



Governance and Policy Committee

Report No. 20

GPC:021A

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

4:30 p.m.

Committee Room A, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Manna Wong (Chair), Stephanie Donaldson, James Li, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Chris Tonks

Regrets Trustee Alexander Brown

Also Present Trustees Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Trixie Doyle, Shelley Laskin, Robin Pilkey, Chris Moise and Jennifer Story

Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, Smith and Tonks participated by electronic means.

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. **Status Update on the Policy Review Schedule for the 2018-19 School Year [3711]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 1) presenting a status update on the policy review schedule for the 2018-19 school year.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

2. **P020, Transportation of Students Policy Review: Phase 1 [3709]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 9) presenting a work plan for the review of policy P020, Transportation of Students.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the work plan for review of policy P020, Transportation of Students, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

3. **P017, Purchasing Policy Review: Phase 1 [3708]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 43) presenting a work plan for the review of policy P017, Purchasing.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the work plan for review of policy P017, Purchasing, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

4. **PR597, French Immersion/Extended French: Revised Procedure [3703]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 61) presenting revisions to procedure PR597, French Immersion/Extended French.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

5. **PR518, Admission Eligibility Requirements: Revised Procedure [3705]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 79) presenting revisions to procedure PR518, Admission Eligibility Requirements.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

6. **Information Technology Operating Procedures Update, PR573, Passwords for Network Access Security and PR725, Cyber Risk and Security: Revised Procedures [3699]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 105) presenting revisions to procedure PR573, Passwords for Network Access Security and newly developed procedure PR725, Cyber Risk and Security.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Li

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

7. **PR724, Refusal to Admit: New Procedure [3710]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (GPC:021A, page 119) presenting newly developed procedure, PR724, Refusal to Admit.

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

Part B: Information Only

8. **Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands**

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

9. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

10. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

Nil

11. Delegations

Nil

12. Adjournment

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Sriskandarajah

That the meeting adjourn at 6:43 p.m.

Carried

Part C: Ongoing Matters

13. Written Notice of Motion: Development of a Communications Policy (Trustees Brown and Smith)

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Smith, provided notice of motion of the subject matter for consideration at the next meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee on October 2, 2019.

Whereas, communication and information are central to the effective, inclusive and equitable role that a school board plays in strengthening relationships, promoting transparency and accountability, developing capacity, and for supporting students, educational programs and communities; and

Whereas, student resources, their educational programs and opportunities, human resources and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan have been impacted by provincial funding cuts, there is a need to review and evaluate all Board policies and procedures, including communication plans, goals and strategies; and

Whereas, in spring 2019, as part of the Board's commitment to openness, transparency and accessible communication of information the Open Data website was launched; and

Whereas the Board has embarked on other initiatives to improve communications with the public both internal and external; and

Whereas, in the Annual Report to the Board (2018) the Integrity Commissioner cited that there is a “perceived or real communication gap” with respect to information sharing; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board does not have a comprehensive communication policy;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director develop a communication policy to:
 - (i) develop, promote and maintain accessible, effective, transparent, timely and consistent communication with all internal and external public, including parents/guardians, students, community, and members of the media,
 - (ii) support the Board’s commitment to equity, A Vision for Learning and the mission, values and goals of the Multi-year Strategic Plan,
 - (iii) provide clear expectations for the Director, Chair, senior administrators, school administrators and the Communication Department with respect to all internal and external communications on matters impacting students, parents/guardians, schools, staff and the community;
- (b) That careful review and consideration be given to all TDSB policies, procedures, and practices – whether they directly or indirectly include communications with internal and external public as above – to support this communication policy;
- (c) That communication policies from other school boards/school authorities, publicly funded agencies etc. be part of the policy development process;
- (d) That a period of no less than 90 days be allowed for public consultations – including all TDSB employees, parents/guardians, students, community advisory committees and public electors;

That the Director of Education present a proposed policy to the Governance and Policy Committee in April 2020.

Submitted by: Trustee Wong, Committee Chair

Blank Page