



**Equity Policy Advisory Committee
Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2013
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Boardroom, 5050 Yonge Street**

Present: Saida Sabrie (SPLC Representative); michael kerr (Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change); Dauda Massaquoi(Parent Representative); Christopher Penrose (Success Beyond Limits Representative, Co-Chair); Omer Kowser(Parent, Co-Chair); Augustre Munro(Parent Representative); Margaret Blair-Grant (Parent Representative); Imam Abdul Hai Patel (Former Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights);Lea Konforte; Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Coordinating Superintendent, Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community); Karlo Cabrera (Equity & Inclusive Schools); Kenneth Jeffers (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Co-ordinator, Gender-Based Violence Prevention); Marjolein Winterink(TDSB, Alternate - Trustee Rodrigues)

Presenters: Haweiyah Egeh and Ali Mohamed (Co-Chairs, The Task Force for the Success of Students of Somali Descent)

Observers: Christa Romaldi (For Youth Initiative); Derik Chica (Co-Chair, Latin American Education Network); Alexandra Arraiz(Co-Chair, Latin American Education Network); Janaya Khan(Outreach & Community Partnerships Co-ordinator, Lost Lyrics); Arabi Rajeswaran (Leave Out Violence, Ontario); Christine Dorcin (Teacher, Shirley Street Public School); David Morales; Mahad Mohamood; Joanne Tsung

Regrets: Ana Skinner, Sharon Simpson , Diane Dyson

Recorder: Linda Mendonca (Committee Assistant, EPAC)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1.Call to order-Welcome and Introductions	Co-Chair Penrose called the meeting to order @ 6:45 pm, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.	
2. Approval of Agenda(Co-Chairs)	<p>***Motion to approve the agenda with the following amendments was seconded by Imam Abdul Hai Patel, all in favor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Somali Task Force Presentation to Item #3 after the approval of the minutes • Share Info & Updates – Under New Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linda will revise the agenda and post it on the website.
3. Approval of March 7 th Minutes (Co-Chairs)	The minutes were approved by consensus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linda will revise the agenda and post it on the website.
4. Presentation: The Task Force for the Success of Students of Somali Descent (Haweiyah Egeh and Ali	Haweiyah Egeh and Ali Mohamed from the Task Force for the Success of Students of Somali Descent discussed the progress of the Task Force’s work. The Task Force’s first meeting occurred in late January 2013. Dr. Robert Brown from TDSB’s research unit attended the second meeting and answered questions	

<p>Mohamed, Co-Chairs)</p>	<p>provided to him by task force members. He followed up with more information and research in the following meeting. From the third meeting onwards, the task force discussed the organizing and execution of community consultations in every end of the city (north, east, west and downtown).</p> <p>The task force is currently running the planned community consultations. Three out of five community consultations have been completed and they have all went very well with considerable turnout of the Somali community to voice their opinions. The last two consultations will be happening on Saturday April 20th 2013 at 246 Sackville St. (Regent Park area) and Wednesday April 24th 2013 at Lawrence Heights Community Centre. All are welcomed to attend.</p> <p>The Task Force membership includes a general mix of community members, high school and university students, young men, and teachers from the east end, downtown, west end. There are 25 members including Superintendent Spyropoulos, Trustee Rodrigues and Hastings. The majority of members went through school here and experienced the barriers to education firsthand. The Task Force will get as much info from community consultations, review statistics, and make recommendations to the TDSB for implementation.</p> <p>The Task Force is very open to having people come to the meetings. For those who can't physically attend can submit written submissions to taskforce.somalistudents@gmail.com .</p>	
<p>5.) Report on Deputation (re: Participatory Budget Process</p>	<p>Co-Chair Penrose reported on the deputation to the PSSC regarding the Notification of the Participatory Budget Process. The outcome was that PSSC moved our motion and the end result was that:</p> <p>“The Board provide sufficient notice of meetings, being minimum of 14 days prior to a public consultation meeting where possible and feasible and that the meeting be held a minimum of 14 days prior to the Board deliberating on the item.</p>	
<p>6.) Report on Recommendations: Financial Literacy Working Group re: Grade 11/12 Curriculum</p>	<p>Trustee Glover put a motion forward at the Board meeting to request that EPAC review the Financial Literacy Curriculum.</p> <p>The curriculum is 207 pages for High School Students, and 57 pages for Middle/Elementary School Students. From an equity lens, there are huge issues with the history courses, English, math and Phys. Ed courses. We have to take seriously what's in the curriculum, and what is not. In reference to “wants” and “needs”, we need to look at what happens in a student's life when the money is just not there. We need to look at how financially literate teachers are to deliver this curriculum, and how aware they are of the</p>	<p>The Financial Literacy Working Group will meet to pull together the recommendations to put forward to the PSSC meeting.</p>

	<p>lived realities of students.</p> <p>Karlo suggested that a small working group come together and make recommendations to the PSSC meeting. The working group can decide to do a written submission and send it to Board Services the week before the next PSSC meeting and then make an oral presentation at the meeting. Co-Chair Penrose and Mahad volunteered to be part of Financial Literacy Working Group. If anyone else wants to join the working group, they are asked to come forward.</p>	
7.) Report Back from TOR Working Group: Goal: to update and finalize TOR by June 2013.	The TOR Working Group had their first meeting on April 16 th to review the TOR. They will meet again between now and the next couple of meetings to update and finalize the TOR by June 2013.	The TOR Working Group will meet and report back to EPAC at the next meeting.
9.) Update on Equity Forum	Michael briefly updated members about the Upcoming Equity Forum this Saturday, April 20 th . Maria Yau will be presenting her findings on the Student/Parent Census, and there will be an opportunity to have a roundtable discussion on equity issues. Michael encouraged people to come out to the event.	
10.) Trustee Report	Deferred to next meeting.	
11.) Staff Report	Deferred to next meeting.	
12.) Other Business	<p>Derik Chica, Co-Chair of the Latin American Education Network reported that LEAN works to improve communication between governing bodies. They circulate monthly newsletters , a calendar of events, and information on what Boards are doing. Derik will send the newsletter to Linda for circulation to the committee.</p> <p>Imam Abdul Hai Patel reported that there is a campaign called Your32 through Civic Action GTA which held an event called, “Our Region, Our Move” to look at huge issues around transportation. Some users have more resources to pay for transit, and there is a strong voice for an equity lens in how measures taken to pay for transportation can be designed to ensure those facing socio-economic hardships are not paying an undue share of the cost.</p> <p>Saida reported that SPLC will be holding a conference on parental engagement & student success on May 17th. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community & Social Services.</p>	
13.) Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm. Approved by consensus.	
14.) Next Meeting	The next meeting date is Thursday, May 30 th Committee Room A	