



**Equity Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC)**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, October 24, 2013**

**Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Christopher Penrose (Co-Chair, Success beyond Limits Representative); Margaret Blair-Grant (Parent); Augustre Munro (Parent); Trustee Maria Rodrigues (Trustee, Ward 9); Saida Sabrie (Somali Parent Liaison Coalition); Sharon Simpson (Urban Alliance on Race Relations); Kayode Brown (Just Bgraphic)

**Tele-Conference:** Abdul Hai Patel (Former Ontario Human Rights Commissioner); Kowser Omer (Parent Co-Chair); Courtney Wood (Parent)

**TDSB Staff:** Kevin Sutton (Equity and Inclusive Schools, TDSB); Kenneth Jeffers (Co-ordinator, GBVP); Jyoti Khona (TDSB); Diane DeiAmoah (Central Co-ordinating Principal, Equity and Inclusive Schools); Christine Dorcin (Teacher, Sherry Street Public School); Ramon San Vicente (Equity and Inclusive Schools); Libby Zeleke (Human Right Investigation Office, TDSB).

**Observers:** Derik Chica (Co-Chair, Latin American Education Network); Cindy Gouveia (Youth Leaps); Saada Awaleh-God; Byron Gray (Jane Finch Centre); Adwoa Gyasi-Nimako (Reaching Up); Stephen Rodriguez (Student, TDSB)

**Regrets:** Jim Spyropoulos (Superintendent, Equity and Inclusive Schools); Patricia Hayes (Human Rights Office, TDSB)

**Recorder:** Linda Mendonca (Committee Assistant, Parent & Community Engagement Office)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
1.) Call to order-Welcome/ Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.</li> <li>• Roundtable introductions were made</li> </ul>	
2.) Approval of Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quorum was achieved and approved.</li> </ul>	
3.) Approval of Agenda	<p><b>***MOTION:</b> Imam Patel, seconded by Kowser moved to approve the agenda with the following amendments to be added to the "Other Business" section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add presentation by LAEN (Latin American Education Network) – re: upcoming Education Forum at end of November.</li> <li>• Somali Parent Liaison Coalition Announcement re: Town Hall Event at end of November</li> <li>• Motion by Imam Patel to congratulate Donna Quan re: appointment as new Director of Education</li> </ul>	

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<p>4.) <b>Approval of Minutes – May 30, 2013</b>  <b>Approval of Informal Meeting Notes - June 20, 2013</b>  <b>Approval of Informal Meeting Notes - September 19, 2013</b></p>	<p>***<b>MOTION:</b> Margaret, seconded by Kayode moved to approve the May 30, 2013 – Minutes. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p>***<b>MOTION:</b> Kayode, seconded by Kowser moved to approve the June 20, 2013 – Informal Meeting Notes. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p>***<b>MOTION:</b> Kayode, seconded by Christine, moved to approve the Sept 19, 2013 – Informal Meeting Notes, with the following amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page #4, Item #7 – Change “EPAC Co-ordinator” to EPAC Central Co-ordinating Principal</li> <li>• Page #4, Item #8 – Correct spelling of “Derek” to “Derik”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Follow Up Items from September 19, 2013 Minutes</u></b></p> <p>1.) <b>Page # 2, Item #6, re: Trustee Report re: EQAO Report</b>  EQAO results were to be provided at this meeting; however, Trustee Rodrigues reported that she only received result for Ward #9. Members were asked to send an e-mail to Linda with a request for the type of results required; by Ward or combined results.</p> <p>2.) <b>Page #5, Item #9 re: Recruitment,</b>  Co-Chairs were tasked at the last meeting to review the current EPAC membership list and confirm membership by today’s meeting. This did not happen as planned. The committee struck the <b>EPAC Membership Review Working Group</b> to review the current membership; all Notice of Intents received, and confirm the membership by the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Members:</b> Byron G.; Derik C.; Diane D.; Christine D.; Ken J.; Trustee Maria R.; Augustre M.; and Saida S.</p> <p>The EPAC Membership Working Group Meeting is confirmed for <b>Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm.</b></p>	<p>Linda will post the May 30, 2013 minutes (following amendments) to the EPAC website.</p> <p>Members will e-mail Linda requesting EQAO Ward info as required.</p> <p>Linda will request Board meeting Calendar from Rob Little and circulate EPAC membership.</p> <p>The EPAC Membership Review Working Group will meet on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm to review and confirm the EPAC membership. Linda will book a location for the meeting and confirm with the committee.</p> <p>Linda will provide copies of the EPAC Terms of Reference and all Notice of Intents received via e-mail to Working Group members as well as leave hard copies for Trustee Rodrigues with Rob Little in Trustee Services.</p>
<p>5.) Communication</p>	<p><b><u>EPAC Working Groups</u></b>  Co-Chair Penrose suggested that the committee strike working groups to look into making</p>	

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	<p>deputations and motions to relevant Board Standing Committees on key Equity Policy related areas put forward at the last meeting. As a result, the committee struck the following working groups, and confirmed membership for each. Any members, who wish to participate in any of the working groups, are asked to contact the leads of each of the groups via e-mail.</p> <p>I. <b>Equity Policy Review Working Group</b> - to include review of Equity Foundation Statement to reflect Bill 13 &amp; 157.  <b>Members:</b> Ken J.(Lead); Kevin S.; Trustee Maria R.; Ramon S.; Diane D.; Cristina G.; Kayode B.; Libby Z.; Derik C.; Margaret B.; and Kowser O.</p> <p>II. <b>Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) Policy Working Group</b> – review of the implementation of the DADT Policy, and possible invitation to Dr. Smita Sengupta.  <b>Members:</b> Derik S. (Lead); Saida S.; Byron G.; Augustre M.; and Trustee Maria R.</p> <p>III. <b>Review of Reg. (274)/Employment Equity Policy Working Group</b> – to review policy that came out of labour disruption.  <b>Members:</b> Co-Chair Chris P. (Lead); Saada A.; Kayode B.; Saida S.; Derik C.; Kowser O.; Adwoa G.; Ken J.; Byron G.; Christine D.; Cindy G.; Trustee Maria R.; and Pardeep N.</p>	<p>Linda will circulate that list of Working Groups and leads to the EPAC membership list.</p> <p>Ken will confirm a meeting date with the Equity Policy Review Working Group. The group will meet and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Derik will confirm a meeting date with the DADT Working Group. The group will meet and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Co-Chair Penrose will confirm a meeting date with the Review of Reg. (274)/Employment Equity Policy Working Group. The group will meet and report back at the next meeting.</p>
<p>6.) <b>Membership &amp; Recruitment</b></p>	<p>Item was resolved during the discussion about follow up items from the September 19<sup>th</sup> minutes. See item #4 above.</p>	<p>EPAC Membership Working Group to report back at next meeting.</p>
<p>7.) <b>Trustee Report</b></p>	<p><b>Trustee Report</b></p> <p><b>Appointment of New Director</b>          Congratulations to Donna Quan, who was approved as the new Director of Education by the Board of Trustees.</p> <p><b>Capital Project Approvals</b>          The Ministry of Education has approved capital projects in the Bloor/Dufferin area for schools that need repairs. Recommendations put forward include closure of Kent Public School due to low enrolment, and Bloor Collegiate. The students will go to Brockton. The Aboriginal Education Centre is there. Condo Towers will be built at the location. There will be a Ward 9 public community meeting to talk about design plans with 30 people (teachers, students, Foodshare, etc.).</p> <p><b>TDSB Twitter Account</b></p>	

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	<p>TDSB has a twitter account. Announcements/Communications for celebrations (e.g. Eid, and other events), can be tweeted by staff.</p> <p><b>Equity Conference Planning Working Group – December 2013</b> Trustee Rodrigues suggested that the committee look into holding an Equity Conference in December, to coincide with International Human Rights Day (December 10<sup>th</sup>) and asked Diane to find out whether there is a budget for the conference, and strike a working group to look at the mandate/vision for the conference, potential guest speaker.</p> <p>The <b>Equity Conference Planning Work Group</b> members include: Diane D. (Lead); Trustee Maria M.; Kayode B.; Saada A.; Christine D.; Cristina G.; Courtney W.; and Saida S.</p> <p><b>Ward Council Meetings</b> Ward Council Meetings can be used as good communication tools including important reports and presentations by guest speakers (e.g. Director or Education). It's important that there is an Equity voice at the Ward Council level. Members were encouraged to participate at Ward Council meetings.</p> <p><b>P4E Conference – November 2<sup>nd</sup></b> The P4E (People for Education) Conference is scheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It's a good opportunity to network. Members were encouraged to attend.</p>	<p>Diane to confirm who can provide announcements/communications via Twitter</p> <p>Diane will follow up regarding the budget for the Equity Conference and follow up with the Equity Conference Planning Work Group, and will also report back at the next EPAC meeting.</p> <p>Diane will check with Jim re: budget to cover the costs of tickets for the P4E Conference for EPAC members who wish to attend. Co-Chair Penrose will also look into getting some complimentary tickets from P4E. Diane &amp; Chris will confirm whether tickets are available via e-mail.</p>
<p><b>8. Staff Report</b></p>	<p><b>Staff Report</b></p> <p><b>PIAC Co-Chairs Elected</b> New PIAC Co-Chairs were elected as follows: John Trafananko and Jerako Biaje-Wendt.</p> <p><b>Ministry of Education – “Great to Excellent” Consultation</b> The Ministry held a consultation on October 24<sup>th</sup> which provided an opportunity for PIC Co-Chairs to be consulted on the Education system. PIAC Co-Chairs attended. It was suggested that PIAC Co-Chairs be invited to come to a meeting to share on the MOE consultation.</p>	

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	<p><b>TDSB Accountability Site</b>            Director Donna Quan is interested in making sure that the Board is transparent and is working on providing an Accountability site where parents and members can access info posted.</p>	
<p><b>9. Other Business</b></p>	<p><b>Latin American Education Network(LAEN) - November Education Forum</b>            Derik provided information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Latin American Education Network (LAEN) Conference to take place on November 30, 10am – 12pm, and asked members to promote the information as broadly as possible to encourage parents and students to attend.</p> <p>Derik also requested funding to support conference expenses. Derik was asked to send a written request to TDSB via Diane DeiAmoah. Derik was advised that Diane cannot make decisions regarding funding but can bring it forward to Jim and that EPAC does not have control of the budget and cannot accept funding proposals.</p> <p><b>Somali Parent Liaison Coalition(SPLC) Announcement – November Town Hall Event</b>            The Somali Parent Liaison Coalition (SPLC) is holding a conference on November 22 from 2pm-6pm at the International Muslim Organization (IMO), 65 Rexdale Boulevard, Toronto for parent engagement and student success, and is seeking volunteers to assist with the conference. Saada A. expressed interest in volunteering. Saida will send info about working group, and info regarding the conference.</p> <p><b>Motion to Congratulate Donna Quan re: Appointment as new Director of Education</b>  <b>***MOTION**</b>Imam Patel, seconded by Kayode, moved to have the Co-Chairs on behalf of the Equity Policy Advisory Committee congratulate Director Donna Quan on her appointment as the new Director of Education. All approved. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Invitation to Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate to Attend EPAC Meeting</b>            Co-Chair Penrose reported that Irwin Elman, Provincial Advocate has an interest in attending one of the EPAC meetings to discuss common issues. He would like to share about his mandate with the committee.</p> <p><b>***Motion***</b>Christine, seconded by Saida moved to invite Irwin Elman to one of the upcoming EPAC meetings. All approved. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Derik will forward details regarding the conference to Linda for circulation to the committee.</p> <p>Derik will forward PowerPoint presentation and letter to Ramon San Vicente.</p> <p>Saida will send an e-mail with conference details to Linda to circulate to the committee.</p> <p>Co-Chairs will congratulate Director Quan on behalf of the Equity Policy Advisory Committee(EPAC)</p> <p>Co-Chair Penrose will follow up with an invitation to Irwin and confirm and confirm a date.</p>
<p><b>10. Adjournment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.</li> </ul>	