



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

To: Members of Alternative Schools Advisory Committee (ASAC)
 Date/Time: Monday, Nov. 9th, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm (6:30 dinner, Boardroom);
 Location: Board Room, 5050 Yonge Street, 1st Floor
 Committee Co-Chairs: Prafulla Prabhu (Parent), Caillie Feldmann (Student) & Liam Rodrigues (Teacher)

Present: Chair Liam Rodrigues; Kelly Dymont (Parent); Caillie Feldmann (Student); Prafulla Prabhu (Co Chair-Parent); Sonya Allin (Parent); Mark M' Quillan (Parent); Beth Coleman (Parent); Stephen Cooper (Community); Jen Sagar (Parent); Barb Gosse (Parent); Susan Kroll (Parent); Moni Ghasmi (Teacher); Giselle Melelle (Teacher); Rob Rennick (Teacher); Bonnie Whitehall (Teacher);

TDSB: Manon Gardner (staff); Grant Fawthrop (Principal, West Region); M.Gurgol (Principal, Second Alt. School)

Regrets: Denis Lopes (Principal, East Region); co-Chair Kowthar Omar; Adam Faux (Parent); Rebecca Holtzman (Parent);

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

MINUTES

#	ITEM	LEAD	MOTION/RECOMMENDATION
1.	Welcome & Introductions	Co-Chairs Introductions were done.	No
2.	Approval of Quorum	Co-Chairs Quorum achieved at 7:05 p.m.	No
3.	Declaration of Possible Conflict of Interest	Co-Chairs None declared	No
4.	Approval of Agenda	Co-Chairs No new business. Agenda approved by consensus	Approved
5.	Approval of Minutes - May 2015	Co-Chairs Reviewed and approved by vote. First: Liam, Second: Caillie, All in favour. Carried.	Approved.



6.	Introduction of Interim Parent Co-Chair	<p>Co-Chairs Only one candidate self-nominated. Vote was unanimous. Co-chair Rodrigues announced Prafulla Prabhu as Parent Co-chair.</p>	Information Received.
7.	Superintendent's Updates	<p>Manon Gardner -There are 2000 students in Elementary Alternative schools; There are 2000 students in Secondary Alternative schools; -Avondale Alternative school and Subway One are under the East Alternative Schools Region. -Eastern Commerce CI is closed as a school. -All proposals for another Alternative School is sent to Manon for review. -The Guidance Marketplace was organized on Oct.26 for parents and students to fill the gap for the students Grade 8-9 to meet with Guidance Counsellors; also experienced students shared their stories. -The Caravan events allow students to visit alternative schools.</p>	Report Received.
8.	Alternatives and Equity: Strategies for Providing Choice and Access	<p>Co-Chairs -On Nov.3, CAC co-chairs met to get orientation from the Parent and Community Engagement office -Extended Alternative schools aim to support mental health issues and supports within schools on body issues and food nutrition; this bridges elementary schools with elementary alternative schools for every grade in different parts of the city.</p> <p>Q&A:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the processes involved? A: Currently, programs are in K-12 continuum at Avondale Alternative school and Africentric Alternative school. Proposals for a few more alternative schools extensions or partnering schools between elementary and secondary schools. Then look at staffing, school naming and similar philosophies of work. 2. What is the next step for ASAC? A: Can assign researcher to study the situation. Manon will undertake to ask the Research Dept. Roula Anastasakos. The north region is known to be underserved in choices for alternative schools perhaps due to change in community demographics or philosophy. 3. Can a student choose their school? A: They can choose, but the admission process needs to be worked through as students need to get information to make better choices and need to remove stigmas on the idea of alternative school education. <p>-Subcommittee was established to look into models for the alternative schools bridge: Members are Kelly D., The Grove reps., High Park reps.,</p>	<p>Discussion received.</p> <p>Manon will undertake to ask the Research Dept. Roula Anastasakos, To understand the service needs for the alternative schools.</p> <p>Promotion campaign information night: Manon will ask the communications Dept.</p>



		and others are welcome. -Promotion campaign information night: Manon will ask the communications Dept. and suggested ASAC present to school councils.	
9.	On the Impact of Change: Planning for Alternative Relocation?	Co-Chairs -Challenges mentioned in planning for the alternative school relocation depend on answering the following questions: Who needs alternative schools? What areas are underserved? Do principals push students out or transition them out? -Member mentioned to review the quantifiers and qualifiers that make alternative schools invigorating as options. -Important to highlight the successes of alternative schools for parents and students.	Discussion received.
10.	New Business	Co-Chairs Item 10 was closed as approved agenda.	None
11.	Next Meetings	Co-Chairs Next meetings were reminded to be Feb.9, Apr.12, May 17, 2016.	Information received.
14.	Adjournment	Co-Chairs Motion to adjourn meeting at 9 p.m.: First: Liam, Second: Caillie; All in favour. Carried.	Approved.

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

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

