

Regular Meeting

September 27, 2023

A regular meeting was convened at 4:37 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, in the Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street, Toronto and by electronic means, in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#), with Rachel Chernos Lin, Chair of the Board, presiding.

The following members were present: Trustees Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Matias de Dovitiis, Sara Ehrhardt, Malika Ghous, Liban Hassan, Dennis Hastings, Debbie King, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka Rotman, Dan MacLean, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams, Manna Wong, Student Trustee Angelika Bell and Indigenous Student Trustee Ozaawaamukwaikwe Secord.

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, Dawson, de Dovitiis, Ghous, Hastings, King, Laskin, Lulka Rotman, MacLean, Patel, Rajwani, Shan, Williams, Student Trustee Bell and Indigenous Student Trustee Secord participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means, in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

1. Resolution Into Committee of the Whole (Private)

At 4:37 p.m., on motion of Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Aarts, the regular meeting resolved into Committee of the Whole (Private) to consider matters on the private agenda of the Committee of the Whole.

2. Reconvene

At 6:29 p.m., the regular meeting reconvened.

3. Committee of the Whole (Private), Report No. 237, September 27, 2023 (see page 3)

Trustee de Dovitiis, seconded by, Trustee King, moved: **That Items 1 to 4 on Report No. 237 of the Committee of the Whole (Private) be adopted.**

The motion was carried.

4. Recess and Reconvene

At 6:30 p.m., on motion of Trustee de Dovitiis, seconded by Trustee King, the meeting recessed for dinner and reconvened at 7:09 p.m.

5. National Anthem and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

Trustee Chernos Lin recited the acknowledgement of traditional lands, following which, a video of the national anthem by students from Davisville Public School was shown.

6. Approval of the Agenda

During discussion of the matter, Trustee Chernos Lin indicated that she wished to add business arising from a matter raised in private.

Trustee MacLean, seconded by Trustee Dawson, moved: **That the agenda, as amended, be approved.**

The motion was carried.

7. Celebrating Board Activities

(a) Islamic Heritage Month

Trustees Rajwani and Patel spoke about Islamic Heritage Month, which is recognized in October.

(b) Somali Heritage Month

Trustees Hassan, Pei and MacLean spoke about Somali Heritage Month, which is recognized in October.

8. Memorials

The Chair expressed sympathy on behalf of the Board to the families of Paul Keramedes and Mariella Paloma, Board employees who recently died.

A moment's silence was observed in their memory.

9. Chair's Announcements

The Chair extended welcome greetings to the September regular meeting of the Board. The Chair:

- provided an update on the Board's advocacy work at the provincial level for additional funding and supports for students
- recognized September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and spoke about initiatives to mark the day's observance.

10. Reports From Trustees Appointed to External Organizations and Student Trustees

(i) Student Trustees

Student Trustee Bell and Indigenous Student Trustee Secord presented information on the activities of the Student Senate and student trustees, including;

- warm wishes from Student Trustee Zhou during his leave of absence;
- Student Trustee Bell and Indigenous Student Trustee Secord attended and served as Masters of Ceremonies at both the School Administrators' Leadership and the Business and Operations Managers' Leadership events;
- in August 2023, Student Trustee Zhou was appointed as the Golden Horseshoe Regional Representative of the Public Board Cabinet in OSTA-AECO;
- individual updates on work undertaken by the student trustees.

A copy of their report was circulated at the meeting.

11. Director's Leadership Report

Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins welcomed back all staff and students for the 2023-2024 new school year. The Director:

- recognized the 3rd Annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and the 10th anniversary of Orange Shirt Day, highlighting the available resources, offered by TDSB's Urban Indigenous Education Centre, to support critical and informative conversations and learning activities around this day for all classrooms, under the direction of the Elders and System Superintendent, Indigenous Education, Tanya Senk;
- spoke about the innovative program known as STEP to Construction (Specialized Trades Exploration Program), that allows Grade 11 and 12 students to explore three to seven skill trades over one semester, the celebration of the "Tool Day" where 37 students received \$400 worth of new tools from Dewalt Stanley Tools and the Peter Gilgan Foundation;
- spoke about Nodin Outten-Joseph, a graduate from Kapapamahchakwew Wandering Spirit School who was one of two national winners of the Your Voice is Power competition;
- spoke about Ryan Andersen, a teacher at Sprucecourt Public School, who won the Grand Prize from Natural Curiosity; he is one of the three outstanding educators across Canada for their exemplary practice in environmental inquiry through the Edward Burtynsky Award for Teaching Excellence in Environmental Education;

- spoke about the RBC Financial Literacy Academy Pitch Assembly hosted by Weston Collegiate Institute where RBC Executives provided valuable insights into the world of financial literacy for grade 12 students.

12. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

13. Matters to be Decided Without Discussion

Trustee MacLean, seconded by Trustee Williams, moved: **That the following matters presented as matters to be decided without discussion be approved or received, as appropriate:**

- a. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting Held on August 30, 2023**
- b. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 14, September 12, 2023 (see page 9)**
 1. Contract Awards, Facilities [4580]
 2. Proposed 2024-25 Budget Development Schedule [4582]
- c. Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023 (see page 23)**
 1. Annual Audit Committee Reports [4585]
 2. Audit Committee Self Assessment and Assessment of Internal Audit [4586]
 3. Whistleblower Program, 2022-23 [4587]
 4. Internal Audit Department Status Update, September 2023 [4588]
 5. Internal Audit Management 2023-24 Plan [4589]
 6. School Operational Audits, 2022-23 [4590]
 7. Student Information System Data Migration Testing [4591]
 8. Cyber Risk Assessment Process Review [4592]
 9. Regional Internal Audit Team (RIAT) Engagement and Status Update [4593]
 10. Audit Committee O. Reg 361/10 Requirements, Work Tracker [4594]
- d. Planning and Priorities, Report No. 9, September 20, 2023 (see page 45)**
 1. Special Education Program Recommendation Committee Process
 2. Special Education Advisory Committee: Membership
 4. National School Boards Association Conference, 2024: Expense and Presentation Approval [4596]
 5. Intentional Enhanced Efforts to Create Improved Levels of Kindness and Respect
 7. Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement: Endorsement

The motion was carried.

14. Authorization of Leave of Absence of Trustee Malika Ghous (see page 5)

Trustee Ghous submitted a request for an unpaid leave of absence from her position as trustee in order to pursue a candidacy in the November 30, 2023 municipal by-election for Councillor, Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest.

Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Hastings, moved:

Whereas, Trustee Malika Ghous has declared her candidacy in the November 30, 2023 municipal by-election for Councillor Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest; and

Whereas, Trustee Ghous has requested an unpaid leave of absence;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Toronto District School Board authorize the leave of absence, without honoraria, for Trustee Malika Ghous for the period October 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023.

The motion was carried.

15. Planning and Priorities Committee, Report No. 9, September 20, 2023 (see page 45)

Item 3, Provincial Capital Priorities Program, 2023-2024 [4507] (see page 47)

Trustee Dawson, seconded by Trustee Nunziata, moved: **That the list of capital priority projects, as presented in the report, be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education, as part of the Capital Priorities Program 2023-24.**

The motion was carried.

Item 6, Student Nutrition (see page 48)

Trustee Sriskandarajah, seconded by Trustee Rajakulasingam, moved:

Whereas, the recent rising cost of food is leading to greater food insecurity and more students coming to school hungry; and

Whereas, Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program; and

Whereas, research shows that students have higher academic achievement when they have access to consistent nutritious food; and

Whereas, lack of access to nutritional food can lead to behavioral issues with increase in irritability and inability to focus; and

Whereas, access to nutritious food encourages better eating habits and improves both physical and mental well-being; and

Whereas, currently the funding for student nutrition programs are piecemeal and not system-wide;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Director present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee by January 2024 that includes:

- i. the status of nutrition funding and programs in elementary and secondary schools, including the sources of that funding;**
- ii. a brief needs assessment that draws on current evidence about the role of nutrition on growth and development and learning;**
- iii. a proposed strategy to increase students' access to nutrition programs and possible strategic partnerships including Toronto Public Health;**

(b) That the Board endorse the Coalition for Healthy Foods¹ recommendations for the 2024 federal budget, which include funding recommendations for existing and expanding school food programs.

The motion was carried.

16. Business Arising: Status of Child Care Services

At the meeting, the following was added as business arising from a matter discussed in private.

Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee Patel, moved:

Whereas, historically the Board has always supported a seamless day model and provided accommodation and support for child care to be co-located within schools; despite that being said, and

¹ https://e7a651fe-6e96-431d-9a6f-a7fa6f71676d.usrfiles.com/ugd/e7a651_5681c83f7fa842eb86e4fad79a880158.pdf

Whereas, child care is the joint responsibility of the City and the Province;

Therefore be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director present a report by the end of November 2023 on the status of child care services across the TDSB, including an update on the 17 new child care centers announced by the Province from 2017;**
- (b) That the Director work with the City's Children's Services Department to identify inequities of access across the board, such as in underserved areas such as Scarborough and the Northwest, including, scan or mapping of child care services across the city and in the TDSB, based on data from the Board's own sources but also from children's services data from the City of Toronto;**
- (c) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education, Members of Provincial Parliament, the Mayor of Toronto and City Councillors;**
- (d) That the letter at Part (c):**
 - i. explain the concern surrounding the inequities of child care services across different areas of the City of Toronto and particularly in underserved areas such as Scarborough and the Northwest;**
 - ii. express the Board's commitment to improving equity of access in child care across our city, particularly in underserved areas such as Scarborough and the Northwest, and outline the Board's concerns around the delays in Ministry approvals on the 17 child care projects that lead to increased costs and Ministry**
 - iii. benchmarks that do not meet the funding allocated by the Province.**

The motion was carried.

17. Resolution Into Committee of the Whole (Private)

At 8:41 p.m., on motion of Trustee Williams, seconded by Trustee Hastings, the regular meeting resolved into Committee of the Whole (Private) to continue consideration of matters on the private agenda of the Committee of the Whole.

18. Reconvene

At 10:09 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

19. Committee of the Whole (Private), Report No. 237, September 27, 2023

Trustee Lulka Rotman, seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, moved: **That Items 5 to 6 on Report No. 237 of the Committee of the Whole (Private) be adopted.**

The motion was carried.

20. Adjournment

At 10:10 p.m., on motion of Trustee Lulka Rotman, seconded by Trustee Ghous, the meeting adjourned.

Rachel Chernos Lin
Chair

Confirmed by the Board at the meeting held on
November 1, 2023

Rachel Chernos Lin, Chair of the Board

Committee of the Whole (Private), Report No. 237, September 27, 2023

Committee of the Whole (Private)

Report No. 237, September 27, 2023

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole (Private) was convened at 4:38 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 in the Boardroom at 5050 Yonge Street and by electronic means, in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#), with Deborah Williams, Chair pro tem presiding.

The following members were present: Trustees Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Matias de Dovitiis, Sara Ehrhardt, Malika Ghous, Liban Hassan, Dennis Hastings, Debbie King, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka Rotman, Dan MacLean, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams, Manna Wong, Student Trustee Angelika Bell and Indigenous Student Trustee Ozaawaamukwaikwe Secord.

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees A Chernos Lin, Dawson, de Dovitiis, Ghous, Hastings, King, Laskin, Lulka Rotman, MacLean, Patel, Rajwani, Shan, and Williams participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means, in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

1. Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 14 (Private), September 12, 2023

The Committee considered Report No. 14 (Private) of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole).

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that Report No. 14 (Private) of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee be adopted.

2. Audit Committee, Report No. 4 (Private), September 18, 2023

The Committee considered Report No. 4 (Private) of the Audit Committee (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole).

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that Report No. 4 (Private) of the Audit Committee be adopted.

Committee of the Whole (Private), Report No. 237, September 27, 2023

3. Selections, Transfers and Placements of Principals and Vice-Principals

The Committee considered a report from staff (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole) presenting selections, transfers and placements of principals and vice-principals for approval.

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that the selections, transfers and placements of Principals and Vice-Principals be approved.

4. Planning and Priorities Committee, Report No. 9 (Private), September 20, 2023

The Committee considered Report No. 9 (Private) of the Planning and Priorities Committee (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole).

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that Report No. 9 (Private) of the Planning and Priorities Committee be adopted.

5. Private Personnel Matter1

The Committee considered a private personnel matter (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole).

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that the private personnel matter be received.

6. Private Personnel Matter2

The Committee considered a private personnel matter (as shown in the private minutes of the Committee of the Whole).

The Committee of the Whole (Private) RECOMMENDS that the private personnel matter be received.

Neethan Shan, Committee Chair

Adopted on September 27, 2023 (see page 1)

Authorization of Leave of Absence of Trustee Malika Ghous

Letter From Trustee Malika Ghous Requesting a Leave of Absence

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

The attached letter from Trustee Malika Ghous is submitted for the Board's consideration.

In accordance with the *Education Act*, a trustee vacates their seat if they are absent, with authorization by resolution of the Board, as recorded in the minutes, from three consecutive regular Board meetings.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Board consider the request from Trustee Malika Ghous for a leave of absence for the period October 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023.

Authorization of Leave of Absence of Trustee Malika Ghous

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Authorization of Leave of Absence of Trustee Malika Ghous

Appendix A

Subject: Request for Leave of Absence to Run for Councilor By-Election
Malika Ghous
Trustee - Ward 20
647-515-1451

September 22, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally request a unpaid leave of absence from my position as Trustee with Toronto District School Board in order to pursue a candidacy in the upcoming Councilor By-Election scheduled for November 30th, 2023.

I believe that serving as a councilor would allow me to contribute more effectively to our community and address the concerns and aspirations of our residents. This opportunity aligns with my long-standing commitment to public service, and I am excited about the chance to make a positive impact on the issues that matter most to our constituents.

I understand the importance of my role within TDSB and will ensure that my duties and responsibilities are transitioned smoothly during my absence. I am committed to providing ample notice and support in training a temporary replacement. I will also make myself available for any necessary consultations or guidance during my leave.

I anticipate that my leave of absence will begin on October 1, 2023 and continue until December 1 2023 contingent on the outcome of the election.

Please consider this letter as my formal request for a leave of absence, and I am prepared to discuss any further details or arrangements to facilitate this process. Your understanding and support in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to discussing this request with you in more detail and working together to ensure a smooth transition.

Sincerely,
Malika Ghous

Authorization of Leave of Absence of Trustee Malika Ghous

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Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

Report No. 14

FBEC:014A
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
4:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Michelle Aarts (Chair), Matias de Dovitiis, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Dan MacLean, Zakir Patel and Manna Wong

Also Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin, Alexis Dawson, Sara Erhardt, Dennis Hastings, Neethan Shan and Deborah Williams.

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Chernos Lin, de Dovitiis, Laskin and MacLean participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Contract Awards, Facilities [4580]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see FBEC:014A, page 11) presenting contract awards. The Committee received the contracts on Appendix A.

Moved by: Trustee de Dovitiis

Seconded by: Trustee Laskin

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the contact awards on Appendix C, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 14, September 12, 2023

2. Proposed 2024-25 Budget Development Schedule [4582]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see FBEC:014A, page 23) presenting proposed timelines for the development of the 2024-25 operating and capital budget.

Moved by: Trustee Laskin

Seconded by: Trustee de Dovitiis

The Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the schedule for the development of the 2024-25 Budget, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

Part B: For Information Only

3. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee was called to order at 4:32 p.m. with Michelle Aarts, Committee chair presiding.

4. Approval of the Agenda

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

5. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

6. Delegations

re Impact of Metrolinx's Ontario Line Construction Project on Staff and Students' Health and Safety

1. Cara McCutcheon and Amrita Takhar, TDSB Parents, Pape Ave Junior Public School

Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee, Report No. 14, September 12, 2023

7. Contract Awards, Operations [4581]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see FBEC:014A, page 1) presenting contract awards.

On motion of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee de Dovitiis, the Committee received the contract on Appendix A, as presented in the report.

8. Private Matters

At 5:50 p.m., on motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Chernos Lin, the meeting resolved into private to consider matters on the private agenda.

9. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Chernos Lin, seconded by Trustee Aarts, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Michelle Aarts, Committee Chair

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Audit Committee

Report No. 4

AC:006A

Monday, September 18, 2023

4 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Michelle Aarts, Shelley Laskin (Chair), Weidong Pei and Manna Wong

External Members Naveen Balakrishnan and Robin Pilkey

Regrets Joyee Chau

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Laskin and Pei participating in person, and other members present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. Annual Audit Committee Report [4585]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 7), presenting information on the annual Audit Committee report to the Ministry of Education and report to the Board for the year ending August 31, 2023.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts

Seconded By: Naveen Balakrishnan

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that report be received.

Carried

Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023

2. Audit Committee Self Assessment and Assessment of Internal Audit [4586]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 21) presenting information on the Audit Committee's self-assessment and action plan and assessment of the Board Internal Audit Management and action plan.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts
Seconded By: Trustee Pei

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

3. Whistleblower Program, 2022-23 [4587]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 27 and attached), presenting information on the whistleblower program for the year 2022-2023.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts
Seconded By: Robin Pilkey

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

4. Internal Audit Department Status Update, September 2023 [4588]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 69), presenting an update on the Internal Audit department and its projects for 2023.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts
Seconded By: Trustee Pei

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received

Carried

5. Internal Audit Management Plan, 2023-24 [4589]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 77), presenting information on the Internal Audit management plan for 2023-24.

Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023

Moved By: Trustee Pei
Seconded By: Trustee Aarts

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

6. School Operational Audits, 2022-23 [4590]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 87), presenting information on school operational audits.

Moved By: Trustee Pei
Seconded By: Trustee Aarts

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that report be received.

Carried

7. Student Information System Data Migration Testing [4591]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 111), presenting information on testing the migration of secondary school student data on the student information system.

Moved By: Trustee Aarts
Seconded By: Trustee Pei

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that report be received.

Carried

8. Cyber Risk Assessment Process Review [4592]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 117), presenting information on assessing the effectiveness of newly implemented security measures, compliance with procedures.

Moved By: Trustee Pei
Seconded By: Trustee Aarts

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023

9. Regional Internal Audit Team (RIAT) Engagement and Status Update [4593]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 131), presenting an update on scheduled engagements and the RIAT's annual report for September 2023.

Moved By: Trustee Pei

Seconded By: Trustee Aarts

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received

Carried

10. Audit Committee O. Reg 361/10 Requirements, Work Tracker [4594]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see AC:006A, page 149), presenting the work tracker checklist of the O. Reg. 361/10 requirements to assist with the planning of Audit Committee activities and meeting agendas.

Moved By: Trustee Pei

Seconded By: Trustee Aarts

The Audit Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received

Carried

Part B: For Information Only

11. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A meeting of the Audit Committee was convened on Monday, September 18, 2023, from 4:02 to 5:29 p.m., with Shelley Laskin presiding.

12. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Michelle Aarts, seconded by Robin Pilkey, the agenda was approved.

Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023

13. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

14. Election of Committee Chair

In accordance with O. Reg 361/10 Section 6 (1), the Committee elected its chair. Robin Pilkey nominated Trustee Shelley Laskin. A vote was taken, and Shelley Laskin was elected as chair of the Audit Committee for a term ending September 16, 2024.

15. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2023

On motion of Robin Pilkey seconded by Trustee Aarts, the Audit Committee approved the minutes of June 26, 2023.

16. Delegations

No matters to report

17. Resolution Into Private and Reconvene

At 5:18 p.m., on motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Pei, the meeting resolved into private to consider matters on the private agenda.

The meeting reconvened at 5:28 p.m.

18. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Pei, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

1. 2024 Meeting Dates

The Committee heard an update from staff proposing the following dates for meetings of the Audit Committee for 2024:

Audit Committee, Report No. 4, September 18, 2023

March 18, 2024
April 16, 2024
June 24, 2024
December 16, 2024

Following discussion with the Committee, staff undertook to review the schedule and present a revised meeting plan at the next meeting of the Committee.

Submitted by: Trustee Shelley Laskin, Committee Chair

Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing)

Audit Committee – September 18, 2023



Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing)

Audit Committee – September 18, 2023



REFERENCES

➤ **Appendix A**

- Policy P066 Reporting Of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing)

➤ **Appendix B**

- Operational Procedure PR710 Reporting Of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing)

➤ **Appendix C**

- Screen shots from *IntegrityCounts* website related to filing a whistleblowing report



POLICY P066 – REPORTING OF SUSPECTED WRONGDOING (WHISTLEBLOWING)

- In 2016, the *Open Communications Policy* (PO66) was renamed *Reporting of Suspected Wrongdoing (Whistleblowing) Policy* due to the public's request for a Whistleblowing system

- The Policy led to the introduction of a reporting system that:
 - could be used by anyone to raise concerns about suspected wrongdoing of a TDSB employee;
 - ensure reporter has protection against reprisals; and
 - complemented a number of policies and procedures in existence to identify and prevent improper professional activities.



POLICY P066 – REPORTING OF SUSPECTED WRONGDOING (WHISTLEBLOWING)

- A person may submit information related to a suspected wrongdoing by an employee to an external third party through one of the following methods:
 - designated email account;
 - voice mail line; or
 - or mail address.



REPORTING WRONGDOING

Wrongdoing means:

- a contravention of a federal/provincial act/regulation;
- an act/omission that creates danger to life, health, or safety of persons/environment;
- mismanagement inconsistent with laws, regulations, & Board policies;
- financial fraud;
- time theft;
- deliberate non-compliance with Board policies and procedures;
- directing/counseling a person to commit any of the above.



INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECTED WRONGDOING

- The Executive Superintendent, Employee Services, the Director of Education, and the Chair of the Board, or their designates are responsible for investigations
- Each concern is reviewed and assessed to determine if an investigation is warranted



Case Management System

- External third party, WhistleBlower Security Inc.
- The case management system is called ***IntegrityCounts***
- Allows people to confidentially report wrongdoing
- The service includes a 24/7/365 bilingual hotline service and has interpretation capabilities in up to 220 languages;
- The ***IntegrityCounts*** system went live in TDSB on October 31, 2016.



Access and Information

The Whistleblowing contact information is on the TDSB public website and TDSB intranet and includes:

- Links to the TDSB Whistleblowing Policy and Procedures;
- Anyone can report suspected wrongdoing i.e.. Trustees, employees, permit holders, volunteers, students, parents/guardians and the general public;
- Outlines how a whistleblowing report can be filed;
- Lists methods to file a whistleblowing report i.e. web address, toll free number, and email address;
- Addresses questions about submitting a report anonymously;
- Lists the types of suspected wrongdoing that should be reported.



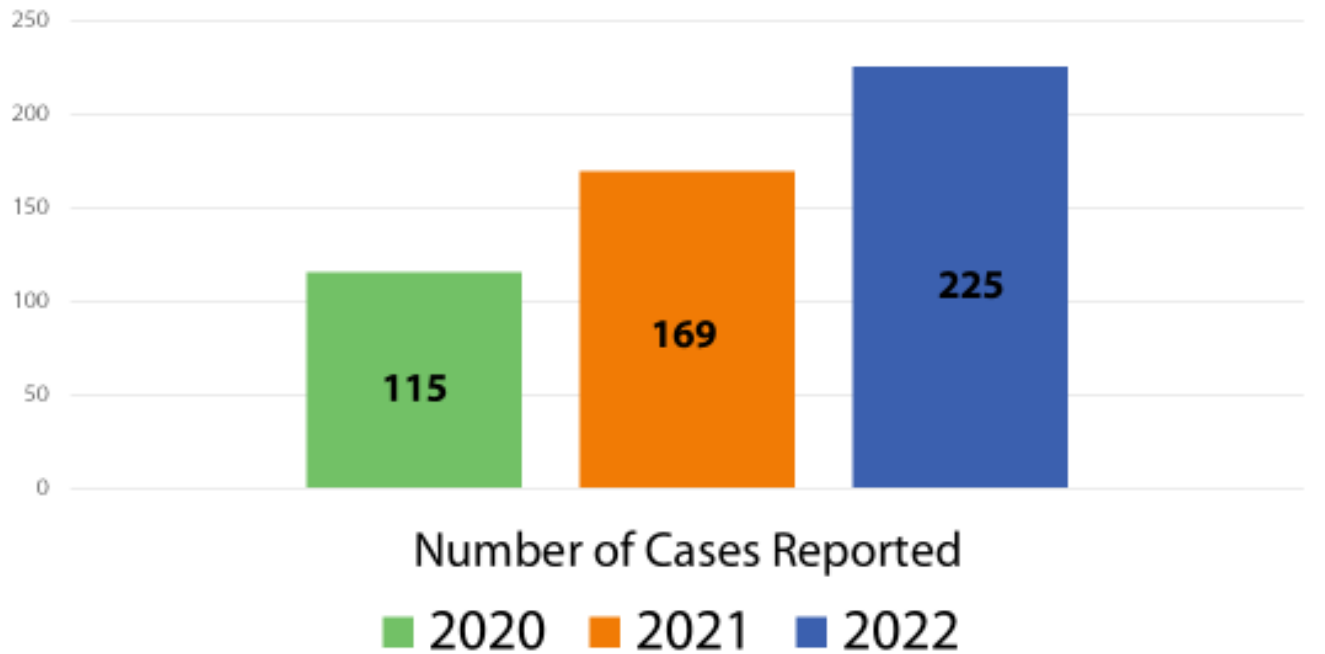
LEVELS OF CONFIDENTIALITY

➤ The reporter can select one of three options of confidentiality:

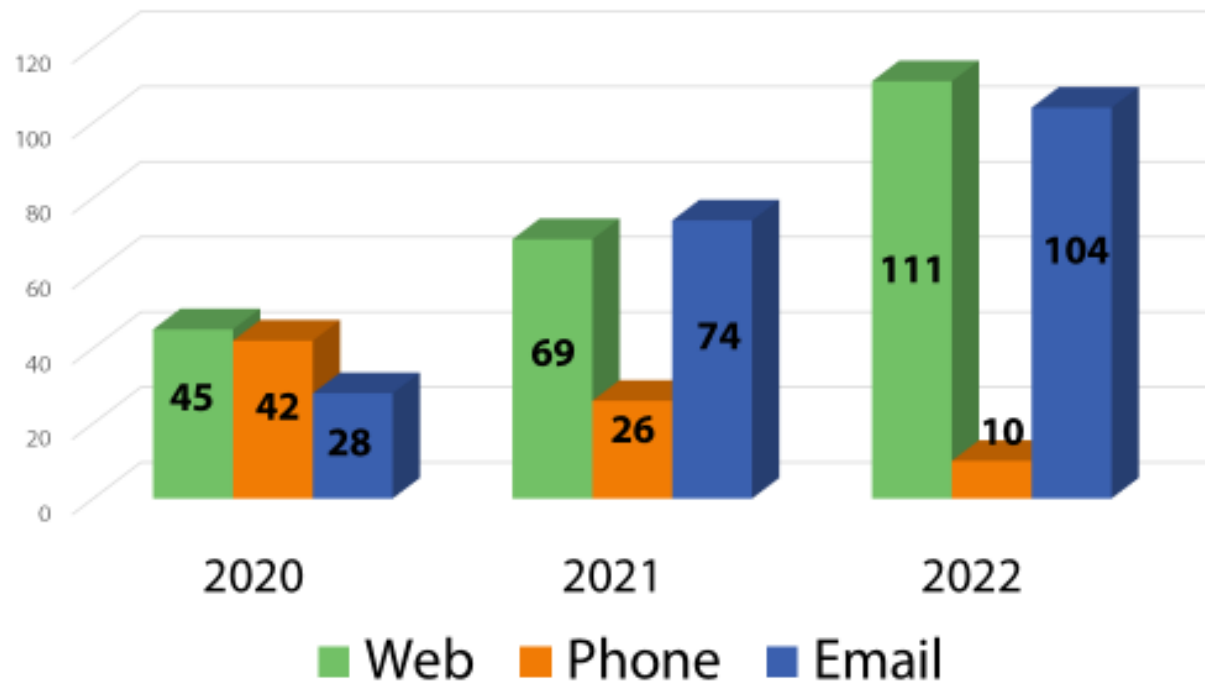
| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Option 1 | Strictly Confidential | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest level of anonymity• Contact information is not provide to TDSB or Integrity Counts |
| Option 2 | Confidential to your Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact information is provided to Integrity Counts but not to TDSB |
| Option 3 | Contact Information Provided | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reporter has provided their information to both TDSB and Integrity Counts |



Total Number of Whistleblowing Cases Reported

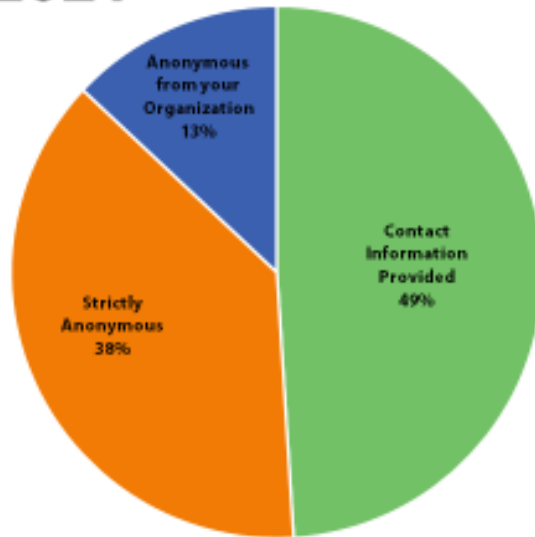


Number of Cases By Method of Reporting



Number of Cases By Level of Anonymity

2021

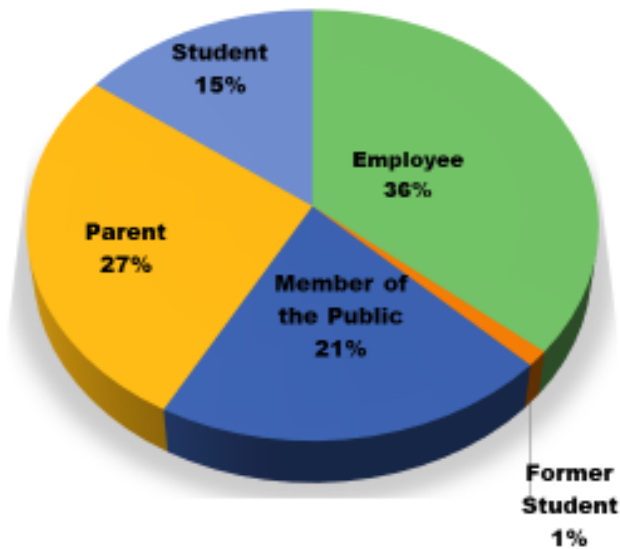


2022

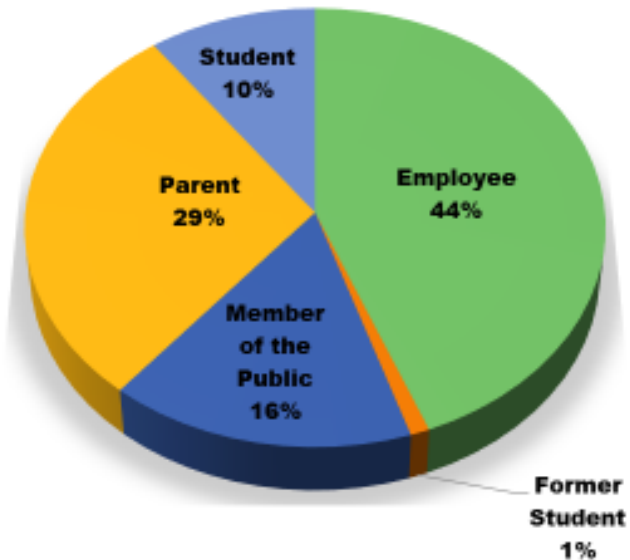


Number of Cases Reported By Source

2021



2022

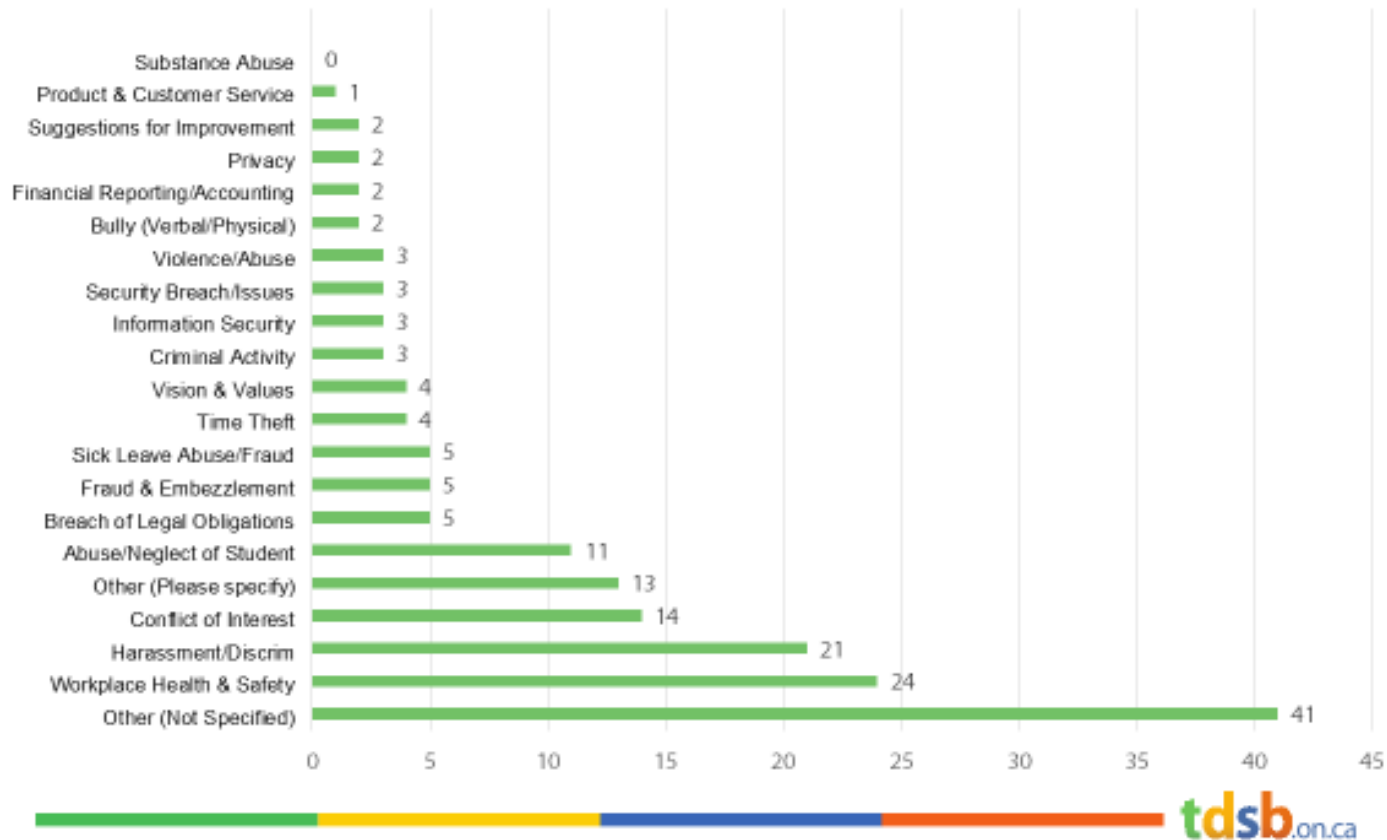


Number of Reports by Location



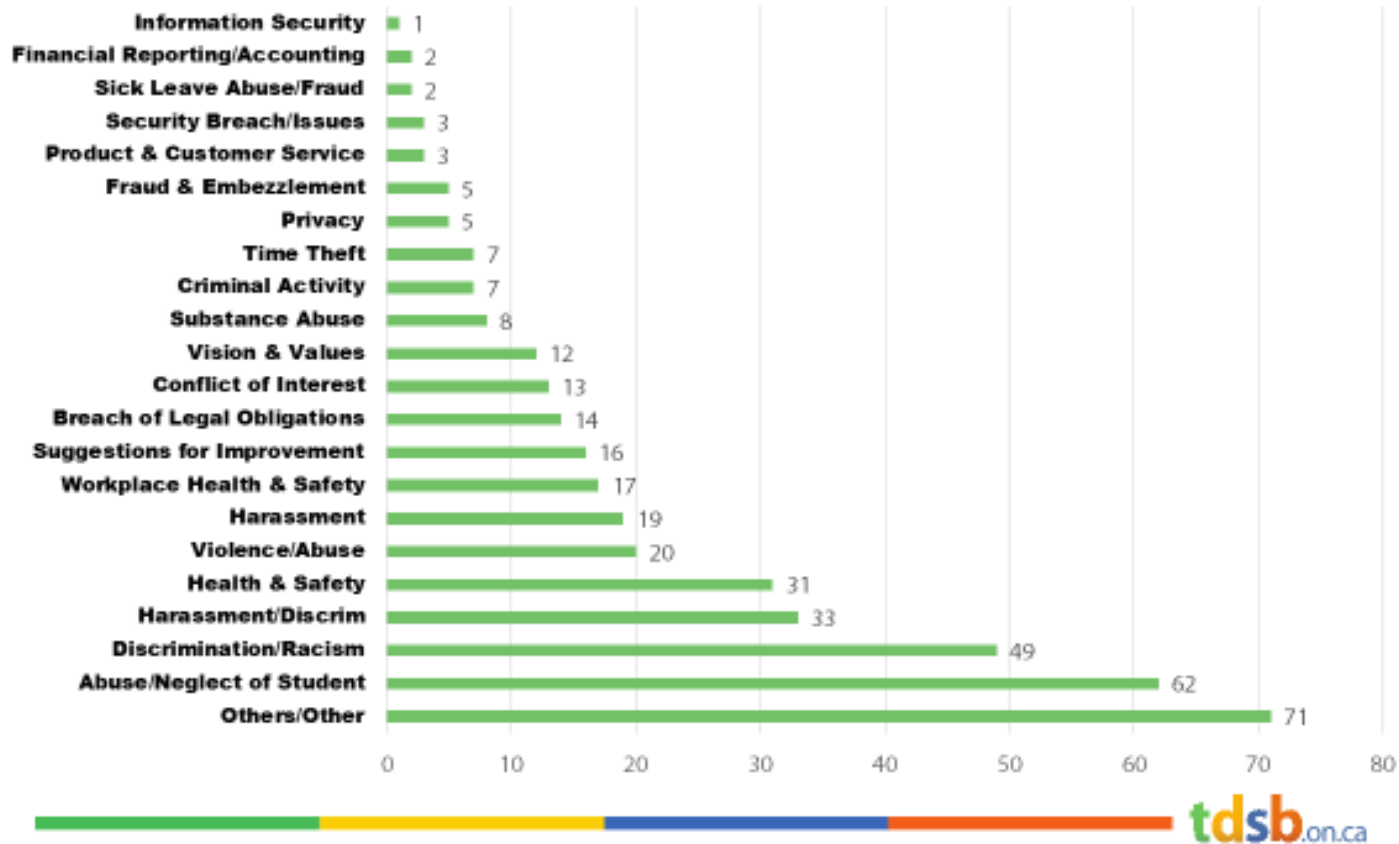
Number of Cases By Type of Wrongdoing
 (the person filing the report can select up to 3 types of wrongdoing)
2021

15

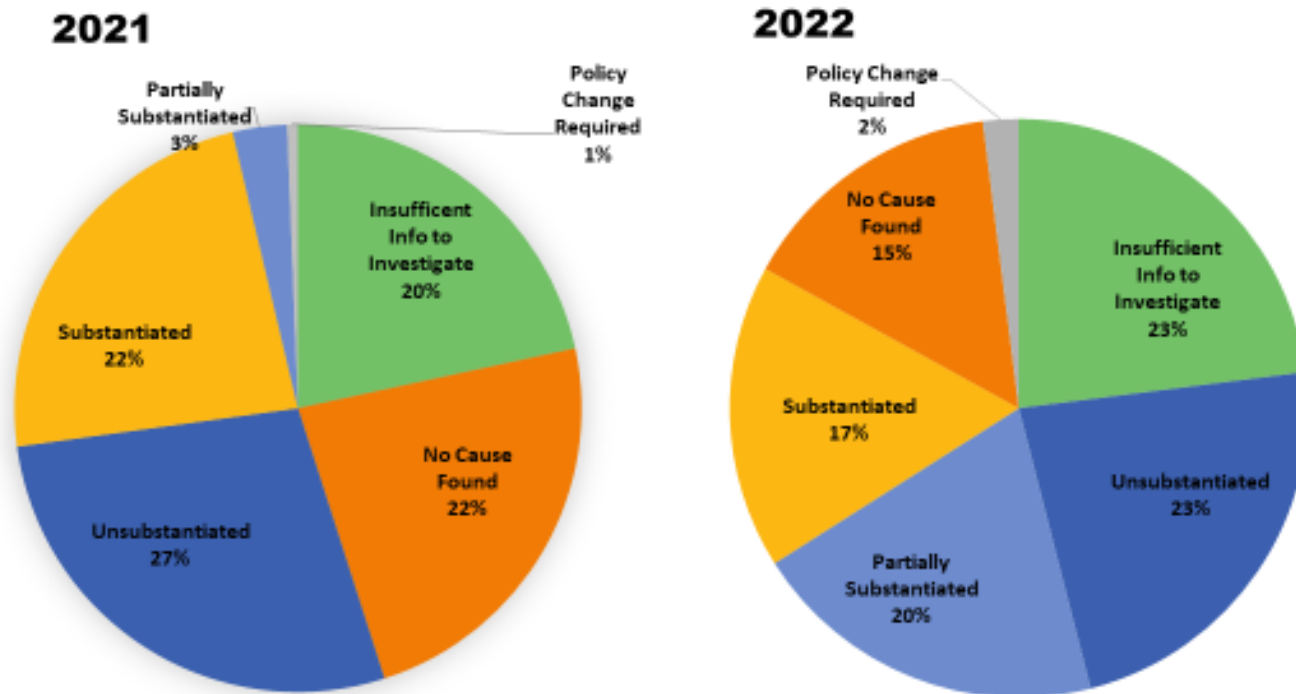


Number of Cases By Type of Wrongdoing (the person filing the report can select up to 3 types of wrongdoing) 2022

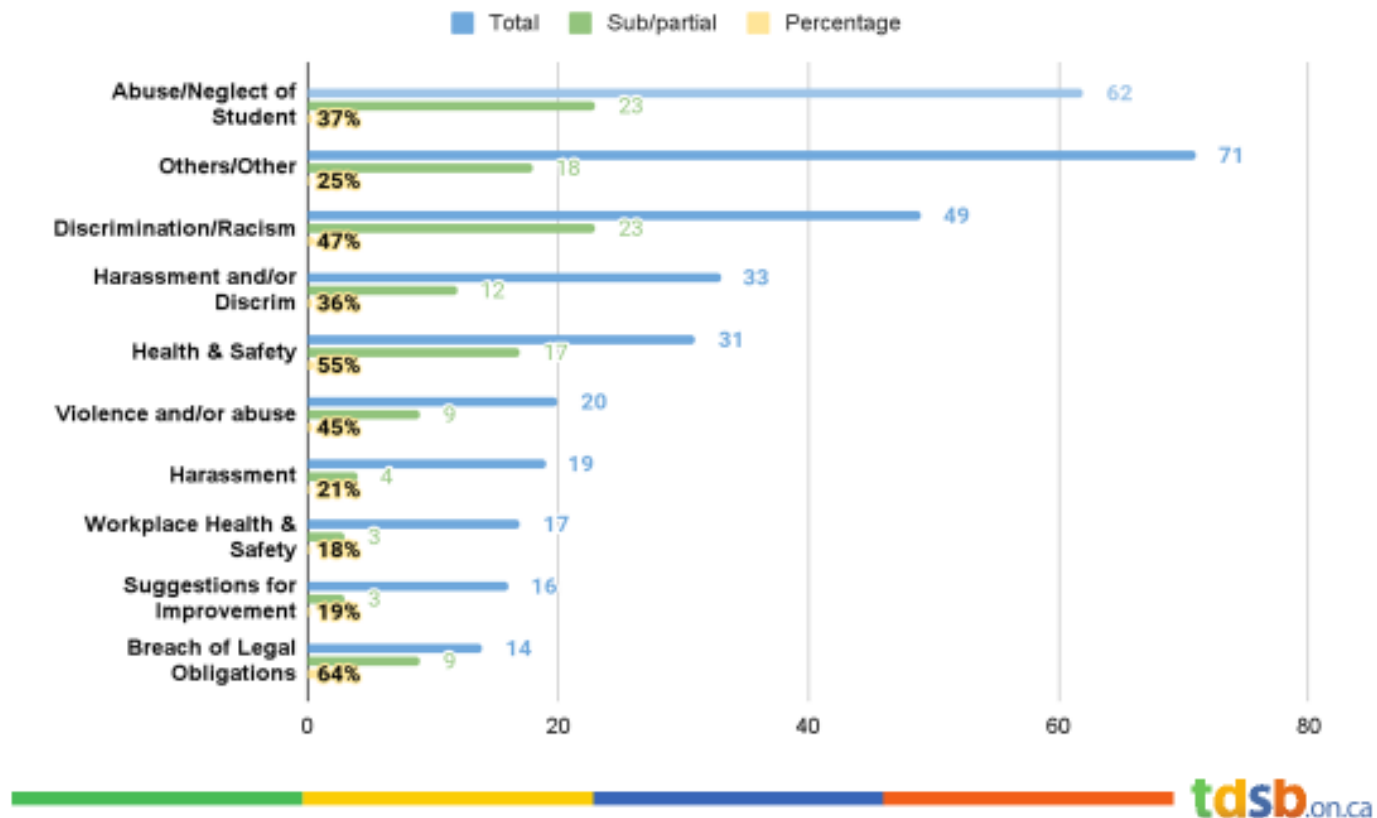
16



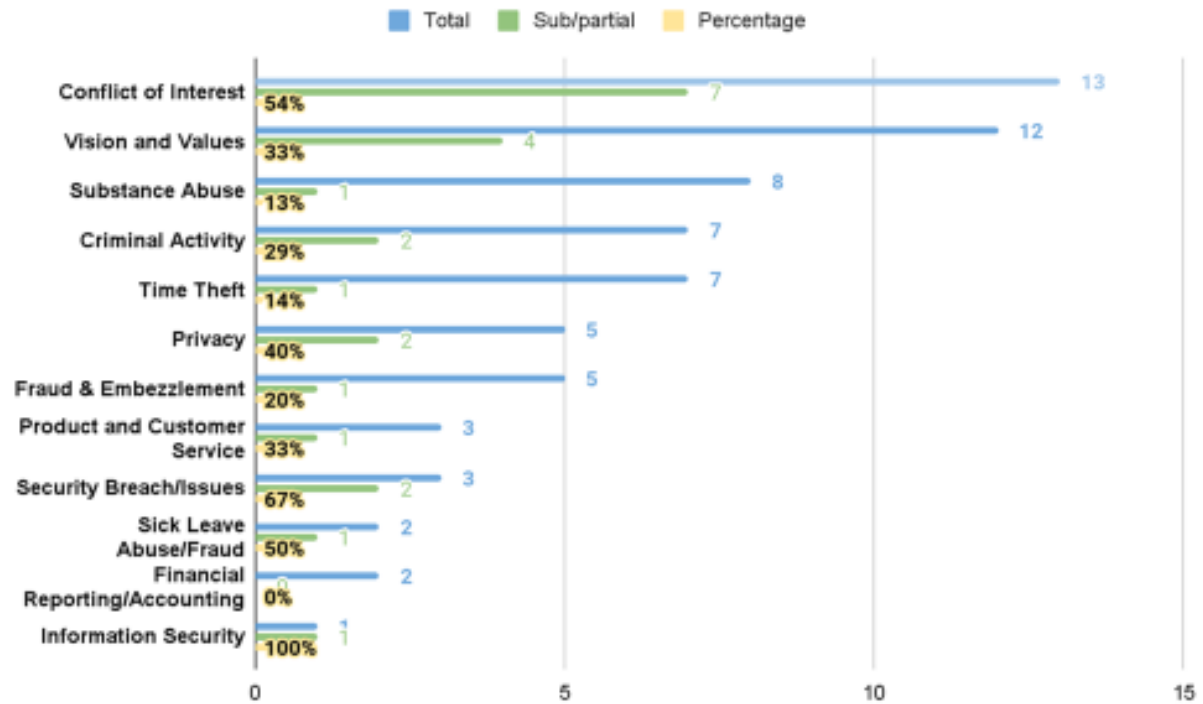
Number of Cases By Report Validation



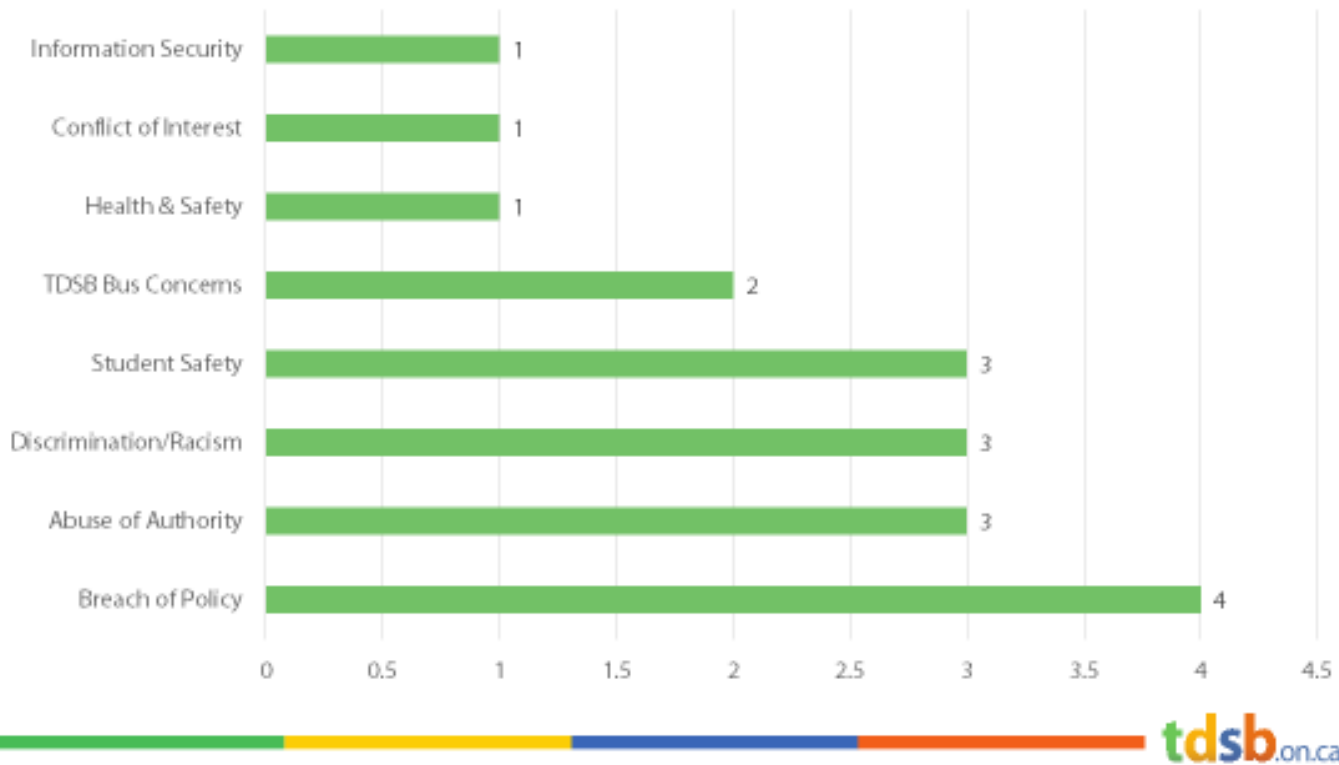
2022 Cases by Type Substantiated/Partially Substantiated

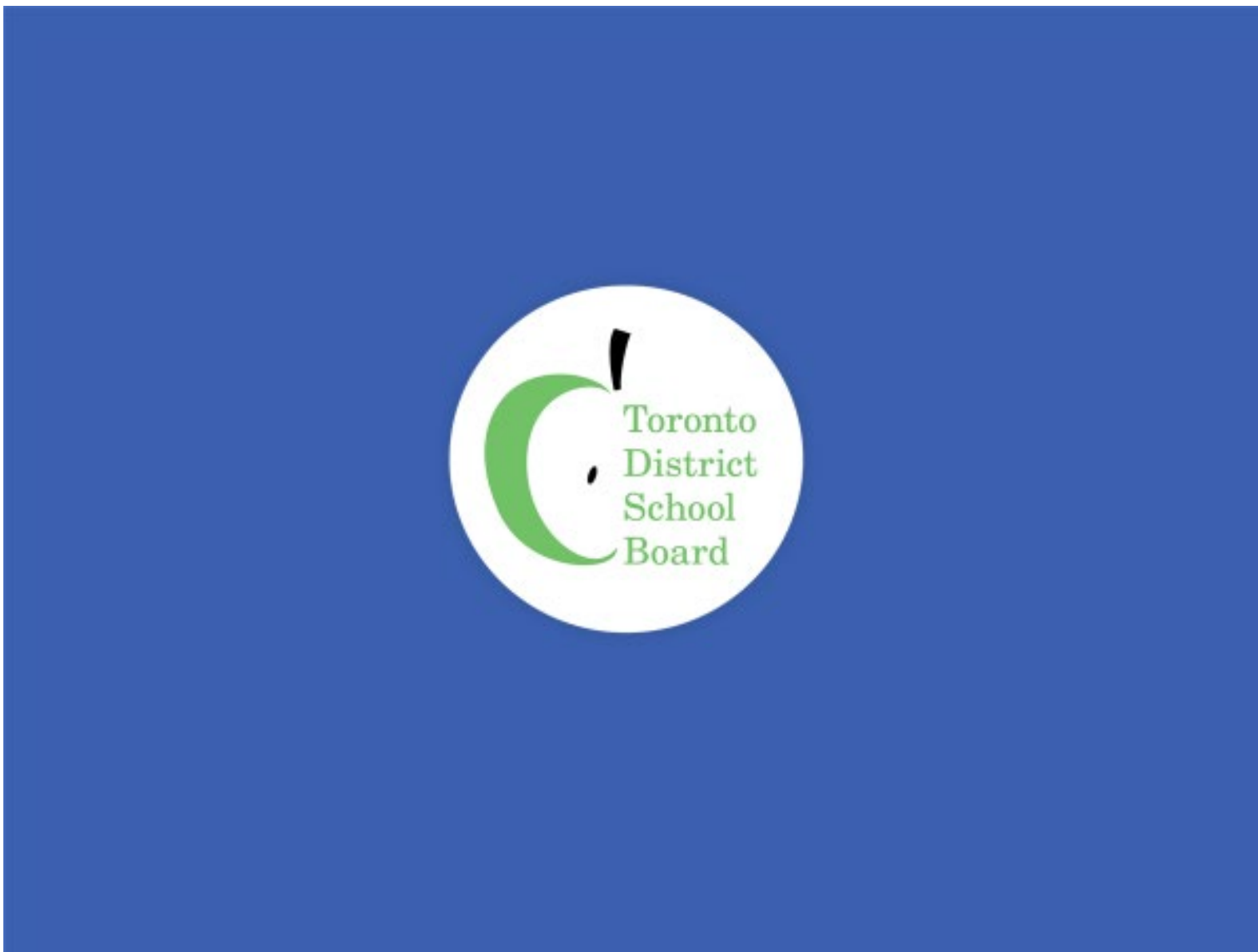


2022 Cases by Type Substantiated/Partially Substantiated



Break Down of Substantiated/Partially Substantiated “Other” Complaints 2022







Planning and Priorities Committee Report No. 09

PPC:009A

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street

Members Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Alexis Dawson, Matias de Dovitiis, Sara Ehrhardt, Liban Hassan, Dennis Hastings, Debbie King, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka Rotman, Dan MacLean, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Weidong Pei, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Farzana Rajwani, Neethan Shan, Anu Sriskandarajah, Deborah Williams and Manna Wong

The meeting was a hybrid model with Trustees Aarts, Dawson, de Dovitiis, Ehrhardt, Hastings, King, Laskin, MacLean, Nunziata, Pei, Shan and Williams participating in person, and other trustees present participating by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

PART A: Committee Recommendations

1. Special Education Program Recommendation Committee Process

The Committee considered a report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (see PPC:009A, page 1), presenting a recommendation regarding the Special Education Program Recommendation Committee Process. The report was presented by the SEAC co-chair Jean-Paul Ngana.

Moved by: Trustee Laskin

Seconded by: Trustee Chernos Lin

Planning and Priorities Committee, Report No. 9, September 18, 2023

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

That the following be referred to staff to communicate with SEAC the Board's plan for reviewing the Special Education Program Recommendation Committee (SEPRC) process and the direction of the TDSB with regards to this process upon completion of the review:

- 1) That the Board ask the Director of Education to eliminate recent restrictions on access to SEPRCs, which currently limit SEPRC availability only to students with extremely complex medical needs, so that instead parents of students with any special education needs who wish to utilize the SEPRC Process before their child's enrollment in TDSB will be allowed to do so, to enable them to arrange for necessary special education supports, identification, and/or placement to be in place for their child's first day of school in TDSB.
- 2) SEAC further recommends that the SEPRC section of the Special Education Plan be appropriately amended to reflect the changes set out above; and
- 3) SEAC further recommends that the Board ask the Director of Education to promptly process any outstanding SEPRC requests, and, if necessary, for families seeking the SEPRC Process, to expedite SEPRC/IPRC processing before, on, or very shortly after the first day of school in September.

Carried

2. Special Education Advisory Committee: Membership

The Committee considered a report from the Special Education Advisory Committee (see PPC:009A, page 1), presenting recommendations on the Committee's membership. The report was presented by committee co-chair, Jean-Paul Ngana.

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Williams

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, Jana Girdauskas has resigned as the community representative for LC4; and

Whereas, there is a role change for the Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter) representatives;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) **That Leo Lagnado be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as the representative for the Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter) for a term ending November 14, 2026;**

- (b) That Julie Diamone be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as the alternate representative for the Autism Society of Ontario (Toronto Chapter) for a term ending November 14, 2026.**

Carried

3. Provincial Capital Priorities Program 2023-2024 [4597]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 5), presenting information on the Board's proposal to support urgent pupil accommodation needs through the Ministry of Education's 2023-24 Capital Priorities program.

Moved by: Trustee Laskin
Seconded by: Trustee Pei

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the list of **Capital Priority projects, as presented in the report, be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education as part of the Capital Priorities Program 2023-24.**

Carried

4. National School Boards Association Conference, 2024: Expense and Presentation Approval [4596]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PPC:009A, page 23), presenting expense approval for the participation of Trustees Laskin and Chernos Lin in the 2024 National School Boards Association conference, in accordance with section 6.3.3 of Governance Procedure PR582(b), Trustee Expense.

Moved by: Trustee Dawson
Seconded by: Trustee Pei

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the request from **Trustees Shelley Laskin and Rachel Chernos Lin to attend and present at the National School Boards Association 2024 Annual Conference and Exposition from April 6 to 8, 2024 in New Orleans, USA, as presented in the report, be approved.**

Carried

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5. Intentional Enhanced Efforts to Create Improved Levels of Kindness and Respect

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Ehrhardt

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, some students and staff are still suffering the effects of the pandemic; and

Whereas, some students and staff are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing; and

Whereas, decreasing levels of respect, compassion and civility can create some challenging environments for students, educators and administrators; and

Whereas, incidents of bullying, hate and racism persist at TDSB schools;

Therefore, it be resolved:

(a) That the Director present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee in the fall 2023, providing effective practices learned from a jurisdictional scan, system data and evidence illustrating trends of respect, compassion, citizenship, well-being and belonging;

(b) That the report at Part (a) inform the work of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan with the intention to support students and staff.

Carried

6. Student Nutrition

Moved by: Trustee Sriskandarajah

Seconded by: Trustee Rajakulasingam

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, the recent rising cost of food is leading to greater food insecurity and more students coming to school hungry; and

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Whereas, Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program; and

Whereas, research shows that students have higher academic achievement when they have access to consistent nutritious food; and

Whereas, lack of access to nutritional food can lead to behavioral issues with increase in irritability and inability to focus; and

Whereas, access to nutritious food encourages better eating habits and improves both physical and mental well-being; and

Whereas, currently the funding for student nutrition programs are piecemeal and not system-wide;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(c) That the Director present a report to the Planning and Priorities Committee by January 2024 that includes:

- iv. the status of nutrition funding and programs in elementary and secondary schools, including the sources of that funding;**
- v. a brief needs assessment that draws on current evidence about the role of nutrition on growth and development and learning;**
- vi. a proposed strategy to increase students' access to nutrition programs and possible strategic partnerships including Toronto Public Health;**

(d) That the Board endorse the Coalition for Healthy Foods² recommendations for the 2024 federal budget, which include funding recommendations for existing and expanding school food programs.

Carried

At the Committee meeting, Part (b) was added on amendment of Trustees Ehrhardt and Dawson.

¹ https://e7a651fe-6e96-431d-9a6f-a7fa6f71676d.usrfiles.com/ugd/e7a651_5681c83f7fa842eb86e4fad79a880158.pdf

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7. Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement: Endorsement

Moved by: Trustee Dawson

Seconded by: Trustee King

The Planning and Priorities Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) was established by the City of Toronto to advocate on behalf of the City’s youth; and

Whereas, in 2021 the Toronto District School Board joined other school boards in supporting TYC’s call to the Ministry for free menstrual products across Ontario schools; and

Whereas, TYC is currently working to address a rising mental health crisis facing students in Ontario; and

Whereas, TYC has also launched calls for a universal free school breakfast and lunch program across Ontario schools and is seeking the Toronto District School Board’s support in endorsing TYC’s statement and calls to the Ministry of Education for action (see Appendix A);

Whereas, on February 1, 2023, the Board decided “inter alia”

That the Chair write to the appropriate Ministries within the provincial and federal governments to highlight the immediate need for support for student nutrition and request increased funding, and reiterate calls for a fully-funded, national school food program and programs that address food insecurity;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Chair write a letter to the Ministry of Education endorsing the attached statements from Toronto Youth Cabinet^{3,4}.

- i. regarding rising mental health crisis facing children and youth in Ontario;**
- ii. regarding rising food insecurity facing children and youth in Ontario.**

Carried

² [TYC Statement on Student Mental Health.pdf](#)

³ [TYC Joint Statement on Addressing Food Insecurity.pdf](#)

Part B: Information Only**4. Call to Order and Acknowledgment of Traditional Lands**

A meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee was convened on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, from 4:32 to 10:52 p.m., with Neethan Shan presiding.

5. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Laskin, seconded by Trustee Pei, the agenda was approved.

6. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

Trustee Dawson declared a possible conflict of interest regarding a matter on the private agenda. The trustee was not present for the discussion and vote on the matter in private.

7. Delegations**re Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – TDSB Awareness and Training**

1. Chelsey Mikulic-Frye, Surrey Place; Arlene Chaves, Education Community Partnership Program (ECPP) Summer Program; and Ab Velasco, Parent of a TDSB student with FASD

re Special Education Program Recommendation (SEPRC)

2. Michael Danishevsky, TDSB parent
3. Betty D., TDSB community member

re Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement: Endorsement (Trustees Dawson and King)

4. Stephen Mensah, Executive Director, Toronto Youth Cabinet

10. Report From Trustees Appointed to the Ontario Public School Board's Association

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The Committee received an update on the activities of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

8. Private Matters

At 7:28 p.m., on motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Laskin, the meeting resolved into private session to consider matters on the private agenda.

9. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee de Dovitiis, seconded by Trustee Chernos Lin, the meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

10. Written Notices of Motion

Trustees Hassan and Dawson provided notice of the following for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee:

Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation

Whereas, [Somali Heritage Week Act, 2020](#) recognizes the week of June 25 through July 1 as Somali Heritage Week in the Province of Ontario to celebrate the economic, political, social and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Ontario society; and

Whereas, Somali Heritage Week also includes the celebration of significant anniversaries in the Somali community that marks the histories of independence and freedom in Somali territories in Africa from colonialism; and

Whereas, since June 2016, the Toronto District School Board celebrated the month of October as Somali Heritage Month as part of the Board's efforts to educate students, parents and staff on the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community and its contributions of excellence to the education system; and

Whereas, a significant number of students learning at schools within the Toronto District School Board are of Somali descent living in all parts of the City of Toronto; and

Whereas, for over 40 years, the Somali community in Toronto has advocated for the establishment of a Somali cultural centre that serves as a community hub for the development and enrichment of Somali communities across the City of Toronto; and

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Whereas, the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation continues to provide the key leadership, on behalf of the diverse Somali community, to establish and develop a cultural centre in Toronto that will serve the programming needs of Somali children and youth, including learning enrichment services, while also being a hub that preserves and celebrates the rich contribution and histories of Somali communities; and

Whereas, in July 2022, with incredible momentum and promise, the Toronto City Council unanimously passed [Motion MM47.29](#) that commits to the establishment of a Somali community cultural and recreation centre in Toronto; and

Whereas, in December 2022, the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation in partnership with the University of Toronto's Infrastructure Institute at the School of Cities released a report entitled [Inhibited Growth: Examining Public Investment Gaps in Black Infrastructure Needs](#) that identified the significant public investment disparities in social infrastructure for Black communities in Toronto that also disproportionately impacts Somali communities in Toronto; and

Whereas, the report included a strong call to action for public entities (*e.g.*, *school boards*), private, and non-profit stakeholders to support the creation of the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation as part of meeting the growing needs of the Somali community; and

Whereas, the establishment of the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation is supported by the federal, provincial and municipal governments and many other elected officials; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board affirms the needs of the Somali community and has been a long-standing community development partner through dedicated initiatives for the advancement of high-quality education, community recreational programming and through equity initiatives to tackle anti-Black racism and Islamophobia; and

Whereas, in August 2023, the Director of Education sent a letter of endorsement to the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation, in support of its mission;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Toronto District School Board endorse the establishment and development of community space for a Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation;

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- b) That the Chair write a letter of support to the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation regarding the establishment of a centre at Part (a);
- c) That the Chair write a letter of support to the provincial and federal Ministers of Infrastructure to continue supporting this critical initiative for the Somali community;
- d) That the Director of Education, explore available opportunities to develop a partnership with the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation which will be a focal point for Somali creativity, community work, recreation, and for archiving Somali culture and heritage in Canada with the goal of enhancing the academic success, well-being, and engagement of Somali students and to contribute to the education of all TDSB students;
- e) That the Director of Education present a report to the Program and School Services Committee once programs and/or partnerships have been established.

Trustees Laskin and Chernos Lin provided notice of the following for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Planning and Priorities Committee:

Ontario Human Rights Commission's Request for a Provincial Anti-Hate Strategy

Whereas, on April 26, 2023, Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire published an [Opinion Editorial on TVO.org: Anti-hate](#), calling for a *“well-resourced province wide anti-hate strategy that will galvanize and support public action”*; and

Whereas, last month, the OHRC repeated the urgent need for a *“comprehensive, province-wide anti-hate strategy to address the significant rise in hate”*; and

Whereas, on September 12, 2023, the OHRC issued a statement - [No Room for Hate in Schools](#) which states in part: *“Hate is incompatible with a free, just and peaceful society where values of compassion, belonging, and respect are the norm. The OHRC reiterates its call for a province-wide anti-hate strategy and remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to promoting and advancing human rights in Ontario”*; and

Whereas, on February 13, 2023, the Federal government produced a Fact Sheet providing an overview of Canada's new [Anti-Racism Strategy and Canada's first ever Action Plan on Combatting Hate \(CAPCH\)](#); and

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Whereas, in response to incidents of hate within our schools, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) over the next two years is in the process of actively and intentionally creating an *Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Strategy* that takes intersectional and systemic approaches with student success as the primary focus; and

Whereas, understanding the lived experiences of students and community members is an important principle behind the development of the strategy and as such, TDSB will engage communities, students and staff in the creation of specific action plans to address the most prevalent forms of hate; and

Whereas, how the TDSB addresses specific forms of hate, racism, and discrimination needs coherency, community partnership, and cross collaboration within the diverse groups impacted;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- a) That the Chair write to Hon. Minister Michael D Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism of Ontario, affirming the Toronto District School Board's support for the Ontario Human Rights Commission's request for a province-wide, well-resourced anti-hate strategy;
- b) That in developing the strategy, the province initiate a review of all policy, regulatory and legal mechanisms for identifying, defining and addressing hate so it reflects the most recent current evidence, practices, and human rights policies;
- c) That this multi-faceted approach, as per the OHRC ask, involve government, public sector institutions and civil society alike;
- d) That the province initiate the development of the strategy without delay and consult with the OHRC and other qualified experts in human rights and anti-hate, as well as school boards and professional associations in education (e.g., CODE, OPC, OCT, OPSBA), municipalities (e.g., AMO), law enforcement agencies and community organizations;
- e) That the Ontario Human Rights Commission, City of Toronto, Ontario School Boards Association and all MPPs be copied on the letter;
- f) That the letter include a request for a reply by October 27, 2023.

Submitted by: Neethan Shan, Chair pro tem