



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

Present: Michael Kerr (Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change Co-Chair); Christopher Penrose (Success Beyond Limits Representative); Augustre Munro (Parent Representative); Margaret Blair-Grant (Parent Representative); Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Coordinating Superintendent, Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community); Karlo Cabrera (Equity & Inclusive Schools); Rahma Siad-Togane (Program Co-ordinator, Youth LEAPS); Saada Awaleh-God; Saida Sabrie (SPLC Representative); Marjolein Winterink; Derik Chica (Co-Chair, Latin American Education Network); Mahad Mohamood

Teleconference: Omer Kowser (Parent, Co-Chair); Kayode Brown; Imam Abdul Hai Patel (Former Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights)

Observers: Jyoti Khona (TDSB); Norm Perry (PIAC Representative); Mirian Turcios (PIAC Representative)

Regrets: Patricia Hayes; Sharon Simpson; Christa Romaldi (For Youth Initiative);

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 @ 6:52 pm, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.	
2. Approval of Quorum	Karlo confirmed that the total # of voting members is 14. Quorum is 14/2 +1, which equals 8. If there is no quorum, we cannot pass votes. Quorum was achieved at 7:09 pm	
3. Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)	The agenda was approved by consensus with the following amendments: It was noted that Item #10 & 11 (the Trustee Report & Staff Report) was omitted from the agenda. Karlo confirmed that these items would be addressed under the Communications item. Members noted that they would like to provide input on the agenda. Co-Chair Penrose confirmed that there are no restrictions to this and that members can provide agenda items via e-mail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add: 2013/2014 EPAC Dates Karlo confirmed that items that are deferred will be added to future agenda items.	Linda will revise the agenda and post it on the website.
4. Approval of April 18 13 Minutes (Co-Chairs)	The minutes were approved by consensus with the following amendments: 1.) Item #12 – Derek should be spelled as “Derik”	Linda will revise the minutes and post it on the website.

	<p>2.) Michael Kerr – to be all lower case, and remove title “Co-Chair” from his name under the attendance section.</p>	
<p>5. Communications</p>	<p>Participatory Budget Process Co-Chair Penrose attended the Participatory Budget Process meeting on May 16th. It was indicated that there will be \$6M cut in Programs & Services, but no specifics were given. The recommendations included 6 different pockets that are going to be cut. Members expressed that it would be important to have a line by line itemized budget as to what it covered by Programs & Services (i.e. Guidance, Special Ed. Programs, Vice Principals, School-Based Safety Monitors) in order that EPAC can respond and make recommendations to protect those items under Equity. Members expressed concern that specifics are not provided as to what is being cut. (i.e. Me to We Program, Opportunity Gap Workplan, ESL Programs). If next year there will be cuts to these programs, we can make recommendations to Trustees.</p> <p>***MOTION: Saida, seconded by Kayode, moved: that EPAC through the Participatory Budget Process, request that Business Services office provide an itemized list of what is funded under the Programs & Services budget areas that are facing proposed cuts. EPAC would like to make recommendations based on the itemized budget provided.</p> <p>Chris, Miriam, Michael, Saida, Derik, Kayode volunteered to work on drafting the following motion. EPAC will make a written and oral submission and provide a pre-amble to the actual. The purpose and premise of the motion will be added to the committee report.</p> <p>Ministry of Education – Funding Formula Inadequacies It was suggested that this working group also work on drafting a letter to the Ministry of Education to parallel concerns regarding the inadequacies of the funding formulas and its impact on Equity, which was encouraged by Donna Quan, looking at the Triple Threat to Equity (Learning Opportunities Grants program).</p> <p>Learning Opportunities Grant and English as a Second Language Superintendent Spyropoulos provided more info on the Toronto Star’s Report from the Social Planning Council Toronto that the TDSB diverted \$100M from underfunded communities to balance the budget. Last year we received \$143M. TDSB spent \$103M specifically spent on communities in the Learning Opportunities Index, Student Nutrition programs, Literacy & Numeracy Programs. The rest of the \$40M was spent to support programming for at-risk children through Outdoor Education Programs, Classroom Computers, Continuing Education programs (summer & night school), Alternative Schools. Every student has access to them. In addition, there was suggestion that the Board is diverting funding from ESL programs. This is not the case. Funds were spent on ESL staffing and ESL programming. TDSB has provided a response to the response. (See Appendix #1,</p>	<p>Chris, Miriam, Michael, Saida, Derik, and Kayode will draft the wording for the motion to go to the Board re: the Request for an Itemized Budget for Program & Services Cuts, and will discuss drafting a separate letter to the MOE re: Inadequacies of the funding formulas.</p>

	<p><i>Page #5) for Questions & Answers regarding LOG and ESL Funding)</i></p> <p>Outdoor Education Programs: Please find the link to Outdoor Education Programs here: http://www.tdsb.on.ca/_site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=115&menuid=23350&pageid=20242</p> <p>Focus on Youth Program ***MOTION: Michael, seconded by Kayode moved: that EPAC draft a letter in response to \$250,000 proposed cuts to Focus on Youth Program to pay down Board deficit. This will be in response to info that came out specifically from the Focus on Youth Committee that \$250,000 be protected for opportunities for Youth. The \$250,000 would provide 80 jobs for youth.</p> <p>Presentation on New Advertising Policy ***MOTION: Kayode, seconded by Rahma, moved: that EPAC invite Susan Wakutz to do a presentation on the Advertising Policy at the June 20th EPAC meeting</p> <p>Presentation on Africentric Schools ***MOTION: Rahma, seconded by Augustre, moved: that we invite someone from Africentric Schools to present on pre-planning, curriculum, and hiring for the school.</p> <p>Staff Update Superintendent Spyropoulos reported that he was a staff rep at one of the most difficult meetings regarding the selection of the principal for the Aboriginal Education Centre. He asked for for advice on what input CAC's should have and the role they should play on the selection of staff? Should the community be able to shape the selection & hiring process? Should hiring somebody from that ethnic community be essential? Some members expressed that while somebody may be from that ethnic community, they may not always have the skills required for the position. The community should have a say, but that the background should not be the only factor. It depends on the community, and their needs. Some people who have the background may not do the work required.</p>	<p>Co-Chair Penrose will draft a letter in response to the proposed cuts to Focus on Youth Program.</p> <p>Linda will invite Susan Wakutz to present on the New Advertising Policy at the next meeting.</p> <p>Co-Chair Penrose will invite someone from Africentric Schools to present at the next meeting.</p> <p>Superintendent Spyropoulos will provide a report at the next meeting to provide the history, context the issues, and precedent re: the Aboriginal Education Centre for discussion at the next meeting.</p>
<p>6. 2013/2014 EPAC Meeting Dates</p>	<p>2013/2014 EPAC Meeting Dates Co-Chair Penrose proposed the following EPAC meeting dates for 2013/2014; having taken into consideration keeping meetings on Thursdays, avoiding statutory holidays, and providing space in between meetings: (2013: Sept 19th; Oct 24th; Nov 21st; Dec 12th); (2014: Jan 16th; Feb 13th; Mar 20th; Apr 17th; May 22nd; Jun 12th)</p>	<p>Dates to be confirmed at the next meeting.</p>

7.) Report on Deputation re: Financial Literacy Curriculum Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred to next meeting. 	
8.) Report Back from TOR Working Group: Goal: To update and finalize the TOR by June 2013	<p>Karlo reported that the TOR Working Group consisting of (Rahma, Ken, Marjolein, Kowser, Karlo, Lea, Trustee Rodrigues) worked on changes to the TOR. There were a number of changes recommended. to membership recruitment (distinguishing between #'s of parent and community representatives), removal from membership (#of meetings missed).</p> <p>Karlo reviewed each of the changes recommended and members discussed and approved the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change community reps from 5-10, to “up to 10” – not just equity organizations, but alliances, and room for emerging organizations. ▪ Change parent participation to “Parent/Guardian/Caregiver” ▪ Parent does not have to be part of a CLG (Community Liaison Group) – dropping the recommendation that parents/CLG’s that have to be part of a certain quadrant. ▪ 8 parents that reflect but are not restricted to the existing set of Community Liaison Groups of the TDSB. Ask for reps from other CAC’s (i.e. ICAC, CUSAC, SEAC, etc.) to report back (to play a consultative role) as to what it going on with their committee. 	<p>Karlo will update the TOR according to the discussion today.</p>
9.) Other Business	<p>Planning for EPAC 2013/2014</p> <p>Saida suggested that –EPAC pull together a working group to meet between now and the next EPAC to plan for next year to identify next steps for youth, students, and in response to conversation from EPAC Forum on Equity and Inclusion.</p> <p>Equity Related Materials</p> <p>Michael circulated the following materials to members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Quick Facts – Ontario’s Equity & Inclusive Education Strategy 2.) Antiracist Multicultural Education Network of Ontario – Tips for Boards & Schools on Community Outreach and Parent Engagement 3.) Poster – Employment Equity for a Better Ontario – CUPE Ontario 4.) Colour of Poverty –Colour of Change – A FOUR Point Plan for Racial Justice 	
10.) Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:36pm. Approved by consensus.</p>	
11.) Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting date is Thursday, June 20th. Committee Room B</p>	

Appendix #1:

Learning Opportunity Grants and English as a Second Language

Questions and Answers

Q1 – The Toronto Star story suggests that more than \$100 million annually has been diverted from funding programs for underprivileged students in order for the TDSB to balance the budget. Is this true?

A1 – No. It would appear that Social Planning Toronto has looked at a select number of budget line items that don't represent the total number of dollars being spent on at-risk students.

Q2. How much money does the TDSB receive from the Learning Opportunities Grant and how is it spent?

A2 - The TDSB receives approximately \$143.8 million in Learning Opportunities Grant dollars from the Ministry of Education. Nearly \$103 million of this is spent on programs and initiatives that directly impact at-risk students, including additional funding and staffing for schools that are ranked on the Learning Opportunities Index – a Board-designed tool that ranks schools based on a range of indicators that measure external challenges affecting student success including a number that reflect poverty levels. The \$103 million is also used in areas such as Model Schools for Inner Cities, Student Nutrition, Literacy & Numeracy programs, and Specialist High-Skills Major programs and increase.

Q3 – Where is the remaining \$40 million being spent?

A3 – Approximately \$40 million of the total \$143.8 million is spent in areas that impact at-risk students including Outdoor Education, classroom computers, Continuing Education, Alternative Schools and additional funds for school students.

Q4 – The Toronto Star story also suggests that approximately \$20 million has been diverted from English as a Second Language funding that the Board received from the province. Is that true?

A4 – No. For 2012/2013, the Board received approximately \$69.4 million in ESL/ESD funding. The Board is projected to spend approximately 95% of the grant - \$65.9 million – on direct ESL/ESD staffing and programs.

Q5 – Where is the remaining \$3.5 million being spent?

A5 – English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development Allocation (ESL/ESD) is based on the following student criteria: the country of birth and the date of entry into Canada. In some instances, the student who meets these criteria and generates the funding does not require ESL/ESD support (e.g. some students from India, Philippines, and the Caribbean). The funding generated for these students is used to support programming for other students including those who have been in the country longer than 4 years or those born within Canada for whom English is not a first language. In this way, the ESL/ESD is a proxy allocation based on the Board's demographics which may or may not align directly with need.