will consult regularly with the Trustees' Work Group to help ensure coordination between staff proposals and the trustees' direction and advice.

**RESOURCES** Resources to support the staff's work to develop a response to the issues raised by the Panel will come from existing budgets.

Many of the Panels' recommendations call for changes that require significant new or re-aligned resources. Staff recommendations concerning new or re-aligned resources will be part of future reports to Board.

**IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW** The timelines for response to the issues raised by the Panel's report are set out in Appendix C.

**APPENDICES** Please note: Because of the volume of the Panel's final report, it is not attached to this report. The Panel's report may be found readily on the TDSB's website.

Appendix A School Community Safety Panel Trustee's Work Group: Board Decisions on August 29, 2007

Appendix B: Immediate Responses to the School Community Safety Advisory Panel's Report

Appendix C: Time Lines for Development of a Comprehensive Response

**FROM** Gerry Connelly, Director of Education, at [gerry.connelly@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:gerry.connelly@tdsb.on.ca) or 416-395-8201.

**ROUTING** Executive Planning and Priorities Ctte 29 January 2008  
Board 30 January 2008

**School Community Safety Panel Trustee’s Work Group:  
Board Decisions on August 29, 2007**

Excerpts from the minutes of the Board meeting, August 29, 2007, p. 856:

**200. School Community Safety Advisory Panel [1141]**

The Board considered a staff report (see page 874) presenting the interim report of the School Community Safety Advisory Panel.

Trustee Davis, seconded by Trustee Tonks, moved:

- (a) That the report of the School Community Safety Advisory Panel, “An Interim Report on School Safety,” be received;**
- (b) That a workgroup of trustees be established to support an effective and coordinated response to the findings and recommendations of the School Community Safety Advisory Panel as presented in its report, “An Interim Report on School Safety”;**
- (c) That Trustee Dandy be appointed Chair of the workgroup;**
- (d) That the Safe and Caring Schools Working Group appoint one member to serve on the workgroup;**
- (e) That Trustee Dandy and the Chair of the Board appoint four other trustees to serve on the workgroup.**

Excerpts from the minutes of the Board meeting, August 29, 2007, p. 874:

The mandate of the committee [the Trustees’ Workgroup] would be to:

- Review proposals from staff concerning response to the Panel’s findings and recommendations; and
- Review motions from trustees concerning response to the Panel’s findings and recommendations, and related motions concerning safety in schools; and
- Bring recommendations to Board based on staff proposals and trustees’ motions.

## Immediate Responses to the School Community Safety Advisory Panel's Report

The following actions have been taken to date:

- The **Student Safety Line** was launched on *January 21, 2008* to provide a proactive and anonymous way for students to report personal and school-related safety concerns.
- A **Leadership Action Team** has been established, representing different functional areas of the Board, co-chaired by Penny Mustin and Uton Robinson. The team will coordinate the overall strategy for addressing the Panel's report, recommend priorities and timelines for implementation, and oversee the process for response. The team will bring a progress report to Trustees in the *March-April cycle*.
- A **review of all policies and procedures related to sexual and gender-based violence** has been initiated by a cross-functional staff team.
- The **Character Development Program** has been launched. Each school community has been invited to define what character means to them. A final list of the ten attributes which collectively define what character means for all will be announced in *February 2008*.
- A draft **Open Communication Policy** has been developed. The policy will come to the Board for consideration at the end of *February 2008*.
- **Three new Safe and Caring Schools Alternative Programs** for expelled students will be established by *February 2008*:
  1. **Sisterhood Media Project**, an experiential learning project where girls 12 years and older earn credits and explore pathways;
  2. **Habitat for Humanity Project**, where students over 16 years earn credits and gain hands-on experience in the home construction industry; and
  3. **Business of Sport Project**, where students 12 years and over earn credits while designing their own sport-related business enterprises.
- An **Automated Tracking of Safety Incidents** is under development and will be piloted this spring and summer, with implementation *this fall*.
- An **Interactive Voice Response System** with multilingual capability to provide information to our communities quickly in a crisis situation is under development and will be implemented in *April 2008*.

## Time Lines for Development of Comprehensive Response To issues raised in School Community Safety Advisory Panel's report

This appendix sets out the main initial steps in the Director's plan, and the date by which staff plan to complete these steps.

<b>Main step</b>	<b>Completed by</b>
Initiate immediate actions for response to key issues.	Done. (See Appendix B)
Establish Leadership Action Team.  Mandate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop comprehensive analysis of Panel's report,</li> <li>• Coordinate the overall strategy for addressing the Panel's report,</li> <li>• Recommend priorities and timelines for implementation,</li> <li>• Develop implementation plan, and</li> <li>• Oversee the process for response.</li> </ul>	Done.  Co-chairs are Penny Mustin and Uton Robinson
Establish new Safe and Caring Schools Alternative Programs for expelled students.	February
Bring recommendations for an Open Communications Policy to Board.	HRC, February 6 Board, March 5
Evaluate key recommendations affecting staffing for 2008-09.  Bring proposals for staffing (in coordination with SCSAP Trustees' Work Group), for incorporation into Trustee's deliberations concerning budget and staffing for 2008-09.	Board, March 5 (Committee process to be determined)
Bring a progress report to Board concerning work of Leadership Action Team (in coordination with Trustee's SCSAP Work Group)	Board, March 5
Bring comprehensive recommendations for response to the issues raised by the Panel report, and an implementation plan, for approval of the Board (in coordination with SCSAP Trustees' Work Group).	P&P (March-April cycle); Board, April 16
Complete review of policies and procedures related to sexual and gender-based violence, following consultations with school-based staff and administrators, community agencies, police, and other partners.	Consultation completed by May  P&P (May-June cycle); Board, June 25