



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 21, January, 2019

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on January 21, 2019 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the TDSB's Committee Room A, 5050 Yonge St., Boriana Karan, Jonathan Penney and Liam Rodrigues (Co-Chairs) presiding.

Attendance: Stephanie Donaldson (Trustee Co-chair, Ward 9), Grant Fawthrop (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Michael Gurgol (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Boriana Karan (Elementary Parent Co-chair), Denis Lopes (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Patrick Nunziata (Trustee Co-chair, Ward 3), Uton Robinson (Executive Superintendent), Liam Rodrigues (SEED, Secondary Co-chair)

Also present were: Manon Gardner (Associate Director), Diana Grimaldo (Mountview Parent), Bruce Lyne (Alpha II Alternative Parent), Eilena MacIntyre (parent by phone), Eric Mackey (Unicorn Daycare), Lisa Pinto (DAS Parent), Julia Robarts (DAS Parent), Lynn Strangway (Superintendent of Early Years, LN 27 by phone), Rebecca Tucker (parent by phone), Luis Valenze (parent by phone)

The following participated by electronic means: Eilena MacIntyre (parent), Lynn Strangway (Superintendent of Early Years, LN 27), Rebecca Tucker (parent), Luis Valenze (parent)

Regrets: Deborah Adelman (Elementary Teacher Co-Chair), Kathy Keroglidis (Vice-Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Rob Rennick (Inglenook), Manny Moura (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Prafulla Prabhu (Parent Co-Chair), David Smith (Trustee Co-Chair, Ward 17)

Part A: Recommendations

N/A

Part B: For Information Only

Equity Admission: Manon Gardner, Associate Director, was a guest this evening and gave an update of the Elementary Alternative Schools Equity Admission Pilot. The purpose of the pilot is to increase access to alternative schools through specific admission procedures. Following is the email she sent on December 21, 2018 to Principals and Superintendents of Elementary Alternative Schools. Manon read the email at the meeting. Manon mentioned that the initiative was well received by Principals and Superintendents of Education (SOEs). As of January 21, 2019, 10 schools have responded that they would like to participate in the 2019-20 pilot for a year. Research department will be working with the schools and staff will later determine the final status of this pilot.

Mountview Alternative Junior School including Before and After School Childcare: An overview of Mountview Alternative Junior School and the process of relocating were provided. Mountview is a JK-6 school and has an enrolment of about 120 students. The reason for the relocation was because Keele Public School requires the space due to increased enrolment. Moving Mountview out of Keele PS frees up 4 classrooms. Concerns about before and after school childcare were raised. Lynn Strangway, Superintendent of Early Years mentioned that 20 students were required to open a third party childcare centre and for TDSB 28 students are required for extended care. Lynn mentioned that Liz Hoang, Manager for TDSB Childcare Services will be in contact with Mountview parents to discuss their childcare needs. Eric Mackey, owner of Unicorn Daycare, attended the meeting. He mentioned that Alternative Schools are more diverse and that he runs not for profit childcare centres and will be willing to open one in Mountview. Lynn will be given Eric's contact information and will follow-up with up with her team to discuss the specifics.

Review of P062 and Procedures: This was covered when the group talked about Equity Admission. ASCAC mentioned that postings for Alternative Schools should be revised and that the postings should include more information about what teachers may expect when working at an Alternative School. This information would better prepare new teachers for what they are signing onto when joining an Alternative School. For example, unique pedagogy, high parent/caregiver involvement, etc.

ASCAC's Recommendations for P062: There were discussions around the identity of Alternative Schools and how to stay focus on their identity as it is easy to lose that identity. There were also discussions around the traditions of Alternative Schools and questions were raised about how do you let others know where the school is in their pedagogy and there plans of moving forward? Is there a way to build this mechanism into a policy? P062 (Alternative Schools), Section 4.6. states *A process for philosophical reaffirmation, including a review of the unique needs of students, parents and the community, shall be undertaken by each alternative school no less than once every five years.* ALPHA II fought for their identity and has a strong identity due to a strong philosophy.

A member of the committee asked if we could have parents and students make a commitment, in writing, to the philosophy of the school. This is already stated in P062 (Alternative Schools), Section 4.5. *Before enrolling, parents and students shall make a commitment, in writing, to acknowledge and support their chosen alternative school's philosophy, mission, mandate, and unique pedagogy.* It was also noted that at the secondary level, it is difficult to have the student and their parents make a commitment in writing as this is more challenging in that panel. Manon Gardner went through the review process for policies and indicated that she would return with more information after presenting at the Governance and Policy Standing Committee in the spring.

Possible Meeting Dates for the 2019-20 School Year: Liam suggested that September 30, 2019 be scheduled as the first meeting date for the 2019-20 school year. An alternative for the first meeting is October 7, 2019. The second meeting should take place on November 25, 2019. Meetings should not be held in the cafeteria due to the echo when calling into the meeting.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

N/A

Report Submitted by: Uton Robinson, Executive Superintendent

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