

**ICAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday October 20, 2011**  
**6:30 – 9:30 pm**  
**Committee Room A**

**In attendance –**

Aim Mujib, Heather Johnson, Varun Desai, Sharlene Bourjot, Janice Gillespie, Lesley Johnston, Laurie Green, Nathan Gilbert, Robert Spencer, Alejandra Bravo, Trustees Kaplan, Cary-Meagher, Glover and Tonks; Michael Griesz, Jann Houston

**Regrets-**

Tanya Senk, Cheryl Skovronek, Chris Penrose, Michael Shapcott

**Guests-**

Kwabena Frimpong, Shirley Kim, Malini Singh, Michael Kerr, Aaron Chung, Patrick Austin, Cathy MacKenzie, Graham Hollings, Trustee David Smith, Nadia Heyd

**Staff-**

Julie-Ann Baxter, Vidya Shah, Carl Riley, Thelma Akyea, Curtis Ennis, Donna Quan, Manon Gardner, Vicky Branco, Cassie Bell, Dr. Robert Brown

**1. Welcome and introductions- committee member announcements**

- Bill C-10 – Omnibus crime bill at Federal level will have huge impact on children and youth; consider advocacy to MPs regarding this issue
- “Creating opportunity for those in the ‘gap’” Legacy project from Youth Challenge Fund – good report

**2. Approval of Draft Agenda –**

- Moved by N.Gilbert, seconded by L. Johnston, approved unanimously

**3. Approval of previous ICAC Meeting Minutes (September 21, 2011) -**

- Moved by N. Gilbert, seconded by L. Green, approved unanimously

**4. ICAC Co-ordinator’s Report – (please also see report attached)**

*Handouts*

- Invitation to Caring and Safe Schools Advisory Committee (circulated)
- PSS (Review of Professional Support Services) Survey reminder
- Roma Community Centre fundraiser flyer
- PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) Conference information

*ICAC “action items” from previous meeting minutes (September 21, 2011)*

- Page 2 – Staff to identify any interested parent(s) from MSIC Parent Academy to when involved in PIAC calendar sub-committee – Central Co-ordinating Principal will connect with PIAC rep Laurie Green (*yet to complete*)
- Page 3 – Trustee Cary-Meagher requests an update from Staff at next ICAC meeting regarding TDSB’s All Day Kindergarten supplementary programming (*complete*)
- Page 7 – Participatory Budget Work Group information and invitation to be involved to be circulated (*complete*)

- Page 8 – Trustee Glover asks to brainstorm over email – M. Shapcott to send out initial email to ICAC for feedback and to discuss ‘next steps’ around City Core Services Review and impact on most vulnerable populations (*in progress*)

### Discussion

- ‘Action item’ 8 – feedback better sooner rather than later
- **City Budget January 17/18/19, 2012** so need to gather and submit feedback/motion as soon as possible

### Action Item

**ICAC Co-ordinator to format email for L. Johnston to forward to ICAC group interested in putting together a motion regarding City of Toronto Core Services Review.**

- Will ICAC be seeing and discussing the Special Education Report?
- Yes, it will be on next month’s agenda (November 10, 2011)
- Where does feedback go concerning PSS process and survey – does it go back TDSB Research Dept.?
- Deputy Director Quan asks that any concerns be summarized and sent to both her and Chief Academic Officer, Focussed Interventions, Karen Gravitis so they are informed and concerns can be added to appendix of report

### 5. Staff Update on All Day Kindergarten Programs (Superintendent Curtis Ennis)

- Overview of programs
- Launched in October 2009 by Ministry of Education
- Legislated in 2010
- Began implementation in TDSB in September 2010 – phased in approach
- Full implementation by 2014/15 school year
- Integrated, play-based day for 4 and 5 year olds –provides a good foundation and a balance of direct instruction and play-based learning, including comprehensive literacy program
- Program is supported by Early Learning Instruction Co-ordinator along with implementation “teams”
- Ratios are 13:1 student/teachers including ECE in full day kindergarten classes; there are no caps in ½ day kindergarten classes so these are excellent ratios
- Research is still out, but anecdotally teachers from Phase I are reporting that kids are more ready for learning in Grade one
- Challenges? For all staff to find common planning times
- Space issues as we move to full implementation – Ministry funding will be necessary for capital expansion

### Discussion

**Q:** What is the relation with daycares and 15 seamless day schools? If city cuts daycares then our/TDSB programs will be severely impacted

**A:** TDSB has a very good relationship with its daycares – some evolved to deliver care to different age groups so now caught in a bind which is a problem

**Q:** Parent pays \$1500 per month for her child in daycare at Rawlinson Public School and is concerned that once older kids (i.e., 4 and 5 year olds) are taken out of system,

this will throw the fee structure into chaos for infants (older kids subsidize younger ones) and possibility that some subsidized spaces will be removed

**A:** Crucial problem is that we're (i.e., TDSB and daycares) are "sharing" the same kids; each filling the Ministry of Education's (MoE) mandate, but different dynamics

**Q:** After-school care for these children – how is it being managed? For example, nutrition?

**A:** Parents currently providing snack and lunch for kids to meet nutritional standards; so far staff have not been receiving a lot of questions/concerns about food; each program is unique, for example, at Parkdale there is both a childcare and Full Day Learning, and kids go back to daycare – parents given options and response differs according to each community; there was not a lot of demand for after-school programming in Phase I of All Day Learning

**Q:** Is the Board's standing commitment to equity reflected in roll-out of program? Site location seems to be driven currently by sheer physical space -- will second rollout reflect demographic profile of ECE staff and locations reflect under-served areas of city?

**A:** TDSB is committed to equitable and inclusive schools – current programs are located in high LOI schools such as FH Miller and Queen Victoria with the deliberate intention of supporting these communities with more opportunities than other communities with more social capital; in terms of hiring – employment equity as reflective of our schools and our world; is it where it should be? No, but we're working on it

**Q:** Has there been any discussion about a 'sliding scale' for pre/after school programs based on income? For example, Parkdale has only board run daycare with before/after "shoulder" programs – what is cost for these? This would be good model to replicate perhaps?

**A:** I don't know

**Q:** Concern is bubbling up from parents at PIAC as well from wards – concerns include: overcrowded schools, daycare subsidies in jeopardy, spaces, will programs be moved to support All Day Learning program instead? Etc.

**A:** As we move through next 3 phases pressures are going to increase; some capital dollars will flow from MoE, but cost would be huge to subsidize cost of 'shoulder programs'; note that there is a CUPE/ETT work group looking at third party (shoulder) programs – they may have information?

**Q:** ICAC should send message to new Minister of Education "this isn't going to work" – transition around operation and shoulder programs that this is an *economic* issue

#### **Motion –**

**ICAC requests that Staff report on the need for transitional funding for those schools and communities (1 – 150 on the LOI) adversely affected by the implementation of the All Day Learning Kindergarten programs with special attention to the need for extra support for before and after schools programs and school-based childcare programs. Request for an interim report including cost implications to be prepared and presented to the November 10<sup>th</sup> ICAC meeting.**

**(Moved by R. Spencer, seconded by A. Bravo)**

#### **Action Item -**

*Continue this discussion in email thread around City of Toronto Core Services Review.*

## **5. MSIC Resource Team Report – MSIC Lead Teachers**

- *Gandhi's Glasses* – book project with World Literacy and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Model Schools for Inner Cities (MSIC)
- To read more – see: [www.tdsb.on.ca/modelschools](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/modelschools) and [www.Worldlit.ca](http://www.Worldlit.ca)
- In the spring of 2011, fifteen elementary schools from JK to grad eight wrote and painted *Gandhi's Glasses*, a children's storybook about social justice issues which affect students in everyday life
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> - celebration of 'kids as authors'
- Kudos to everyone in this room for supporting our kids to be “the change they want to see in the world”
- *MSIC Fall Classic*—Principals, vice principals and superintendents from 128 Model Schools together for the day
- Dr. Wayne Hammond of Calgary did amazing presentation on resiliency and the importance of relationships with our students
- Everyone riveted by Dr. Hammond's passion and concept of a strength-based approach as opposed to deficit thinking – our kids bring great thing into our schools!
- Opportunity for small group “Q & A” with Dr. Hammond in the afternoon and discussion around resiliency data provided from surveys done last year
- Resiliency data can be broken down to individual school/class/student level so “red flags” can be used to support highly vulnerable students early
- Afternoon discussion included four main areas -
  - (i) Launch of tele-psychiatry supports, ongoing vision and hearing screening clinics, MSIC pediatric clinics (Chief Academic Officer, Karen Gravitis)
  - (ii) Bringing MSIC data to life – researcher Maria Yau
  - (iii) Curriculum Units and SharePoint update – annotated frameworks to support teachers in writing their own curriculum - MSIC staff
  - (iv) Q & A with Dr. W. Hammond

## **6. Research Symposium Work Group (RSWG) Update – ICAC Co-ordinator and Members (please see RSWG report attached)**

- Overview of project so far, synthesis and ‘next steps’ presented for discussion
- Focus of symposium should shift from problem-based (i.e., what is wrong in the city that needs to change to impact poverty), to case/evidence-based *study of strategies which work* (local, provincial, national and international) in 5-6 domains to support a thriving child within a thriving city context
- Other recommendations include a lengthened timeframe for symposium (i.e., not April 2012), and development of a “core” group or steering committee to drive next steps and maintain consistency
- Trustee Cary-Meagher adds the outcome of the symposium should provide platform for next 4-5 years

- Core steering group includes so far: Rob Brown, Nathan Gilbert, Michael Kerr, Alejandra Bravo, Lesley Johnston, Michael Shapcott, Bob Spencer, Cassie Bell

### Discussion-

- All advocacy groups need to learn to extend civilization through taxation
- There are increasingly more poor children which means poorer communities which means a less healthy city ...
- This symposium is creating the case for MSIC – inter-disciplinary research is key
- Colour of Change (through M. Kerr) wants to be involved in this initiative
- Group is currently working through an Atkinson Foundation grant to best gather disaggregated data; a lot of these realities are not well known or understood
- Dr. Michael Ornstein’s research is excellent:  
<http://www.yorku.ca/isr/newsletter/spring00/ornstein.html>
- Support move to push back date for symposium as there should be good ‘learnings’ coming out of Futures Conference (May 2012) and a possible catalyst for moving this project forward – focus of conference is equity and inclusive education, social determinants of health and equitable outcomes for kids
- TPH (Toronto Public Health) – newcomer health report coming from Board of Health in November which may be useful data for the RSWG, plus baseline student health survey planned for spring 2012 (partnership between TDSB and TPH) – very early stages however
- Research staff add that there is more information in Toronto than a lot of places; challenge? Small conference which summarize data and information, but now we need “knowledge mobilization” – puts knowledge into action!
- Trustee Cary-Meagher adds she had hoped the RSWG would provide more ‘volatile fluid’ to this issue – springboard to something else?
- Focus of Research Symposium will be different in providing exemplars of best practices and making cogent argument of sectors aligning and working towards a common agenda of the “thriving child within the context of a thriving city” – what factors influence the dynamic to produce a different outcome?
- Current policies driving us further down the road to ‘America’ – policy review and watchdog status focus needed
- Really there is need for small “c” conservative argument – it costs \$5 per day to feed a child while it costs many more times that to keep him/her in jail! Cost / benefit analysis is worth doing for both its economic and its moral compass
- Collective impact – good example of some of this work being done is “Project 21” and Karen Pitman  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vucxjPwxaXE>
- Priority Neighbourhoods report due out in **January 2012** – reporting out on impacts and strengths of program
- In Texas, lawsuits have been filed and won under “equity of outcome”
- Another important resource is the work being done by the Kirwan Institute out of Ohio State University – overlays maps of health outcomes with race

and income disparity: <http://www.kirwaninstitute.org/2011/04/18/report-mapping-child-well-being-in-duval-county-fl/>

**Action Item –**

*RSWG will meet mid-late November and report back to ICAC in December or the new year.*

**7. Participatory Budget Process – Trustee Chris Glover**

- Timeline for process so far – November 10<sup>th</sup> to Budget Standing committee, November 16<sup>th</sup> to full Board for consideration, moving to community consultations in February 2012
- What is guiding question to direct this process? This will be key! Suggestions so far include:
  - (i) Need to Succeed? i.e., what do students need to succeed?  
Needs-based budgeting process
  - (ii) Cuts/balance discussion – we have this much money – what should we keep/cut?
  - (iii) Essential schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Need ICAC representative to attend working group meeting next week

**Action Item –**

*ICAC Co-ordinator to send out email to ICAC volunteers for Participatory Budget Working Group meeting – Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4- 6 pm, Committee Room ‘A’  
Volunteers: L. Johnston, L. Green and A. Mujib*

**8. ICAC FFS (Fees and Fundraising Subcommittee) Update – L. Johnston (see update attached)**

- Created draft of ‘short term’, ‘midterm’ and ‘long term’ goals in terms of moving this issue forward
- Having parents on board and pressuring trustees to advocate for more equitable funding is important, so hoping to move discussion forward to PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee)
- Asking parents to consider Portland model (re-distributing fundraising) and idea of school cupboard scan
- ICAC Student rep mentions there was a motion last year at Board by students to look at inventory and distribution of technology across system
- Corporate Partnerships guidelines review is also coming up – need to prepare for that
- Should group take report and recommendations to MoE?
- New ‘equity in education grant’ is a sticky question – should we use public money to offset private dollars??
- Portland model takes away from key issue which is underfunding of whole system!
- “Cupboard scan” or audit gets people thinking about what makes an essential school? What should *every* school have, no matter rich or poor?

**Action Item –**

*That the following chart be broken down into a per pupil funding basis:  
(Responsibility: Staff)*

“The analysis of the top and bottom of the LOI schools **non-public funds** accounts revenue for 09-10 is as follows. The analysis is of the top and bottom 150 elementary and 29 secondary schools (excluding adult day schools).”

Panel	Top of LOI	Bottom of LOI
Elementary	\$3,066,858	\$8,754,900
Secondary	\$2,187,398	\$9,988,754
Total	\$5,254,256	\$18,743,654

- Politics are local, i.e., rich schools which raised money and gave to local community agency, but you cannot mandate philanthropy
- Need to make case that taxes buy services!
- A survey done a few years ago by the Board showed parents completely polarized re: issue share vs. not to share fundraising
- Central ‘pot’ of money will likely be viewed as a tax, whereas schools more likely to share if they know who they are sharing with
- Ward 7 currently has this on the table
- This is ‘twinning’ by another name – giving locally seems to support more control over who gets the funds and how they are spent
- Student rep adds that at a student retreat session many students were against pooling of fundraising monies – no transparency- but they would support something like a fundraiser for two schools at once
- One suggestion – building on participatory budget process and building community involvement in decision-making process – use chart above and develop it as tool – different perspectives for different audiences, including a map with figures and ethno-racial percentages overlaid
- Idea of fundraiser as “fun-raiser” – social aspect of process is important
- Idea raised a few years ago in discussion with senior staffer that if upper middle classes are not allowed to fundraise they will leave public system – there has been a shift of opinion through successes
- Idea of raising monies, but for other purposes, i.e., social justice causes
- Should a scan be done of egregious examples (i.e., fundraising for a gym floor in a school)
- Fees muddy fundraising issue now that MoE policy has been introduced -- restriction on fees is now driving fundraising!
- There is an educational component here re: equity

**ACTION ITEM-**

*That staff prepare breakdown of fundraising expenditures through current and available school council reporting data to provide, as much as possible, context of how fundraising dollars are being spent. (Information to go to L. Johnston prior to discussion at PIAC)*

**9. Opportunity Gap Report Update (N. Gilbert)**

- Superintendent Spyropoulos sent a draft copy of report to co-chair of group
- N. Gilbert, ICAC Co-ordinator and Super. Spyropoulos meeting next week to discuss

- Staff add that current plan/report has been shared with trustees so is now public
- Hard copies of updated report shared with co-chair of group for review
- Next steps will be reported out at upcoming ICAC

**Meeting terminated**

**Next Meeting –  
Thursday November 10, 2011  
9:30 am – 12:30 pm  
5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom (main floor)**