

DRAFT

**ICAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 6, 2011**

In attendance:

Peter Mallouh, Darlene Berry, Justin Jagdeo, George Martell, Cheryl Skovronek, Paula Jarrett, Janice Gillespie, Martin Long, Darcy MacCallum*, Trustee Chris Glover, Nathan Gilbert, Don Dippo, Michael Shapcott, Lesley Johnston, Bob Spencer, Varun Desai, Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher, Colin Husbands
Note: Darcy MacCallum was acting Community Co-chair for this meeting, along with Trustee Cary-Meagher as Trustee Co-chair.

Regrets:

Roberta Bustard, Manon Gardner, Trustee Maria Rodrigues, Sejal Patel, Laurie Green, Jann Houston, Chris Penrose, Tanya Senk

Guests in attendance:

Caitlin French, Trustee Howard Kaplan

Staff Present:

Elizabeth Schaeffer, Vicky Branco, Heather Gollob, Julie-Ann Baxter, Cassie Bell

1. **Agenda approval** – moved by N. Gilbert, seconded by C. Skovronek, approved unanimously.
2. **Previous meeting notes (December 7, 2010)** – no changes or edits noted.
3. **ICAC Co-ordinator's Report:**
 - Welcome to new ICAC student representatives, Justin Jagdeo and Varun Desai; motion to formally accept onto committee: moved by: G. Martell, seconded by N. Gilbert, unanimously approved
 - ICAC agenda package outlined
 - Handouts include: “Resilience ... successful navigation through significant threat”, Report Produced for the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS)
Link: <http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/resources-reports.htm>
Home Safe Hamilton film screening at NFB, “Becoming a Powerful Parent” seminar, and “Double Jeopardy for Poorer Schools in the TDSB School Closing Process” blog
Link:
<http://buildingstrongcommunities.wordpress.com/2011/01/14/federalizing-school-fundraising/>

Action Items from December 7, 2010 meeting:

- Page 5: re-send TTC letter Principal of Nelson A. Boylen sends “thanks” to ICAC for continuing to advocate on this issue (in progress)
- Page 5: Staff is in communication with TDSB Finance Department who are preparing document with fundraising data as per request for circulation to ICAC asap (in progress)
- Page 5: Achievement Gap ‘symposium’? ‘work group’? with other advisory committee representatives; need to establish date/time/venue etc., so perhaps a small sub-committee of ICAC could do this (in progress)
- Page 6: Submission of ICAC recommendations on student fees policy guidelines to Ministry of Education is complete; MoE confirmed receipt (complete)

- Page 9: ICAC approved motion to present student fees information to Programs and School Services Committee (PSSC); Co-ordinator requests confirmation that group still wishes to move forward with this (in progress)

Discussion

- New Board and Senior Staff attending a retreat this weekend to discuss Board “vision” over next term; Hulchanski maps of Three Cities will be part of Board planning session
- Highlighted that Dr. Hulchanski’s work does not integrate issue of racialization of poverty which is a key gap in report, however, must keep Hulchanski Report and implications alive in policy dimensions
- City of Toronto Budget Consultation dates – deadline for deputation requests: January 17, 2011
- Richard Wilkinson (“The Spirit Level” <http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/>) – research which shows more equal societies do better in critical outcomes such as health and education
- United Way – updated “Poverty by Postal Code” being released shortly – addresses issue of ‘vertical poverty’

ACTION ITEMS

- (i) **TTC Letter** – Add Trustees Howard Kaplan’s and Chris Glover’s names to letter
- (ii) **Achievement Gap Work Group** – ICAC Co-ordinator to contact people interested in meeting to discuss agenda/date/time etc. for meeting. *Volunteers for work group:* Nathan Gilbert, George Martell, Darcy MacCallum, Chris Penrose, Justin Jagdeo, Bob Spencer and Michael Kerr.
- (iii) **Student Fees** – Volunteers for deputations at PSSC (Wednesday January 19th @ 5:30) – Lesley Johnston (Social Planning Council Toronto), Nathan Gilbert (Laidlaw Foundation), Michael Griesz (VP), Tam Goosen (Urban Alliance on Race Relations), Varun Desai (Student Super Council), Martin Long (ETT). ICAC to check with Administrative Staff re: deputants and information for PSSC Agenda.

Q: Is school council fundraising part of the discussion?

A: Ministry of Education tried to make distinction between fees and fundraising, but heard clearly from ICAC that they are integrally related

4. Staff Update

- Chief Academic Officer Manon Gardner waiting for report back from Finance Department on school council fundraising numbers – will bring to ICAC as soon as possible

5. MSIC Resource Team Report (E. Schaeffer, J.A. Baxter, H. Gollob, V. Branco)

- MSIC is launching the Parent Academy shortly – Parents to attend first “CPAC”s (Cluster Parent Academy Committees) are ready to go and meeting times set
- MSIC Parent Academy has been three years coming and supports the Director’s “Vision of Hope”
- MSIC Parent Academy springs from grassroots; DRAFT Parent Resource Guide is being circulated now and will remain DRAFT until parents involved review, give feedback on guide, process etc. in June 2011
- MSIC Parent Academy is *for* parents *by* parents; staff are for support only
- See page 6 of Parent Resource Guide for diagram and explanation of CPAC

- *Timelines* (p.10): January – launch of MSIC Parent Academies; Lead Teachers coordinating first meeting; will provide PD if requested (i.e., how to Chair a meeting etc.)
- MSIC Parent Academy will also launch its own Facebook page – open forum for discussions, networking, event planning and coordination etc.
- Link to Parent Academy Briefing Note (from TDSB website: www.tdsb.on.ca click on “Trustees and Board Meetings”, then click on “General Information Provided to Trustees”)
http://www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom/bd_agenda/uploads/generalinfo/101217%20PARENT%20ACADEMY.PDF
- Link to MSIC Parent Academy DRAFT Resource Guide:
<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/ViewItem.asp?siteid=263&menuid=33274&pageid=28337>

Discussion:

Q: “Procedural consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds”; add procedures as needed, not before

A: Our goal is to empower parents, not ensnare them; we will be open to feedback

Q: Complete lack of equity references in Parent Resource Guide? For example, TDSB Equity Foundation Statement, MoE statement, parents could hold MoE accountable *if* they knew about it

A: This guide is a work in progress, Support Services also want to add potential programs, including equity PD; we will find some way of incorporating these standards, i.e., Equity Committee at each school

Q: Nature of equity is on parents’ minds all the time, streaming, testing etc.; we need to find a way to frame this for them

A: Respectfully disagree, these Parent Academies will grow from parents – jobs, training, concerns – theirs, not ours, it will grow naturally and spread these issues naturally; will come back to ICAC in June and ask for their input as well as from parents to address gaps

Q: *Thank you* to Vicky and Staff for this overview and work on MSIC Parent Academies

ACTION ITEM

ICAC requests links to Miami-Dade and other Parent Academies be circulated (Complete – please see below):

1. <http://www.springfieldparentacademy.com/>

2. http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/new_springfield_parent_academy.html

3. <http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/Americas/September-08/Back-to-School-Means-Classes-for-Parents-Too.html>

(For more on-line resources, Google “Parent Academies”)

MSIC Newsletter – Highlights (Please see pdf of full newsletter attached)

- Page 1 – introductory letter from Manon Gardner, Chief Academic Officer
- Page 2 – Principal Academy and multilingual display
- Page 3- MSIC Parent Academy and PROs (Parent Reaching Out Grants)
- Page 4- Vision and Hearing and CAT4 (**Note:** MSIC/TFSS nominated for an award today re: Vision and Hearing Screening Program –“Immigrant Success Award” from TRIEC (<http://www.triec.ca/>) Specifically, nominated for the [CBC Toronto Vision Award for Immigrant](#)

Inclusion for the practice of hiring International Medical Graduates as vision/hearing screeners for the Gift of Sight and Sound program.)

Q: Did 100% of the kids get glasses if they needed them?

A: Yes, even a second or third pair if necessary. Hearing supports are more problematic – kids have to go the Hearing Society to be fitted with hearing devices and number of students showing up is very low; becoming very clear we have a two-tiered system; those parents who can afford to take the time to go to appointments, and those who cannot – means children do not get follow-up help they need

- Page 5- MSIC welcomes visitors from Japan; ICUH (International Conference on Urban Health) New York City, October 2010
- Page 6 – Welcome to Kindergarten; First Pediatric Clinic opened

Q: Such terrific work even if it is being funded by Walmart! Is problem that parents are undocumented and therefore scared?

A: CSWs are doing a good job talking to parents individually, helping them navigate system etc., however, must build trust, relationships- working on it

Q: Is there no screening done by TPH?

A: Yes, but programs tend to miss children of newcomers – they can arrive at any age; MSIC is pushing contacts such as Dr. Bruce Ferguson (Sick Kids) to political action for universal screening; also cross-referencing how many children being screened are being pulled out of/avoiding Special Education diagnoses; could also look at grades; MSIC also screening high school students, among those who self-identified, 85% needed glasses

Q: Suggest anecdotes are key when taking case to Ministry of Health (MoH)

A: Yes, rigorous data also key though

Newsletter Continued:

- Japanese visitors amazed at protocols for new groups of students, i.e., Roma children
- TPL (Toronto Public Library) and TPH (Toronto Public Health) both would like to be part of introduction to Kindergarten evenings

ACTION ITEM:

TPL representative and TPH rep to exchange contact details with Central Co-ordinating Principal, MSIC to liaise re: Kindergarten night presentations.

- Pediatric Clinic sounds terrific! Developmental Assessments can take up to 3 years in regular system, now can take 2-3 appointments through pediatric clinics
- Local school teams and teacher referral also mean faster tracking
- Foreign-trained Dr. is Sprucecourt Clinic Co-ordinator
- Next pediatric clinic due to open? May, or, latest September; Will be in Cluster B (George Webster is Model School), named the “Paul Steinhauer Pediatric Clinic”; goal will be to have one clinic per cluster
- MSIC invited to Germany re: Bertelsmann Equity Award; goal is to introduce Model Schools to Germany! Three staff will go: Maria Yau (Research), Vicky Branco (CCP, MSIC) and Lloyd McKell (Special Advisor to Director Spence)

Q: Need to speak about “corporate encroachment”; policies of these corporations (i.e., Walmart etc.) are low wages, no benefits for employees, and then throw grants/glasses at poor kids

A: We are trying to build a working model to take to the MoE to say “enough” – the healthcare of these children is a public responsibility

Q: Is it only St. Mike’s hospital involved in pediatric clinics? Is there ethno-racial disaggregation in the hearing/vision testing data?

A: Everything we do is tracked by students’ Trillium number, therefore, through that correlations can be made if mandated; data to come out of this project will be very rich- certainly can begin to look at equitable outcomes; hospitals will be ones most closely affiliated to local school communities, for example Sick Kids, Black Creek Community Health Centre, Access Alliance etc.; also examining possibility of placing clinics in MSIC high schools

Q: How is research being used?

A: Currently gathering broad spectrum of data, magazine articles, anecdotes from parents and kids etc. and building a “business case” in conjunction with Dr. David McKeown of Toronto Public Health (TPH)

6. ICAC Update from SWIS

- ICAC Co-ordinator requested update as information is pertinent to members and staff at table
- Ottawa recently cut \$55 million from Settlement funding, 85% of that from Ontario’s budget; very serious implications
- Ontario/Canada Immigration agreement is over as of March 31, 2011, every program in Ontario was required to re-apply for it
- Ten agencies in Toronto lost funding completely, they will be closing
- Some proposals submitted back in June (2010) re: Toronto, are delayed (responses were due December 10th)
- Those agencies which did get positive response from CIC are generally being instructed to cut 10% from their previous budget cuts. Agencies are focusing on preserving jobs, but it’s difficult
- Successful new “NOW” program (Newcomer Orientation Week) may be impacted and some programs cancelled (e.g. London will not implement the award winning program this summer; no word on Toronto yet)
- How will these decisions impact settlement programs? TDSB programs will likely continue a) HOST * social capital – linking new Canadians with Canadians who have been in country longer b) SEPT- Settlement services and resources for newcomers (great potential with MSIC)
*HOST program in the TDSB has been renamed to “Welcoming Communities for TDSB Newcomer Youth” and “Welcoming Communities for TDSB Newcomer Children”
- There is a need to gather information and frame message carefully to help understand implications of these cuts to immigration spending

7. Trustee Update

- Trustee Cary-Meagher thrilled that Hulchanski maps will be front and centre at the upcoming Trustee/staff retreat
- Hulchanski – geography is key but misses how Toronto has evolved vis-à-vis race, culture etc.

- How can we enrich picture of Toronto? Invite TDSB Research and ask that culture, race, language data etc., might be disaggregated and how they might work with Dr. Hulchanski to do this?
- Need a richer picture of traditionally disadvantaged communities
- Could be broken into two questions: (i) What do we want to know? (ii) How do we ask for it? Hulchanski has race data, but it is easier to sell income variants to media! Huge work to take 30 years worth of data and create these maps; Wellesley Institute currently working with Dr. Hulchanski and his staff to create models of urban health – not as easy as it might seem!
- Have outstanding motion from last year inviting TDSB Planning Dept. to “prepare map/document which superimposes programs, services and funding on Dr. David Hulchanski’s maps of ‘Three Cities’”; work from this? Map to reflect current reality of current TDSB populations and link to policies
- Give advance notice to all participants that meeting will be cross between seminar and working group
- Suggested invitees: Dr. Hulchanski and staff (U of T), Rob Brown (TDSB), Harvey Low (City of Toronto), Ranu Basu (York University), Greg Chan (TDSB), Maria Yau (TDSB), David Clandfield, Hugh McKenzie etc.
- Maria is preparing a school-by-school profile which will be ready in a few weeks so would be good to have this review
- Suggest meeting be held in March 2011

ICAC Motion:

ICAC requests that the TDSB Research and/or Planning Department along with appropriate representatives from the City of Toronto (and others) meet with the ICAC with a view to disaggregating data from the Hulchanski report and other related analyses of demographics in Toronto. It is requested that:

- a) the TDSB prepare a map that can overlay the levels of support onto Hulchanski’s and other (e.g. Harvey Lowe’s) report**
- b) the discussion involve the complex layers of data including racialization, immigration status, language and culture, and streaming**

The purpose will be to develop mapping that reflects what surfaces from the discussions portray the realities experienced within schools and communities across Toronto and the TDSB.

(moved by G. Martell, seconded by R. Spencer, approved unanimously)

Responsibility: ICAC Co-ordinator and Staff

Further Trustee Updates:

- Two ARCs (Area Review Committees) being held, one in Rexdale and one in Regent Park; fear that equity is being impacted in these under-served areas
- Preparing documents to take to the Moe listing cost pressures of the TDSB
- Stay tuned for further updates

Meeting Adjourned

Next ICAC Meeting

Tuesday February 8, 2011

6:30 – 9:30 pm

5050 Yonge St.,

Committee Room “A” (main floor)

