



P020, Transportation of Students Policy, and Specialized Schools and Programs Policy Development: Update

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 2 June, 2021

Report No.: 06-21-4107

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the update on the status of development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy and review of P020, Transportation of Students Policy be received for information.

Context

The purpose of this report is to update Trustees on the deferral of the presentation of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy and the P020 Transportation of Students policy.

Specialized Schools & Programs Policy

In June 2019, the Board of Trustees approved a policy review work plan for the Optional Attendance Policy (P013). This Policy review proposes the removal of certain sections including alternative schools as well as specialized programs. As alternative schools are addressed in the Alternative Schools Policy (P062) and admission to specialized schools and programs is outlined in the Admission to Specialized Schools and Programs Procedure (PR612), staff also recommends that further clarity will be provided to Toronto District School Board (TDSB) communities through the development of a new Specialized Schools and Programs Policy. The new Policy will be

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created to mirror the Alternative Schools Policy, in which clear definitions and policy directions for Specialized Programs will be established.

The report was scheduled to be presented at the 2 June 2021, Governance and Policy Committee (GPC) meeting however, due to COVID-19's impact on public consultation timelines, staff are recommending that the Specialized Program Policy be deferred until the fall to allow additional time for greater consultation.

Staff recommend that the report be brought to a fall GPC after the public consultations have concluded.

P020 Transportation of Students Policy

On 24 March 2021, staff presented the P020 Transportation of Students Policy status update and decision-making points for discussion. The report was referred back to staff for further input. Trustees also recommended that staff host a Transportation information session to update them on the current policy around eligibility parameters, and operating and financial impacts of upcoming recommended policy changes.

The report was originally scheduled to be presented at the 2 June 2021 GPC meeting following a trustee information session from the Toronto Student Transportation Group to be held on 31 May 2021. However, staff are recommending that the P020 Transportation of Students policy review be deferred until 29 September 2021 GPC, to allow time for further analysis on impact and costing of different transportation options.

Staff also recommend that the Transportation trustee information session be rescheduled to mid-September 2021 to coincide with the new 29 September 2021 GPC presentation date.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

In Fall 2021 staff will bring forward an update on the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy and P020 Transportation of Students Policy.

Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Communications Considerations

TDSB Policies and Procedures website will be updated with information on the status of the policies. Additional communication will be updated in Fall 2021.

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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