



## Program and School Services Committee

### Report No. 84

PSSC:086A

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

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

Also Present Trustees Trixie Doyle, Chris Moise, Robin Pilkey and Manna Wong

All trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

### **Part A: Committee Recommendations**

#### **1. 2020 Summer Programs [3962]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PSSC:086A, page 11), presenting information on participation in various summer programs for 2020.

**Moved By** Trustee Doyle

**Seconded By** Trustee Sriskandarajah

The Program and School Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

**Carried**

**Part B: Information Only**

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

A meeting of the Program and School Services Committee was convened on October 7, 2020 from 4:30 to 5:05 p.m., by electronic means, with Jennifer Story presiding.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

On motion of Trustee Sriskandarajah, seconded by Trustee MacLean, the agenda was approved.

**4. Declarations of Possible Conflict**

No matters to report

**5. Delegations**

No matters to report

**6. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Reports, June 16 and September 22, 2020**

The Committee considered reports from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee dated June 16 and September 22, 2020 (see PSSC:086A, page 1 and 3). The reports were presented by D. Williams, Co-Chair of the Committee.

**Moved By** Trustee MacLean  
**Seconded By** Trustee Chernos Lin

**That the reports be received.**

**Carried**

**7. Special Education Advisory Committee Report, September 14, 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 14, 2020 (see PSSC:086A, page 5).

**Moved By** Trustee MacLean  
**Seconded By** Trustee Kandavel

**That the report be received.**

**Carried**

## 8. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee Rajakulasingam, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

### **Part C: Ongoing Matters**

## 9. Written Notice of Motion: Dismantling Systemic Barriers to Inclusion in Discipline Procedures

Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee MacLean, presented the following notice of motion for consideration at the Programs and School Services Committee meeting on October 29, 2020:

Whereas, the Ontario Government recently amended Ontario Regulation 440/20 of the *Education Act* to remove the discretion of the principal to suspend students in junior kindergarten to Grade 3 for activities listed in [subsection 306\(1\)](#) of the *Education Act*, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year; and

Whereas, positive school experiences in the early years are critical in building a strong foundation for future success; and

Whereas, suspension records that remain on a student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) have the potential to create bias towards children and inhibit their future success; and

Whereas, the 2018-19 Safe and Caring Schools Report outlines the work of this department as being guided by the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan and being focused on the following key actions:

- Identifying trends, patterns and opportunities in past suspension and expulsion data for improvement especially with respect to Black, Indigenous and other student groups overrepresented in student discipline data including those students with Special Education needs;
- Supporting the Caring and Safe Schools team to examine bias, power and privilege as they relate to student discipline process;
- Supporting school administrators in the application of human rights, anti-racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism and anti-oppression principles to student discipline;
- Reviewing Caring and Safe Schools practices to ensure consistency with principles of human rights, anti-racism, anti-Black racism anti-Indigenous racism and anti-oppression; and,
- Providing learning opportunities for more staff to be trained in restorative practices;

And,

Whereas, the work on these goals is yielding significant, positive results. For example, in the last two years, the number of suspensions and expulsions has dropped to the lowest level ever in the TDSB (suspensions have dropped by 24%; expulsions have dropped by 53%); for the first time ever, the rate at which Black students are suspended relative to other students in the Board has decreased. However, there still remains much work to be done to create the safest, fairest and most equitable student discipline process possible;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That all suspensions on student records that would now be in violation of the newly-amended Ontario Regulation 440/20 regarding suspension of children up to and including when children were in grade 3 be expunged from their OSR and the Caring and Safe Schools database;
- b) That staff identify systemic work that can be done to continue the Board's commitment to addressing and interrupting bias and discrimination which may place certain groups of students at a disadvantage based on student discipline records in student Ontario Student Records, including, but not limited to:
  - i. creating a retention schedule for the expiration of suspensions/expulsions on Ontario Student Records,
  - ii. generating a reminder email to principals and to the TDSB Registrar for Student Discipline Hearings for all approaching appeal hearing recommendations by trustees regarding removal of suspensions from OSRs pending positive behaviour, as well as a data-entry column on outcome of recommendations, thereby encouraging follow-through, transparency and data collection of appeal hearing recommendation outcomes.
- c) That staff report back through the annual Caring and Safe Schools annual report.

Submitted by: Jennifer Story, Chair of Committee