

Written Notice of Motion for Consideration (Trustee Pilkey, on behalf of Trustee Donaldson and Trustee Laskin)

From: Denise Joseph-Dowers, Senior Manager, Governance and Board Services

In accordance with Board Bylaw 5.15.2, notice of the following motion was provided at the regular meeting of the Program and School Services Committee on May 5, 2021 and is therefore submitted to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee for consideration at this time.

5.15.2 A notice of motion will be introduced by a member who is present as an advance notification of a matter at Board or Committee, and will be considered at a subsequent Committee meeting. A notice of motion will not be debated at the meeting at which it is introduced...

5.15.2 (b) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a Board meeting, will be referred to the appropriate committee...

5.15.2 (c) A notice of motion submitted prior to, or at a committee meeting, will be considered at a subsequent committee meeting...

Secondary Alternative Schools Program: Staffing

Whereas, in the "Structured Pathways Report" (Parekh, 2013) there is research that states "secondary school students attending alternative schools were much more likely to be at-risk: they were twice as likely to be taking non-Academic courses in Grades 9 and 10, had much lower graduation rates, and much lower post-secondary access, compared to other TDSB students; and yet 72% of students in alternative schools had a sense of belonging"; and

Whereas, many secondary school students, who through circumstances outside of their control become vulnerable and at-risk, deserve to stay in school through the Secondary Alternative School program; and

Whereas, there is concern that the drastic reduction of staff at alternative secondary schools limits the potential for these students to have equitable access to a safe and caring learning environment that leads to a sense of belonging and ultimately, to graduation;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Director provide additional staffing for Secondary Alternative schools to ensure that vulnerable and at-risk students maintain their ability access these programs;
- b) That the cost of implementing Part (a) be included as part of the 2021-22 budget process;

- c) That the resolution at (a) be shared with Secondary Alternative Schools as soon as possible.