



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: Alternative Schools Advisory Committee
 Date/Time: Thursday, April 16th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (6:30 dinner, Cm. Rm. A);
 Location: Committee Room A, 5050 Yonge Street, 1st Floor
 Committee Co-Chairs: Kowthar Omar & Liam Rodrigues, Caillie Feldman (Student Co-chair)

Present: Chair Kowthar Omar; Chair Liam Rodrigues; Adam Faux (Parent); Caillie Feldman (Student);
 Rebecca Holzman (Parent); Ravi Negi (Teacher); Mark M' Quillan(Parent); Beth Coleman(Parent);

TDSB: Manon Gardner (staff); Grant Fawthrop (Principal); Pamila Matharu (Staff)

Recorder: Manalo, John (Parent and Community Engagement Office)

MINUTES

#	ITEM	LEAD	MOTION/ RECOMM ENDATIO N
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs Introductions were done.	
2.	Approval of Quorum	Co-Chairs Quorum of 7 was achieved.	
3.	Declaration of Possible Conflict of Interest	Co-Chairs None declared.	
4.	Approval of Agenda	Co-Chairs Agenda was approved by consensus.	
5.	Approval of Minutes - Feb, 2015	Co-Chairs Minutes were approved by consensus. Transitions could be smoother in preventing delays of reports to PSSC.	
6.	Parent Co-Chair – Interim, New for 2015/16	Co-Chairs Recruitment for parent co-chair continues. Planning to announce as new parent co-chair for 2015/16. Elections will be announced next meeting. Farewell to Martha Wheaton as she has other commitments. Action to CA: update members list	Action to CA: see minutes

<p>7.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Updates</p> <p>EQAO Policy Changes in writing</p>	<p>Manon Gardner</p> <p>EQAO: EQAO writing guidelines for Gr.3,6 is from Ministry. Exemptions rules are outlined therein. Please find the link to the EQAO document relating to exemptions;The specific information can be found on page 13: http://www.eqao.com/pdf_e/06/06P017e.pdf</p> <p>Staffing: Staffing in schools was received last week: enrollments and teachers numbers are up for secondary school in the East: there are two allocations for VP in the east secondary alternative. Two more schools are being added to East Alternative School regions: Avondale Alt Sec. and Subway Alt (within Eastern Commerce).</p> <p>Alternative School Campus: Willing to work with the Alt. schools campus idea, where students can do courses between alt. schools where the teachers and programs provide course offerings. Attendance and grade marks appear to be improved with small group of students. Manon began the conversation with Employee Services on how to support this staffing with the idea of a central hiring pool.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Follow Up:</p> <p>1) Trustee Letter re: ASAC 2) Pathways 3)Elementary & Secondary bridge</p>	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>1. Trustee Letter on the Pathways transition: It is asking the Board and Ministry to acknowledge the Alternative pathway for the students between elementary and secondary alt school; to protect the K-12 pathway, jobs for teachers, entry into alt. school at any grade level, and not bound by curriculum. Manon suggested that the letter be given to trustees, but the Ministry would not do anything.</p> <p>2. Pathways: Introduce in the newsletter a pathway for the students who come from outside programs back into schools Students want to know what the differences are between alt school and how to students navigate the system as a pathway. Students not getting information from school staff or guidance, no connections, except through friends.</p> <p>Questions: How do we reach out to potential students?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) PD for guidance counsellors 2) Alt school fair where students are invited to learn about the alt schools to Gr.6-9 3) Pamphlet and website on Alt. Schools. 4) Flag students who have a drop in attendance in middle school grades. 	

		<p>3. Elementary and Secondary Bridge: To be communicated next meeting.</p>	
9.	Marketing Awareness	<p>Co-Chairs Chair Kowthar is proposing a liaison between itinerant guidance counsellors and Alternative schools students.</p> <p>**It was suggested that students who attend alternative schools to tour the other schools to speak on alternative schools.</p>	Strategic Development
10.	<p>Proposal</p> <p>1) Alternative Schools Fair</p> <p>2) Single Guidance Counsellor or liaison</p>	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>1. Alternative Schools Fair: A fair or festival or noon day rave to share information. Need to decide the time to ensure higher attendance. Need to decide the location that is small or public.</p> <p>Action for Committee Assistant: To ask Communications dept. for marketing support for a festival in Alternative schools.</p> <p>2. Single Guidance Counsellor or Liaison: Manon offered to invite the Principal of the Guidance Counsellors, to come and speak to the recommendation of a single guidance liaison.</p>	Action for CA: see minutes
11.	Updates: Conference	<p>Co-Chairs May 21 at S.E.E.D. (Shared, Experience, Exploration, Discovery) Alternative School: School conference for ASAC, AlterEGO Website to become live soon.</p>	
12.	New Business	Co-Chairs	
13.	Next Meetings	<p>Co-Chairs Informal May 12, 5:30 pm, S.E.E.D. Alternative School Formal May 19 7pm, 5050 Yonge Street.</p>	
14.	Adjournment	<p>Co-Chairs Adjourned at 9:00 pm</p>	

Please visit TDSB Alternative Schools Advisory Committee website to learn more:

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/HowtoGetInvolved/CommunityAdvisoryCommittees/AlternativeSchoolsAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>