



To: Members of Alternative Schools Advisory Committee (ASAC)
 Date/Time: Tuesday, May 19th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (6:30 dinner, Cm. Rm. B);
 Location: Board Room, 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); Rebecca Holtzman (Parent); Kelly Dymont (Parent); Sonya Allin (Parent); Mark M' Quillan (Parent); Beth Coleman (Parent); Stephen Cooper (Community); Prafulla Prabha (Parent); Caillie Feldmann (Student Co-chair);

TDSB: Manon Gardner (staff); Grant Fawthrop (Principal, West Region); Denis Lopes (Principal, East Region); Claudine Tyrell (Guest, staff); Meredith Austin (Guest, staff)

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

MINUTES

#	ITEM	LEAD	MOTION/ RECOMMEN DATION
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs Introductions were done.	No
2.	Approval of Quorum	Co-Chairs 5 minutes break time while we wait for 2 more people due to fire in subway. Quorum achieved at 7:25pm.	No
3.	Declaration of Possible Conflict of Interest	Co-Chairs None declared	No
4.	Approval of Agenda	Co-Chairs Agenda approved by consensus.	Yes
5.	Approval of Minutes - April, 2015	Co-Chairs Reviewed and approved by consensus.	Yes
6.	Elementary/Secondary Guidance Coordinator a) Claudine Tyrell (Inst. Leader Gr7.12) b) Meredith Austin (Program Coord, Gr.K-12)	Guidance Coordinators a) Elementary Itinerant counsellors help grade 8 students for grade 9 subject choices in September and each is assigned an area to serve. There is a guidance alt. school caravan to share with other guidance counsellors from regular school. Programming at each alt school offers different programming and parents, students need more information to make informed decisions. Guidance needs to understand the needs of the students and what programs are available. b) Meredith is leaving her position as guidance and Claudine Tyrell is taking over that position next year. There are 13 alt. schools offering Gr. 9 courses, but only three alt schools offer Gr. 9 programming to Gr. 8 students a direct transition. Discussion: There is a difficulty with making connection between elementary to secondary	Information received

		<p>transition. It was suggested that guidance gets information to schools before the transition occurs; that a conversation to organize a fair for the guidance departments to learn about each school; to learn that there 13 different pedagogies being offered in alt. school, but are condensed in some way for each alt. school. Guidance needs student profiles before it considers pedagogies, to fit students first into a program. Alt. schools need to present their specialties from a student-type profile.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it be a benefit to have the fair for counsellors and elementary counsellors at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>In the Choices Guide and the online resources, there is only one page for alternative schools; it was suggested that it be augmented to 2 pages and that some of the information on alt.school be consolidated to help parents navigate the system.</p>	
7.	Pieces of the Terms of Reference	Michelle Munroe, PCEO	At next meeting.
8.	Parent Co-Chair – Interim, New for 2015/16	<p>Co-Chairs If time permits; for next time.</p> <p>Martha Wheaton had to resign. No parents came forward.</p> <p>Prafulla Prabhu put her name forward and will attend first meeting in August with co-chairs.</p>	<p>To be tabled in September.</p> <p>Yes</p>
9.	Follow Up: -Trustee Advocacy -K-12 Pathways	<p>Co-Chairs -see link</p> <p>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>	Information received
10.	Reframing Alternative Awareness in the TDSB Review of Alternative Schools	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>Liam mentioned that alt. schools be presented differently from past years. Most schools are parent driven, and pathways need to be presented from student perspective.</p> <p>Trustee Gough was engaged in a ten-year accommodation plan and looked at school clusters. The new trustees needed to be brought into to that review. Trustees want to see more alt. schools in their ward due to request for the number of alt. schools to “grow” to prevent student travel time.</p> <p>For the fall, Manon suggested to invite a TDSB researcher knowledgeable in alt. school, and planner to explore the alt. school data.</p> <p>How do we get the information to parents to assist in gathering feedback?</p>	
11.	Proposal Alternative Schools Fair	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>Kowthar suggested that all alt. schools present in the same space where students and guidance counsellors can walk around and ask questions. Students, parents and staff would attend; elem and secondary schools; with workshops from each school giving presentations.</p>	Information received
12.	Updates: -Conference	<p>Co-Chairs -Please come as it is on Thursday.</p>	Information received
13.	New Business	<p>Co-Chairs</p> <p>-ALPHA is struggling with staffing transitions and this concerns parents. A half-time position has opened up and parents are advocating to be involved in the hiring to ensure teaching fit for the school.</p> <p>-Manon mentioned that local trustee and local superintendent is involved to sit with parents to gather the concerns of the hiring.</p>	Information received

14.	Next Meetings	Co-Chairs February 9, 2016, location tba	Information received
15.	Adjournment	Co-Chairs Adjourned at 9pm.	Yes

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

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