



**Alternative Schools Advisory Committee
Minutes
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2013
Location: 5050 Yonge Street, Comm. Rm. B
Time: 7:00 –9:00 p.m.**

Present: Teresa Van Neste (Co-Chair, Elementary); Sarah O’Leary (SEED); Amelia Santos (SEED); Sandy Best (Manager, Alt Schools); Liam Rodrigues (SEED); Nancy White (AS East & Year-Round); Mark Fischer (The Student School); Jason Smit (Subway Academy II); Vivian Meyer (Contact AS); Louise Azzarello (Oasis AS); Tricia Green (Da Vinci AS); Steph Carrier (Hawthorne II); David Fletcher (Subway Academy I); Don Hedrick (East York AS); Ryan Duggin (Da Vinci AS); Elizabeth Pasternak (Da Vinci AS); Bonnie Whitehall (Subway Academy I); Grace Valentini (SEED); Joanne Blanchette (Da Vinci AS); Liz Codallo (Da Vinci AS); Dennis de Jonge (Da Vinci AS); Jse-Che Lam (Subway Academy II); Anna Gemmiti (Subway Academy II); Marina Deluca-Howard (Co-Chair, Secondary); Rajiv Sivanesan (Delphi AS); Stephen Cooper (Alpha AS); Ravi Negi (Inglenook CS); Daniel Wesser (Student Co-Chair, Alpha II AS); John Atherton (Alpha II); Jenna Lech (NEYRAC); Andre Lopez (The Student School); Luke Edwards (Inglenook CS); Tane Akamatsu (Inglenook CS); Sylvia Kraus (Inglenook CS); Trustee Chris Bolton, Karen Grose (Senior Staff); Amanda Taplin Milberry (Equinox Alternative), Syd Grainger (Equinox Alternative), Carla Troper (Equinox Alternative), Jean-Guy Le Fort (DAS)

Recorder: Debbie Alli

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
Call to order: Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. All attendees were welcomed and round table introductions were made. 	
Approval of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was approved 	
Approval of Agenda/Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agenda was approved as written. Minutes of April 19, 2012 were approved as written. 	Website will be updated
Business Arising: Opting Out of EQAO	<p>Discussion around all alternative schools not participating in the EQAO testing. A blanket opting out was discussed.</p> <p>Some schools do not participate, some schools do participate but parents must sign a form if they do not wish their child to participate.</p> <p>School Support varies when EQAO is scheduled – some suggestions about students staying home, some are put into different classroom.</p> <p>Trustee Bolton suggested the discussion around the support for students not participating in the testing should be discussed with the administrator.</p> <p>Karen spoke about information on the EQAO website and cautioned everyone that the Grade 10 literacy test</p>	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Possible Future Budget Implications for Alternatives: Staffing, Facilities, New Schools/Program Extensions</p>	<p>is a graduation requirement. If a student cannot write for some reason, accommodations is given, a list of accommodations is posted on TDSB web.</p> <p>Parents requested ASAC provide some clarification/support for parents.</p> <p>Some discussions around why opt out. This is a week-long testing to gage the range of reading/writing skills.</p> <p>Trustee Bolton cautioned committee in doing a blanket statement for all alternative schools as some parents do want their kids tested.</p> <p>Talked about stigma attached to alternative schools. Working towards changing the negative stigma to alternative schools, a request for volunteers to do recruit and share information.</p> <p>Final budget which will include final staffing numbers will go to Board on June 19th</p> <p>Secondary School enrollment down across the system. Elementary enrollment up slightly, staffing also going up slightly basically around the full day kindergarten implementation.</p> <p>5 Alternative Proposal was submitted, 4-elementary and 1-secondary. More discussion required around the enrollment of students and where students are coming from (neighbouring schools or outside TDSB).</p> <p>More talks about parents encouraging discussion and branding. Alpha 11 school gets international students at their open house. Bring a friend to school Face book, Twitter talk about education and options.</p> <p>Funding – check with your school administrator in regards to funds for events you would like to put on at your school. PROG (Parents Reaching Out Grant) may be an option.</p>	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/ Recommendation
<p data-bbox="107 331 441 394">Equity and Alt. Education AQ</p> <p data-bbox="107 597 390 660">Elections – ASAC Co-Chairs</p>	<p data-bbox="474 264 1745 427">Data is required, anyone wishing to volunteer their time to get the information available please e-mail Liam. Malcolm Levin/Alt. Professor at OISE is being recommended, he was responsible for setting up first conversation with the Ministry about recognizing alternative school as different/distinct. Some discussion around specific qualification/certification or course for teachers who wishes to teach in an alternative school.</p> <p data-bbox="474 500 1079 563">Nomination – 2 year commitment. Committee is open to rotating chairs – all members</p> <p data-bbox="474 602 1079 732">Steve Cooper – Secondary – effective immediately Teresa van Neste – staying on until September Braxton Wignall – Student – effective immediately Teacher – Elementary – Jean-Guy Le Fort</p>	
<p data-bbox="107 756 281 787">Adjournment</p>	<ul data-bbox="474 756 984 787" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="474 756 984 787">• The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. 	