



Status Update: Specialized Schools and Programs Policy Development

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 29 September, 2021

Report No.: 09-21-4169

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the status update on the development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy be received for information.

Context

The purpose of this report is to update Trustees on the status of development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy.

On February 5, 2020, the Board of Trustees authorized staff to initiate development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy and approved the Policy Development Work Plan. The new policy will align with the Optional Attendance Policy (P013) and the Alternative Schools Policy (P062). In accordance with the Policy Development Work Plan, staff prepared a draft Policy and initiated public consultations on March 4, 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public consultations were postponed. Staff provided regular updates on the policy development status to the Trustees, school communities and stakeholders.

June 2, 2021- [Status Update on Specialized Schools and Program Policy, Phase 3 to Governance and Policy Committee](#)

After the June GPC meeting, representatives from each of the Advisory Committees were invited on September 23rd, 2021 to discuss a consultation approach to gathering feedback on the Specialized Schools and Programs Draft Policy. This meeting will

inform the final phase of public consultation taking place later this fall with the additional 45 days notification for Community Advisory Committees, Student Senate, unions and professional associations/federations, and members of the public.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

A renewed 45-day consultation will be initiated, and a final public consultation is being subsequently scheduled in late November, 2021.

Feedback from the September 23 Community Advisory Committee Representatives' meeting will be used to structure and shape the consultation process in November; our shared goal is to ensure that meaningful feedback is gathered to inform our work.

Information about the November consultation will be shared in a number of ways: the TDSB website, email invitations to Community Advisory Committees, Student Senate, unions and professional associations/federations, emails to parents, social media communications, and newsletters from the Board, schools and Trustees.

Feedback from the November public consultation will be considered and a revised draft Policy will then be presented to the Governance and Policy Committee and subsequently to the Board in the 2022 winter cycle.

Resource Implications

No additional resources will be required for the development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy at this time.

Communications Considerations

Following Board approval, the Policy will be communicated to the system in accordance with the Policy Development Work Plan and posted on the Board's website.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Optional Attendance Policy (P013)
- Alternative Schools Policy (P062)
- Optional Attendance Procedure (PR545)
- Alternative Schools Procedure (PR584)
- Admission to Specialized Schools and Programs (PR612)

Appendices

Not applicable.

From

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