



Community Advisory Committees

Name of Committee: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 13, January, 2020

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on January 13, 2020 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge St. with Boriana Karan, and Liam Rodrigues (Co-Chairs) presiding.

Attendance: Boriana Karan (Elementary Parent Co-chair), Liam Rodrigues (SEED, Secondary Co-chair),

Also present were: Michael Gurgol (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Rebecca Holzman (Parent, High Park Alternative School), Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 8), Denis Lopes (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Uton Robinson (Executive Superintendent), Rachel Rosen (Teacher, School Of Life Experience), Shannon Salisbury (Teacher, School Of Life Experience)

The following participated by electronic means: Patti Cross (Parent, City School), Daphne Gordon (Parent, Grove School), Diana Grimaldo (Parent, Mountview)

Regrets: Rizwana Jafri (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Manny Moura (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Andrea Parise (VP, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Prafulla Prabhu (Parent Co-Chair)

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | RECOMMENDATION / MOTION |
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| 1. Welcome/ Introductions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone introduced themselves | |
| 2. Land Acknowledgement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachael Rosen read the Land Acknowledgement | |
| 3. Call to Order / Quorum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum reached at 7:12pm | |
| 4. Approval of Agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved at 7:15pm Outreach/ Open House was added to agenda as 7B <p>Motion to approve. Seconded.</p> | |
| 5. Superintendent's Update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Robinson provided an update on: EQAO, Job Sanctions, Optional Attendance, Staffing/ Projections for the 2020-2021 School Year. <p>EQAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics that was to be administered in January 2020 has been postponed as a result of the current labour sanctions. A decision for the EQAO assessments that will be administered in May and June 2020 (i.e., EQAO Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics, Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test and Primary-Division and Junior-Division Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics) will be made closer to this date. | |

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| | <p>Job Sanctions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OSSTF and ETFO are continuing with the labour sanctions. On January 13, 2020, ETFO commenced Phase 2 of their labour sanctions. ETFO will hold their first a one day strike on Monday, January 20, 2020 and OSSTF will hold their second one day strike on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. <p>Staffing/ Optional Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superintendent Robinson shared with the group that administrators were advised about accepting students to their projection as schools will be staffed according to the projections they submitted. This is important because in the past schools accepted students above the projected enrolment and staffing was given unfortunately this will no longer happen and therefore, Principals are to staff specifically to projections. With regards to optional attendance he mentioned the following information that was shared with Administrators: <p><i>Students can apply to any Alternative School provided they meet the required admission criteria. However, Alternative Schools that are oversubscribed are subject to the timelines and lottery process laid out in the Optional Attendance Procedures (PR545). If the Alternative School does not fit the student's needs the student is free to return to their home school</i></p> | |

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| | <p data-bbox="873 277 1570 354"><i>without applying through the Optional Attendance Process.</i></p> <ul data-bbox="779 370 1682 1468" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="779 370 1682 737">• Concerns were raised by TDSB staff regarding some of the enrolment projections as they are lower than what was projected in the past. It was mentioned that the Planning Department will make a projection based on the enrolment numbers from previous years; therefore, if year after year there has been a decline in the number of students enrolled in a school the projected enrolment will be lower for Fall 2020. All schools, including alternative schools, follow this procedure.<li data-bbox="779 753 1682 867">• Concerns were raised that there was a 20% cut in 2019-20 and because of the lower projected enrolment for the 2020-201 school year, 5 alternative schools were being closed.<li data-bbox="779 883 1682 1078">• Superintendent Robinson stated that he was not aware nor received any information about any alternative schools being closed in Fall 2020. Trustee Laskin mentioned that planning projections is not about closing schools; unfortunately it is an unintended consequence.<li data-bbox="779 1094 1682 1289">• There were discussions around the increased class sizes set forth by the Government and the impacts it may have on staffing. Until there is confirmation from the Government about the new classes Employee Services and Planning will not know exactly how staffing will be affected.<li data-bbox="779 1305 1682 1468">• Another concern that was raised was that the main stream schools hold onto students for staffing purposes and then the alternative schools will receive the students after the October/ March deadlines and this past school year 3 | |

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| | <p>alternative schools were impacted by this and now have more students but no additional staff were allocated to these schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were talks about staffing positions for alternative schools and because alternative schools are unique, the teacher postings should also be unique. There should be no bumping; there should be a central model; etc. If the “right” staff are in place in alternative schools, then more can be done with less. The no bumping and central model starts with the collective agreement. • It was mentioned that the Grades 9/10 streaming is a challenge when removing college options (i.e., applied). This is a challenge not only at the alternative schools but in the mainstream too. We need to look at differentiated resources and an inclusion model. • A lot of the students who attend alternative secondary schools have high anxiety or emotional distress and are still trying to go to school without resources. Without the resources the number of students who graduate are at risk. • Superintendent Robinson was asked that he make a commitment to bring the concerns from the TDSB staff regarding staffing forward. Superintendent Robinson mentioned that he attends the Staffing Allocation Committee meetings and will advise them of the concerns and at the April ASCAC meeting will provide any updates he has. • Trustee Laskin mentioned that Staffing will be discussed at the March 12, 2020 FBEC meeting. Information about the 2020-21 budget and meetings can be found on 2020-21 | |

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| | <p>Budget Website</p> <p>Motion to move Item 6; Seconded</p> | |
| <p>6. Future of ASCAC</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASCAC Co-Chairs mentioned that ASCAC would prefer less formal meetings and have more “informal” meetings. The purpose of the informal meetings is for the ASCAC members (staff and parents) to discuss their needs, etc. and then bring any concerns forward to the formal ASCAC meetings. The Co-Chairs found these informal meetings to be more productive which in turn makes the formal meetings more productive since the same items are continuously being brought forward to the formal meetings only concerns. • Trustee Laskin mentioned that at the January 8, 2020 Governance and Policy Committee meeting, the policy review work plan and critical path for Parent and Community Involvement Policy (P023) Review were presented. Part of this review will be the Community Advisory Committees. • It was requested that P023 be included with these minutes. <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>P023 Parent and Community Involvement</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal meetings are not part of the CAC process though there is nothing listed in the committee structure regarding meetings and committee members can meet as often as they wish. • There were discussions about how the Co-Chairs could send out information to the members regarding their meeting dates as historically the Committee Assistant would send out | |

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| | <p>the information and have the website updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that the Co-Chairs set a regular informal meeting date per month and that the Committee Assistant can send out an email to the members letting them know about upcoming meetings and update the website. <p>Motion to move Item 7A; Seconded</p> | |
| 7A. Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, there were discussions regarding the need to have more promotion of alternative schools, both for the elementary and secondary schools. The committee again mentioned that they would like their own website because the TDSB's website does not effectively reflect alternative schools and that a member prepared a document providing descriptions of elementary alternative schools. The committee would also like to promote alternative schools and were told they couldn't. The committee was reminded that at the April 2019 meeting a Communications Marketing/Promotion List was given out which outlined what the TDSB Communications department can do to assist the committee. It was suggested that a member become the lead on organizing the communications. ASCAC was also informed that Anna and the Communication staff worked with the ASCAC member over the 2019 Summer and the Alternative Schools Website was updated and that links to the Alternative School Maps were provided. Also, a statement was added to the Find Your School site indicating that in addition to your their school, there are a number of other options available to | |

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| | <p>students including Alternative Schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boriana was not aware of all this and requested that the Communications plan be forwarded to her along with any additional information. • Unfortunately, a flyer cannot be place in the Kindergarten Welcome package, but Trustee Laskin said that posters/ flyers could be created and distributed and she suggested having a booth at the Parents as Partners Conference on March 28, 2020. • A parent member suggested that information/ flyers about alternative schools be shared at parent council meetings. <p>Motion to move Item 7B; Seconded</p> | |
| <p>7 B. Outreach/ Open House</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members mentioned that due to the labour sanctions, open houses were being cancelled. They were also wondering if Open Houses could proceed without teachers. If there aren't open houses than how can we promote alternative schools? • Superintendent Robinson confirmed that as of January 13, 2020 school open houses were considered struck work. Administrators were asked to let parents know and the following message was posted on the TDSB's website: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Upcoming Info Nights & Open Houses</i> <i>As a result of the selected withdrawal of services by members of ETFO, all elementary school open houses and elementary visits to secondary schools scheduled during the school day have</i></p> | |

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| | <p><i>been cancelled. Where possible, open houses and visits will be rescheduled.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote alternative schools, it was suggested that a flyer/ poster be created and posted in community centres, schools, etc. <p>Motion to move Item 8; Seconded</p> | |
| 8. Review and Policy Impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was covered during the Superintendent's Update. Co-Chair Karan also mentioned that she attended the Secondary Program Review consultation on January 7, 2020. She asked, "How can we be sure that we have heard from everyone, especially the students/ parents from secondary schools?" Trustee Laskin mentioned that there were extensive opportunities to receive feedback: focus groups were arranged for students; feedback was gathered from the CACs; consultation sessions were arranged; there was an online survey. Information about these consultations was sent out through TDSB Connect; emails were sent out to all Administrators for them to notify their parents; etc. Information about policy consultations and to view the latest policy review schedule can be found on the TDSB's Policy-Consultations site. <p>Motion to move Item 9; Seconded</p> | |
| 9. Climate Event for Alternative Schools - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASCAC had wanted to host a Climate/ Change event in Spring 2020. Due to the labour and budget situation they will | |

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| Update | no longer be moving forward with this event. | |
| 10. Next Meeting Date | Monday, April 20, 2020 5050 Yonge St., Cafeteria | |
| Adjournment | Adjourned at 9:12pm. | |