



Program and School Services Committee

Report No. 81

PSSC:083A

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Trustee Members
Present

Trustees Jennifer Story (Chair), Rachel Chernos Lin, Parthi Kandavel, Dan MacLean, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah and Chris Tonks

Also Present

Trustee Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown, Trixie Doyle, Shelley Laskin, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Robin Pilkey and Manna Wong

Trustees Kandavel, Moise and Tonks participated by electronic means.

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee: Terms of Reference

The Committee considered a report from the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee dated December 10, 2019 (see PSSC:083A, page 5), presenting a recommendation regarding revisions the committee's terms of reference.

Moved By Trustee Doyle

Seconded By Trustee MacLean

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the **revised terms of reference, as presented in the report, be referred back to the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee for further revisions.**

Carried

2. Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee: Funding to Support a National School Food Program

The Committee considered a report from the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee dated February 4, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 31) presenting a recommendation on funding to support a national school food program.

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded By Trustee Kandavel

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- a) **That the Chair send a letter to the federal government to urge the government to follow through with its intention to invest in a national school food program, based on the attached draft letter;**
- b) **That trustees be encouraged to meet with their local Members of Parliament to discuss the importance of a national school food program.**

Carried

3. Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Committee considered a report from the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee dated February 4, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 31) presenting a recommendation regarding energy and climate change.

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded By Trustee Rajakulasingam

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

- a) **That the following recommendation from the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee be referred to staff for consideration and further analysis:**
 - i) **that opportunities to work with the partners in the Green Will initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions be explored;**
 - ii) **that, in the report to the trustees in March 2020, the Director report on the update of the current 2019 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan to include an action plan that requires the Board to develop interim targets to reduce GHGs with the goal of becoming net-zero by 2050. Further,**

that this report address not only the progress but also the gaps or lack of progress toward reducing emissions;

- b) That the Director present a report as part of the update on climate change measures scheduled for the March cycle of meetings.**

Carried

4. Inner City Community Advisory Committee: Equity of Access to Programs Considerations

The Committee considered a report from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee dated January 9, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 55) presenting a recommendation regarding equity of access to programs.

Moved By Trustee Pilkey

Seconded By Trustee Doyle

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS that the following recommendation from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee be referred to staff for follow-up:**

Following discussion of the Secondary Program Review, the Optional Attendance Policy review, and the newly proposed Specialized Program Policy (see GPC meeting January 8, 2020) the members of ICCAC recommend the following:

- a) The Board include equity of access to programs for students, including regional access and socioeconomic status, when considering revisions to the Optional Attendance Policy, development of a new Specialized Programs Policy, and any recommendations generated through the Secondary School Program Review;**
- b) The Board consider how it can support the development of ‘local special programs’ in priority neighbourhoods as a part of the development of a new Specialized Program Policy and Procedures; and**
- c) The considerations in parts 1 and 2 be informed by Board Research, including but not limited to access to Program of Choice.**

Carried

5. Inner City Community Advisory Committee: Terms of Reference

The Committee considered a report from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee dated January 9, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 55) presenting a recommendation regarding its terms of reference.

Moved By Trustee Doyle

Seconded By Trustee Chernos Lin

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the revised terms of reference for the Inner City Community Advisory Committee, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

6. Options for Reducing the Distribution of Single-use Plastic Items [3826]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PSSC:083A, page 89), presenting options for reducing the distribution of single-use plastic items.

Moved By Trustee Doyle

Seconded By Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be referred back to staff for a report in the fall 2020 cycle of meetings that contains recommendations for the implementation of the phase out of single-use plastics.

Carried

7. Caring and Safe Schools Annual Report 2018-19 [3841]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PSSC:083A, page 119), presenting the annual report for 2018-19 on Caring and Safe Schools.

Moved By Trustee Doyle

Seconded By Trustee Rajakulasingam

The Program and Schools Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the Caring and Safe Schools Annual Report, 2018-19, as presented, be approved.

Carried

Part B: Information Only

8. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A meeting of the Program and School Services Committee was convened on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 from 4:31 to 7:53 p.m., in Committee Room A, Main Floor, 5050 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario, with Jennifer Story presiding.

9. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee Doyle, the agenda was approved.

10. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

Nil

11. Delegations

The following oral delegations were heard in accordance with the Board’s delegation procedure.

re Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee Report, February 4, 2020

1. Sunday Harrison, Green Thumbs Growing Kids
2. Suman Roy, Foodshare Toronto

re Health and Safety Concerns regarding Occasional Teachers

3. Jamie Withaker, Occasional Teachers Bargaining Unit District 12 (Toronto)
- re Surprise Cut to Palmerston French Immersion
4. Adina Kaufman, Palmerston Avenue Junior Public School
5. Steve Shallhorn, ESCAC Labour Education Centre

12. Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee Report, January 13, 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee dated January 13, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 1).

Moved By Trustee Sriskandarajah

Seconded By Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

**13. Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee Report,
February 3, 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee dated February 3, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 3).

Moved By Trustee Sriskandarajah
Seconded By Trustee Chernos Lin

That the report be received.

Carried

**14. Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee Report,
December 10, 2019**

The Committee considered a report from the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee dated December 10, 2019 (see PSSC:083A, page 5). The report was presented by parent co-chair, Judy Gargaro.

Moved By Trustee Rajakulasingam
Seconded By Trustee MacLean

That the report be received.

Carried

**15. Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee Report,
January 14, 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee dated January 14, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 25). The report was presented by parent co-chair, Judy Gargaro.

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin
Seconded By Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

16. Early Years Community Advisory Committee Report, January 10, 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Early Years Community Advisory Committee dated January 10, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 29).

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded By Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

**17. Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee Report,
February 4, 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee dated February 4, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 31).

Moved By Trustee Kandavel

Seconded By Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

18. Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee Report, January 27, 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee dated January 27, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 35).

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded By Trustee Rajakulasingam

That the report be received.

Carried

**19. French-as-a-Second-Language Community Advisory Committee Report,
January 14, 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the French-as-a-Second-Language Community Advisory Committee dated January 14, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 37).

Moved By Trustee Chernos Lin

Seconded By Trustee MacLean

That the report be received.

Carried

20. Inner City Community Advisory Committee 2018-19 Annual Report

The Committee considered the annual report from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee for 2018-19 (see PSSC:083A, page 39).

Moved By Trustee Rajakulasingam

Seconded By Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

21. Inner City Community Advisory Committee Report, January 9, 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee dated January 9, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 55).

Moved By Trustee Rajakulasingam

Seconded By Trustee Chernos Lin

That the report be received.

Carried

22. LGBTQ2S Community Advisory Committee Reports, December 12, 2019 and January 28, 2020

The Committee considered reports from the LGBTQ2S Community Advisory Committee dated December 12, 2019 and January 28, 2020. (see PSSC:083A, page 67).

Moved By Trustee MacLean

Seconded By Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

23. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Reports, December 17, 2019 and January 21, 2020

The Committee considered reports from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee dated December 17, 2019 and January 21, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 71). The reports were presented by parent co-chair, D. Williams.

Moved By Trustee Doyle
Seconded By Trustee Sriskandarajah
That the report be received.

Carried

24. Special Education Advisory Committee Reports, December 3, 2019, January 13 and February 3, 2020

The Committee considered reports from the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 3, 2019, January 13 and February 3, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 77).

Moved By Trustee MacLean
Seconded By Trustee Chernos Lin
That the report be received.

Carried

25. Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee Report, January 21, 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee dated January 21, 2020 (see PSSC:083A, page 87).

Moved By Trustee Doyle
Seconded By Trustee Sriskandarajah
That the report be received.

Carried

26. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Rajakulasingam, seconded by Trustee MacLean, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

27. Written Notice of Motion: September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month (Trustees Story and Chernos Lin)

Trustees Story and Chernos Lin provided notice of the following motion for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the committee:

Whereas, there is no safe amount, no safe time, or no safe kind of alcohol that an individual can drink during pregnancy; and

Whereas, the term Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) describes the range of disabilities that may affect an individual who was exposed to alcohol in utero/uterus during pregnancy; and

Whereas, prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects, such as physical and mental disability and behavioural, executive functioning and/or learning challenges; and

Whereas, the exact number of people affected by FASD is unknown, but it is estimated that two to three (four to five) percent of the population are born annually with the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure; and

Whereas, the estimated cost of FASD in Canada is \$4 billion per year covering education, health, mental health, social services and justice costs; and

Whereas, about half of all pregnancies are unplanned meaning developing fetuses are inadvertently exposed to alcohol; and

Whereas, people around the world began observing International FASD Awareness Day on September 9 each year beginning in 1999, in order that on the ninth day of the ninth month of the year, the world will remember that during the nine months of pregnancy it is important to abstain from alcohol; and

Whereas, the Government of Ontario officially recognizes September as FASD Awareness Month; and

Whereas, with Bill 44, *An Act to amend the Education Act in relation to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)*, the Province of Ontario provided for board activities to promote awareness and understanding of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including best practices to support pupils who may have FASD; and

Whereas, the Toronto Catholic District School Board decided that it would annually recognize September as FASD Awareness Month and September 9th as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day (FASD); and

Whereas, the health and well-being of students are enhanced by the support of a broad effort to educate about and prevent FASD;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Toronto District School Board annually recognize September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month and September 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Day to:

- i. increase acceptance, accommodation and support for those individuals so affected,
- ii. minimize further effects,
- iii. maximize academic success for FASD affected students,
- iv. ensure healthier communities in the future

Submitted by: Jennifer Story, Committee Chair

Letter in Support of a National School Food Program

To Whom It May Concern:

In its 2019 budget, the Canadian Liberal government announced its intention to work with provinces and territories to [develop a national school food program](#). As the only G7 nation without a national school food program, the TDSB urges the federal government to follow through with the implementation of this pledge.

With 27% of children living in poverty as of 2017, Toronto is the child poverty capital of Canada (TDSB, [Enhancing Equity Task Force Report and Recommendations](#), 2017). It is imperative that the inequities of food security that exist in this city be addressed; the development of a national school food program would be a step in the right direction.

As the consequences of climate change are becoming more widely known and understood, a national school food program would also provide an opportunity to deepen our educators' and students' understanding of environmental sustainability as it relates to a healthy diet and a sustainable food system. Students not only learn from explicit curriculum, but also learn through the "hidden" curriculum (the actual practices and school cultures in which they learn by example and through activity).

This letter was set in motion following a recommendation from the TDSB's Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee (ESCAC). ESCAC was established in 2010 to help inform the TDSB's environmental policies and programming, and is a committee comprised of parents, community partners, Trustees and TDSB staff. The TDSB would support the implementation of a national school food program and encourages the Canadian federal government to develop a program that adheres to the guiding principles of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#) and considers environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

Trustee Robin Pilkey

Chair of the Board, Toronto District School Board

c.c.:

- City of Toronto Members of Parliament

- Minister of Finance, The Hon. Bill Morneau
- Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, The Hon. Marie-Claude Bibeau
- Minister of Health, The Hon. Patty Hajdu
- Minister of Children, Families and Social Development, The Hon. Ahmed Hassan
- Minister of Women, Gender Equality and Rural Development, The Hon. Maryam Monsef
- All relevant opposition critics