**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

Committee Name: Alternative Schools Advisory Committee (ASAC)

Date: March 20, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Present: Prafulla Prabhu (Parent Co-Chair), Trustee Ausma Malik, Trustee Jennifer Story, Daphne Gordon, Boriana Karan, Gisele Gordon

Teleconference: Kelly Dyment, Angela, Ann Kiery, Chris Patzwald

TDSB: Liam Rodrigues (Sec. Teacher Co-Chair), Kowthar Omar (Elem. Teacher Co-Chair), Manon Gardner (Executive Superintendent), Grant Fawthrop (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Anna Gemmiti (VP, Secondary Alt West), Mike Gurgol (VP, Secondary Alt West), Denis Lopes (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East) Kathy Keroglidis (VP, Secondary Alt East), Lisa Sanders (Inglenook), Rachel Rosen (SOLE), Paul Johnson (Parkview), Jason Smit (Subway II),

Regrets: Trustee Tiffany Ford, Caillie Feldmann (Student Co-Chair)

Recorder: Dawn Mugford-Guay

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **ACTION ITEMS** |
| Welcome & Introductions |  |  |
| Call to Order/ Confirmation of Quorum | Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm (quorum was achieved). |  |
| Approval of Agenda | Motion to approve agenda by Liam Rodrigues, seconded by Prafulla Prabhu.  \*Equity Admissions presentation from The Grove will be noted as item 6B on the agenda and items 6 & 7 will be reduced to 10 minutes each. |  |
| Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2016 | Motion to approve minutes by Kowthar Omar, seconded by Paul Johnson. |  |
| Declarations of Possible Conflicts | NIL |  |
| Discussion re: Upcoming Co-Chair Elections  (6B) The Grove: Equity Admissions presentation – Gisele Gordon | Elections and or nominations will be held for all co-chair positions at the May 15, 2017 meeting;   * Elementary (parent, staff, student) * Secondary (parent, staff, student)   These positons are two years in length and duties include organizing the meeting agendas, communication with the committee and drafting motions. Interested parties should forward their name to Dawn Mugford-Guay via [dawn.mugford-guay@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dawn.mugford-guay@tdsb.on.ca)   * Boriana Karan and Prafulla Prabhu noted interest in the parent positions   The Grove’s core values include diversity and social justice and there is concern that the values are being compromised.  Last year, the school was surveyed with approximately 95% of parents responding - 70% were in support of equity admissions.  There’s also a concern that the optional attendance lottery system has an unintentional negative impact and therefore, needs to be addressed.  Group discussion re: outreach to prospective parents in an effort to attract families and make them feel comfortable.  Noted that The Grove is interested in implementing an admissions pilot project.  Quotes were shared from last year’s survey as well as community Facebook discussions.  Trustee Malik noted that a number of schools have the lottery system and though surveys are an important tool, there may be more useful information that comes from the larger student body (The Grove is housed at Alexander Muir Gladstone JPS).  Trustee Story made note of the Integrated Equity Framework that is currently taking place and advised that she would bring this concern forward. Also noting that it’s important to think of all of the factors (various steps/hurdles) and understand that there are many people who choose mainstream programming.  Executive Superintendent Manon Gardner advised that she was the local Superintendent when The Grove first opened and that similar discussions were had with the Equity department then. Advised that the way to bring this forward to Trustees is via the Integrated Equity Framework and Alternative Schools Review. |  |
| Missioning/Visioning: Ratifying the Commitment in Alternative Schools | P062 was adopted in 2007 and reviewed in 2012. In light of the current review there was a request to look at the school mission/vision statement in an effort to ensure students, parents and staff are all aware and engaged.  Executive Superintendent Manon Gardner advised that the mission/vision statement is to be reviewed by alternative schools every 5 years. Statements can change over the years with new staff and the makeup of the student body.  Discussion as to how this has been incorporated in the motion which led to the current Alternative Schools Review. |  |
| SOE Report: Executive Superintendent Manon Gardner | Alternative Schools Review update:  A staff consultation meeting was held on February 23 with approximately 45 staff members in attendance. Both panels were represented and very clearly had different responses to the posed questions therefore prompting the final overarching report be separated by panel.  Consultation meetings have been scheduled as follows;   * Staff consultation: February 23 (complete) * Alternative Schools Advisory Committee consultation: February 27 (complete) * Staff consultation #2: March 23 at 4:30 p.m. -First Nations Jr & Sr School of Toronto, 16 Phin Ave. * Parent consultation #1: March 23 at 6:30 p.m. - First Nations Jr & Sr School of Toronto, 16 Phin Ave. * Parent consultation #2: March 28 at 6:30 p.m. - Western Technical Commercial School, 125 Evelyn Cres.   Student focus groups (gr. 7 to 12) will take place over the next few weeks as well, data will be provided via the April census.  Recurring themes noted throughout the first two consultation meetings (staff and ASAC) are; staffing (specifically secondary); PD for administrators (gain a better sense of alternative schools and pedagogy); application process and equity admissions (elementary ); lack of pathways (Gr. 8 to Gr. 9); expansion of program offerings at secondary alternative schools. With regards to the location of schools, the NW/NW area has been identified as requiring expansion while other areas look towards consolidation (rather than potential expansion of schools). It is expected that the trend will be similar following the next 3 meetings.  After all consultations have taken place, the information will be gathered with support from Research and compiled into one report with two sections – findings and potential recommendations. |  |
| Communication: Improved Communication within ASAC and Greater Parent Community | As a follow up to the last meeting, different forms of communication tools were discussed (social media, fall fair, marketing strategies, google site). There are many levels of communication (individual schools trying to get the message out) however the challenge is to connect and engage all alternative parents/staff/students across the Board.  Discussion re: Fall Fair (similar to that held this year by the East Secondary Alternative Schools) and the Alternative School Conference in May (both panels). Kindly email Liam Rodrigues for further details. |  |
| Proposal to Invite the Parent & Community Engagement Office | Noted that this office is openly invited to attend all ASAC meetings and receives meeting agendas/summary notes. |  |
| Other Business | NIL |  |
| Next Meeting Date | May 15, 2017 @ 7:00 pm |  |
| Adjournment | Adjourned at 9:03 pm |  |