



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: Equity Policy Advisory Committee

Date: September 18, 2014

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Present: Christopher Penrose (Co-Chair, Success beyond Limits Representative); Augustre Munro (Parent); Margaret Blair-Grant (Parent); Saida Sabrie (Somali Parent Liaison Coalition); Derik Chica (Latin American Education Network); Nathan Gilbert (ICAC Rep); Joesiann Nelson (Black Creek Community Health Centre); Liban Abokar (Youth Leaps)

Teleconference: Kowser Omer (Co-Chair, Parent); Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako (Volunteer, Reaching Up)

TDSB Staff: Executive Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB, Equity and Inclusive Schools); Diane DeiAmoah (Central Co-ordinating Principal, Equity and Inclusive Schools); Jyoti Khona (Teacher, TDSB)

Regrets: Sharon Simpson (Urban Alliance on Race Relations); Michael A Taylor (Ontario Multifaith Council);

Absent: Trustee Maria Rodrigues (Trustee Co-Chair); Abdul Hai Patel (Former Commissioner Ontario Human Rights Commission); Kayode Brown (Just Bgraphic); Byron Gray (Jane Finch Community Centre); Saada Awaleh-God (Community member)

Guests: Maria Paola Wong (Pueblito.org)

Recorder: Latha John (Committee Assistant, Parent & Community Engagement Office)

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | RECOMMENDATION/MOTION |
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| 1. Call to Order/Quorum | The meeting was called to order at 6:45. Welcome introductions were made. Quorum was achieved at 6:52. | |



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| | Nathan reported that the Laidlaw Foundation is launching a fellowship on his behalf of Nathan due to his retirement a year ago. The deadline for applications is next Monday. | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | <p>***MOTION: To approve the agenda with the following amendments was moved by Derik C., seconded by Nathan G. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add – Item #5: Update on Hispanic Heritage Month by Derik C. | |
| 3. Approval of May 22 nd Minutes | <p>***MOTION: To approve the minutes from May 22, 2014 was moved by Nathan G., seconded by Derik C. All approved, motion carried.</p> <p>Ms. Sabrie expressed concerns that there was no notation of SPLC or International African Heritage Month in the May 22nd minutes as was discussed at the meeting. It was suggested that a motion be put forward to include discussions in the minutes.</p> | Approved minutes from May 22, 2014 to be posted on website |
| 4. Communications | <p>Co-Chair Penrose made the following reports and announcements:</p> <p>1.) Membership Updates - members who no longer hold jobs at the organizations they represented on EPAC cannot be continue with their membership.</p> <p>2.) Election of Co-Chairs – Co-Chair Penrose announced that he will not be able to continue as a Co-Chair but hopes to be an active member of the committee. Co-Chair Penrose encouraged members to step forward and apply for the position of Co-Chair and let others who are interested and have a passion for equity to apply. Trustee Maria Rodrigues will not be running again for Trustee. The Trustee for EPAC will, therefore, change.</p> <p>3. Agenda Items – the following items to be added to the agenda for the</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-Chair Penrose to present template with Key Topics of Discussion at next meeting. ▪ Latha to email and collect Notice of Intent from all current and new EPAC members ▪ Latha to e-mail members regarding availability of Co-Chair position ▪ Latha to add the following items to the October agenda: |



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| | <p>October meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal setting for the year and working groups – Co-Chair Penrose to provide template for Key Topics of Discussion ▪ The Year in Review – Report of all Items in 2013/2014 minutes ▪ Co-Chair Elections <p>4. Notice of Intent Forms – are now available and to be submitted by all members who are interested in continuing on as members of EPAC.</p> <p>**Co- Chair Chris Penrose had to leave at 7: 00 pm due to distressing news.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal setting for the year and working groups ▪ The Year in Review – Report of all Items in 2013/2014 minutes ▪ Co-Chair Elections |
| <p>5. Update – Hispanic Heritage Month (Derik C., Latin American Education Network,(LAEN)</p> | <p>Derik Chica- Maria Paola Wong, a representative from Pueblito provided a brief presentation on about a leadership camp for youth called Voices for Change: Developing Leadership in Inclusive Education.</p> <p>The camp incorporates civic rights awareness for youth. The website was developed and used as a message board connecting students with educators. LAEN is connecting with PIAC and developing a parent community with PIAC with a focus on special needs issues in the community and mental health to lower the stigma attached to it. This is a 3- year program funded by Ontario Trillium Foundation. The program is not seeking financial support from TDSB, but only support connecting to Latin American parents, students. Executive Superintendent Spyropoulos suggested LAEN connect with the Spanish Speaking Education Network (SSEN), who is promoting a November 24th event through the Parent Engagement Office. Derik confirmed that he is in contact with SSEN. Members suggested Derik promote the program using links on school websites where parents and students have access , posters in schools., special invitations to specific school principals, teachers & Trustees.</p> | |



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| <p>6. Executive Superintendent Report</p> | <p>Executive Superintendent Spyropoulos provided the following report:</p> <p>STEM(Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) The event is on November 4, 2014. They are a community liaison of the Board. The event is very well organised.</p> <p>Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) A new community liaison group has been approved - the Toronto Bangladeshi Parents Advisory Committee and is in process and will be on the website.</p> <p>Summer Programming TDSB had a wonderful summer of programing. The Board created Pre-kindergarten Afri- centric summer programs for kids & parents as well as the community. The schools which were chosen are the ones with higher black student representation. Programming included academic and play. The response was fantastic.</p> <p>Introduction to Afri-centric Programming Introduced to ten (10) schools. Seven (7) of them were secondary schools teaching specific course with Afri- centric perspective.</p> <p>Summer Programs for Aboriginal Students Five (5) summer programs were made available for Aboriginal Secondary students, who had fallen behind in the school year. The students were able to get their credit in time for the new school year.</p> <p>Focus on Youth Toronto (FOYT) Program 600 students were hired over the summer through 100 agencies. Hired</p> | |
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| | <p>students from racial groups, efforts for Somali students; 4% students hired were of Somali Heritage. 90 /600 were Somali. The Focus on Youth Program received a provincial grant for another year of \$3,080,000. PIAC has more details and all are welcome to attend the PIAC committee meeting for more info.</p> <p>EQAO Strategy TDSB continues to move toward literacy. Board rolling out a Math strategy.</p> <p>World Pride Staff and students participated. TDSB continues to support for Equity for all with, including transgender students.</p> <p>Anti-Spam Legislation Information of Canadian Anti-Spam legislation to be sent to all parents in regards to all communications received from schools.</p> <p>Trustee Expenses TDSB passed a motion on Trustee expenses, All expenses will be posted on website. After election there will be a significant vacancies created in the Board. Trustee elections lowest turnout.</p> <p>EPAC Membership Recruitment EPAC wanted to increase the membership. Discussions an on how to have more members with EPAC. Suggestions on flyers in the community, school letters to parents to join the committee, similar to York Region who sends out information to ethnic newspapers, and community newspapers. Information of EPAC on School Website for parents and community.</p> | <p>Agenda – to make membership more robust</p> |
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| 6. 2014/2015 EPAC Meeting Dates | The 2014/2015 EPAC meeting dates were presented to the committee. The March 19th date falls into the March break which needs to be changed. | Latha to check into another date for March meeting and report back at the October meeting. |
| 7. Other Business | Ms. Sabrie requested to add a presentation to the committee about International African Heritage and Excellency Student Success | Agenda- Ms. Sabrie to do a presentation on International African Heritage and Excellency in Student Success. |
| 8. Next Meeting Date | October 23, 2014, 6:30pm | |
| 9. Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 8pm. | |

