



## Update on the Creation of an LGBTQ2S Community Advisory Committee

**To:** Program and School Services Committee

**Date:** 4 June, 2019

**Report No.:** 06-19-3683

### Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Update on the Creation of an LGBTQ2S Community Advisory Committee, as provided in this report, be received.

### Context

At a Board meeting on 20 June 2018, Trustees directed staff to report on the creation of a new LGBTQ2S-focused Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to support the Board's decision-making on issues related to the unique needs of LGBTQ2S students, families and staff members.

During fall and early winter 2018, staff reached out to LGBTQ2S communities, including TDSB students, parents and staff members as well as representatives from various TDSB agency partners, LGBTQ2S advocacy groups and community allies, to gauge the level of community support for the proposed CAC. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of establishing an LGBTQ2S-focused CAC, and a number also expressed interest in remaining involved in the process as it moves forward.

On 6 February 2019, the Board voted approving the creation of an LGBTQ2SCAC. Following the process outlined in Operational Procedure *PR 558, Parent and Community Involvement*, a consultation meeting was held in April 2019 with interested LGBTQ2S community representatives to seek more detailed input regarding next steps, including the development of a draft LGBTQ2SCAC mandate and possible terms of reference.

The discussion at the meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> was wide-ranging and very fruitful, with the participants providing valuable insights around the committee's proposed objectives, structure, composition, size, etc., as well as highlighting issues for consideration (e.g.,

intersectionality; the need to include a diversity of voices while avoiding tokenism; etc.). A number of participants expressed interest learning about the statistical and demographic makeup of TDSB's communities in order to better understand the challenges. In terms of next steps, participants discussed the development of an outreach plan to identify potential CAC members. Connecting with hub organizations was suggested, and several individuals offered to provide contact lists.

### **Action Plan and Associated Timeline**

The group agreed that another meeting might be held to allow for further discussion and to provide more information about the issues affecting LGBTQ2S students, families and staff in our school communities. The names of several additional individuals who might be invited to participate in that meeting were also suggested.

A meeting with the group is being arranged to take place before the end of June, where Research Department staff will be invited to share relevant background information to support this process. To ensure that student voice is represented in this process, staff is also meeting separately with a focus group of LGBTQ2S students.

Based on input from the above meetings, staff will work with interested members of the LGBTQ2S community to prepare a draft committee mandate for approval by the Board in September 2019. The first meeting of the LGBTQ2SCAC is being scheduled for September 2019.

### **Resource Implications**

N/A

### **Communications Considerations**

N/A

### **Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)**

List all Board policies and procedures that relate to this matter.

### **Appendices**

N/A

### **From**

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