

ICAC Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2011

2:00- 5:00 pm

In attendance: Thomas Widstrand, Alejandra Bravo, Lesley Johnston, Darcy MacCallum*, Aim Mujib, Peter Mallouh, Jeff Kugler, Nanci Goldman, Laurie Green, Michael Shapcott, Jann Houston, Nathan Gilbert, Howard Kaplan, Sheila Cary-Meagher, Cheryl Skovronek, Chris Penrose, Monika Etzler, Janice Gillespie, Michael Griesz

*Mr. MacCallum acted as interim Community Co-chair for this meeting

Regrets: Don Dippo, Anne Sheppard, Ester Saltzman, Tanya Senk

Guests: Malini Singh, Gina Csanyi, Dr.Gulasingam, Simon Storey, Angela Petitti, Dan Fisher, Michael Kerr

Staff members present:

Manon Gardner, Vicky Branco, Cassie Bell, Elizabeth Schaeffer

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Upcoming events

- Congratulations to Professor Don Dippo, long time ICAC member and York University Faculty member recently awarded the honour of “University Professor”; on behalf of ICAC, well done, Don!
- ICAC has been invited to host a table at the upcoming TDSB Futures conference on May 4th; ICAC Co-ordinator will step in if no members are available/wish to host; please contact Co-ordinator with offers to attend and/or suggestions of materials to display
- ICAC also asked to send interested representatives to attend upcoming consultations on Student and Parent Census on Tuesday April 26th or Thursday April 28th @ 7 pm at 5050 Yonge; Please “cc” Co-ordinator if rsvp’ing

3. Approval/amendments of draft Meeting Agenda – ICAC Co-chairs

- Brief introduction of Board’s DRAFT Strategic Directions Plan (presented by Angela Jonsson, Assistant to Chair Chris Bolton)
- Presentation by Gina Csanyi added under ‘business arising’ by ICAC member, Jeff Kugler
- Staff requested to move up their report due to time constraints

Agenda as amended moved by J. Kugler, seconded by N. Gilbert, approved.

4. Board Strategic Directions – Draft Plan (see soft copy attached – hard copies presented to ICAC)

- Plan began at Board retreat this year with Staff and Trustees
- “Action Groups” formed to address three key questions and create document to move forward with consultations
- Consultations now at advisory committee level
- Feedback from ICAC can be individual and/or by full committee
- Feedback is due before May Board meeting; next ICAC meeting May 5th

ACTION ITEM:

Circulate soft copy of draft plan and any available public background documents.

*Circulate Angela Jonsson's contact details for feedback from individual ICAC members.
Add to May ICAC agenda for committee discussion.
(Responsibility: ICAC Co-ordinator)*

Discussion:

- Trustee Cary-Meagher added item #5 hoping it would address equity issues
- Language of equity *is* missing though – where is it?
- Language is important and needs to be re-inserted
- Equitable learning outcomes should be the goal – name it, own it, do it
- Suggest that this draft document be “translated” into parent-friendly language before it goes out to general public for consultation (i.e., remove acronyms, ‘edu-speak’ etc.)
- Also, translate parent-friendly piece into most commonly used languages in board

5. Previous ICAC Meeting Minutes (March 3, 2011)

Moved by J. Houston, seconded by L.Green; approved.

6. ICAC Co-ordinator's Report

- *Handouts:* Toronto Star Editorial (MSIC and Africentric Program), articles on fees and fundraising (Toronto Star and Globe and Mail), article on standardized testing (Rick Salutin), UN Report on eradication of poverty
- *Included in agenda package* – summary of last month's “action items” and motions, Ministry of Education's (MoE) Fees and Fundraising backgrounders, People for Education's recent report on high school fees, MoE's policy guidelines on “Fees for Learning Materials and Activities”
- *Update- ICAC Action Items and Motions*
- **LOI Motion** – request to defer until staff have more time to research and establish clarity on wording – agreed to postpone till June 2011* (see end of minutes for background information)
- **Fees and Fundraising Motion** – see report from sub-committee below
- **Update on Trustee Laskin's Motion at PSSC*** - Staff report below (see end of minutes for motion)
- **2011 LOI and MSIC Organizational Chart request-** LOI is now public and will be circulated by Co-Ordinator
- 2011 MSIC Organizational Chart will also be circulated as soon as it is public
- **Motion re: Increased funding for MSIC** – ICAC Co-ordinator will format and forward to Board administrative staff in time for May Budget discussions; deputations (written submissions and in-person deputations) will be needed by ICAC members
- **Motion re: Achievement Gap Work Group (AGWG)** – ICAC Co-ordinator forwarded motion to Coordinating Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos as “fyi” along with draft previous meeting minutes (March 3rd)
- See report from AGWG below

ACTION ITEMS ARISING

(i) ICAC Co-ordinator to work with Staff and ICAC FSS ad hoc chair to identify all funding streams for schools (especially secondary schools) in order to accurately reflect any gaps which fees and fundraising might be filling.

(ii) ICAC to format ICAC motion into CAC (Community Advisory Committee) template on MSIC funding and forward to Board administrative staff

6. Updates from ICAC Sub-committees and Work Groups

(i) ICAC Fees and Fundraising Sub-committee

- Group is expanding as interest grows
- Last meeting Friday, April 1st @ the Laidlaw Foundation
- Attendees included: parent representative from “CAPSI” – ad hoc advocacy group focused on equity in school council fundraising, Diane Dyson - parent and former ICAC Co-chair, Nadia Heyd – parent, Caitlin French – student intern with Laidlaw Foundation
- ICAC members attending included – M. Griesz, N. Gilbert, A. Bravo, L. Johnston (ad hoc sub-committee chair)
- Strategy re: consultations on fundraising and corporate donations discussed
- *Action item # 1:* write letter to Ministry of Education (MoE) addressing disappointment with Student Fees policy guidelines – ‘no teeth’, and voicing support for People for Education’s (P4E) recommendations; urge MoE to support P4E’s recommendations
- MoE lack of attention to our/ICAC recommendations
- Letter will come to ICAC for feedback/approval
- Group felt it was important to get parents involved in this sub-committee discussion
- *Action item # 2* – request another consultation with MoE regarding school fundraising issue
- *Action item # 3* – create “brief” or report that demonstrates/highlights disparities and opportunity gap that inequities in fundraising create (aim to have draft ready for May ICAC)
- Interesting to note intersection between ICAC’s sub-committee and work group– both are referring to ‘opportunity gap’ for our poorest students; i.e., fees have significant impact on opportunities for students and, therefore, their achievement; good to have both the ICAC FFS and the AGWG reporting back to ICAC table
- Need to change conversation – why false dichotomy between student fees, school council fundraising and corporate donations? They all add to ‘bottom line’ of school funding and creating an opportunity gap
- In order to enlarge conversation, need to do outreach with other constituencies and fold their voice into ICAC (i.e., parents, students, teachers etc.)
- Fundraising often intertwined to specific ‘goals’, for example, water wells in Africa
- Possible to also highlight examples of success in pooling of fundraising?
- Don’t want loopholes to exist (i.e., school can have several extra bank accounts)
- Previous ICAC motion also suggested looking at correlation of increased fundraising and decreased school budgets

Discussion

Staff: Board will be interpreting MoE’s policy guidelines in relation to TDSB’s new Student Fees policy and reporting out will look different next year; will take into account differential funding streams for example for high schools (i.e., UDS schools etc.)

- Discussion around pooling of school council fundraising would be exceedingly difficult and divisive; different landscape ‘out there’, loss of sense of equity
- Important to understand school budgets in context of this discussion, i.e., *everything* goes through public school budgets (for example, field trip funds collected go in and then come out to pay for trip eventually), so aggregate amounts can be deceiving; budget can look large but can in fact be relatively small
- Agreed that disaggregation of fees, fundraising and funding amounts was an issue in board data as well

- Next year (2011-12), report will be quite different and we will have more of “apples with apples” and data will be disaggregated
 - Agree with sub-committee however that numbers do indeed tell a fairly stark story
 - Should we not go after disaggregation of all data again? Need a shared commitment back towards equity, even word ‘equity’ has been removed from board language; inclusive is not equivalent to equitable
 - Challenge to differentiate between *equality* and *equity* remains
 - Note that school board is deemed as qualified donee* (i.e., TFSS does not currently have to declare who its donees are), but Income Tax Act is changing, and next year TFSS will have to make this public; when ICAC FFS looked at data we assumed any foundation would have to make an annual report to CRA (Canada Revenue Agency),but this is not so; new reporting will provide much more disclosure
 - Parents are biggest challenge in this discussion, not staff; during policy creation six years ago ‘scatter plot’ showed clearly two camps: “share-it-all” and “share none”!
 - School staff are very aware of ‘pockets of poverty’ issue and do best to mitigate issue, but cannot extend to address inequities throughout a school where low budgets and fundraising ability lead to opportunity gaps
 - Feeling that Board will respond on this issue if parents push them to
 - Encourage parents find out what’s going on in “other” schools (i.e., some parents only concerned with their own child’s school, but interesting to ask them, what’s happening elsewhere?); parents who are engaged locally not globally!
 - Three areas need to be considered in order to enrich kids’ lives:
 1. Fees
 2. Fundraising
 3. Extra-curricular events/activities
 - Question of Central Equity Fund when playgrounds were being replaced several years ago?
 - Yes, but quite modest
 - Does this fund still exist?
 - ICAC interim Co-chair extends gratitude for great work of ICAC FFS
- * *donee* = recipient of a gift

(ii) *ICAC Achievement Gap Work Group (AGWG) –*

- Previous meeting notes (April 21st) circulated with recent ICAC update; facilitator of ICAC AGWG is Nathan Gilbert
- AGWG last met April 21st and Coordinating Superintendent Spyropoulos briefly joined the group to update them on Board’s progress on Achievement Gap report and concrete steps being taken
- Meeting notes sent to Superintendent Spyropoulos for his perusal / input and AGWG will also invite him to upcoming meeting
- ***Next Meeting of the ICAC AGWG -
Monday May 16
4:30 6:30 pm
Laidlaw Foundation Boardroom
365 Bloor Street East, Suite 2000 (20th) floor***

7. Business Arising – Special Presentation – Jeff Kugler, Executive Director, Centre for Urban Schooling, OISE/UT, and Gina Csanyi, Executive Director Toronto Roma Center

- ‘Thank you’ to ICAC for amending agenda and allowing presentation

- At the Williams Waters Symposium last week (through Centre for Urban Schooling, OISE/UT), the Roma community presented, followed by drama presentations by Roma youth during the Friday program
- Discussion around youth arose out of presentation
- Large numbers attend various schools across the city – kids mentioned need for translators and interpreters and concern arising from recent comments made by Federal Immigration Minister Jason Kenney about their denial of refugee status
- Subsequently, immigration acceptance rate for Roma has gone to virtually zero, in spite of very real danger they would face upon return to Hungary and other places across Europe
- Kids feel helpless and hopeless – negative impact on ability to learn
- Felt it was important to ask Board, through ICAC, to advocate for these students

Ms Csanyi

- Hungary is a very difficult place for the Roma – signed onto to European Union (EU), but persecution and segregation continue; fingerprinting and rounding people up into camps still continues
- Ms. Csanyi also part of OISE/UT Inner City Cohort where she learned about students ‘at risk’ and the importance of inclusion and integration
- Currently 400 Roma students in elementary and secondary schools across Toronto District School Board
- Elementary students fare better in MSIC program due to programming and extra resources, for example, students moving from elementary to secondary after two years have much better English than students starting out in high school
- Negative image of community through media is pervasive; stereotypes make integration difficult
- PD (professional development) day two weeks ago was excellent and focused on Roma students in TDSB schools
- Some recommendations to TDSB to support Roma community:
 1. Create resources (i.e., curricular) specifically tailored to Roma students
 2. Develop a comprehensive strategy for inclusion of all diverse/new students in our schools (not just Roma)
 3. Create a “life relevant” (i.e., life skills) component for MSIC program, not just ‘culturally relevant pedagogy’ (see program at Marc Garneau)
 4. Request for support for meeting with Hungarian Ambassador next week
 5. Advocacy and support for families refugee claims

Discussion:

- Staff spoke of efforts to support newcomer Roma students, including approximately \$2 million in resources over past two years, while acknowledging difficulties being faced by communities
- Integration occurs perhaps more easily at elementary school level as children play together
- Crucial part is really development of trust and relationships between schools and communities over time – these do not happen easily nor quickly, but good will is there
- Principals in schools with large numbers of Roma students are having difficulty finding translators – need community’s help with this
- Hungarian speaking administrator hired this year as well as Hall monitor in order to support students
- Continuing Education faces similar issue – offer language classes but lack instructors (note: most Roma speak Romani, not Hungarian, an important distinction given current political tensions in Europe)

- ‘Thank you’ to Ms. Csyani for coming to ICAC and speaking today – exciting connection made and hopefully can continue to work together for best outcomes for all Roma students

ACTION ITEM:

- *Staff will follow up this discussion at upcoming ICAC meeting outlining supports and programming in place thus far for TDSB Roma students, as well as “next steps”*
- *Centre for Urban Schooling OISE/UT through Executive Director Jeff Kugler will provide support as requested for discussion with Hungarian Ambassador and background information on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.*

Motion:

“Whereas 2011 is the 25th anniversary of Canada receiving the Nansen medal from the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) – the first time an entire people were so honoured for the years of work by Canada and Canadians in support of refugees, and,

Whereas, there is a disturbing anti-immigrant, anti-refugee spirit of both recent Federal Bills, C-11 and C – 49, reflecting an effort to criminalize and stigmatize new Canadians and refugee asylum seekers in the mind’s eye of the Canadian public;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The TDSB advocate vigorously on behalf of Roma students and their families in TDSB schools and encourage the Federal Government to re-examine the Refugee Board’s (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) decisions on the status of Roma refugee claimants in Canada, and, refute Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason T. Kenney’s claim that Roma people are, “economic migrants jumping the queue who could easily move to 26 other Western democracies in the European Union”¹, a statement which has impacted the supposed neutrality of the Refugee Board in its decision-making.

(Motion moved by J. Kugler, seconded by H. Kaplan, approved unanimously)
(Responsibility for forwarding: ICAC Co-ordinator)

¹ *Monday March 22, 2010 Toronto Star*

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/783487--minister-s-comments-prejudiced-roma-refugee-s-case-lawyer-argues>

8. **Staff Update** – Chief Academic Officer, Manon Gardner and Central Co-ordinating Principal, MSIC, Vicky Branco
- Proposed organization for Model Schools program (MSIC) for 2011-12 discussed at meeting two weeks ago with principals and superintendents
 - Group overwhelmingly agreed that middle schools were too isolated and requested that they be added in with elementary “clusters” ; middle schools need to be more embedded in program
 - Range would be approximately 5000 to 7500 students per cluster if 125 highest LOI schools were included
 - Staff feel they can still deliver MSIC program with current budget of \$8.5 million, notwithstanding potential ICAC deputations and discussion at AFA (Accountability, Finance and Administration Committee) for more resources
 - Program will lose one current elementary school by moving to 125, as well as middle schools well beyond 125 on LOI (i.e., 7 schools will move out), but this proposed organization gives much truer picture of those schools originally designed to be in program
 - *Staff receive full ICAC support for proposed shift to 125 on LOI and for inclusion of middle schools in designated elementary clusters as recommended*
 - Trustee Laskin Motion (see end of minutes for wording) requesting student fee mitigation from LOG (Learning Opportunities Grant) for high needs schools
 - Deputy Director – Operations, Penny Mustin is putting together report on financial impact of this motion
 - Important to start with Ministry of Education guidelines and basic fees and then look at fees in TDSB schools
 - TSAA assert that staff do their very best to meet the needs of all their students
 - In some cases needs of a few students can be met and communities are very generous, but Model Schools are working with *whole* schools whose communities are very under-served and who do not have the capacity to mitigate the needs of all their students; needs to be a system response
 - Question – are ‘pockets of poverty’ addressed in this motion?
 - Yes – staff quote directly from part (b) of motion:
“That school boards, principals, parents, students and staff work to create a sensitive and respectful process for those students/families living in poverty to indicate hardship beyond baseline indices of poverty, that is, for those students located in ‘pockets of poverty’, and an opportunity to obtain a waiver of student fees be created.”

Model Schools for Inner Cities Program Update – Lead Teacher Elizabeth Schaeffer

- MSIC is very involved in the upcoming TDSB “**Futures Conference**” (see: www.tdsbfutures.com for more information) which is being held May 2nd through May 4th
- Main ballroom at Allstream Conference Centre will be transformed on May 4th into a MSIC showroom!
- 327 parents coming (so far) and 107 teachers, plus principals and vice principals
- Community Agencies partners (mostly those that serve across Toronto) are also invited to attend for free (or minimal cost)
- CPACs (Cluster Parent Academy Committees) will be showcased – don’t miss it!
- **MSIC’s second Pediatric Clinic** opened at George Webster Elementary School recently – the “Dr. Paul D. Steinhauer Clinic”, after renowned pediatric psychiatrist and George Webster Principal Nancy Steinhauer’s father
- See MSIC and ICAC websites for picture and media coverage of this terrific event
- **MSIC Family Passport – (copies circulated for ICAC to look at)**
- Every family in every MSIC school received Passport prior to March Break

- Includes great variety of partners: BATA Shoe Museum, The Toronto Zoo, RoM, Hockey Hall of Fame etc. etc.
- Many congratulations to Lead Teachers who helped negotiate a lot of these deals and put this Passport together for our MSIC students and their families - well done!
- **Ontario Place** – this year there are two days to accommodate the huge numbers of MSIC families participating: May 14th and 15th

9. Trustee Update – Trustees Kaplan and Cary-Meagher

- At Oakdale Middle School, LOI (Learning Opportunities Index) has gone down, coinciding with declining enrolment
- School is losing .5 vice principal (currently at 1.5) and parents are very upset, especially as it is a Model Middle school
- Noted that “outer city” objections to equitable distributions have shown themselves around loss of some staff (particularly Office Assistants “OA”s, and VPs) in high needs schools
- Proposal from Principals that LOI be used as a filter for all clerical support staff
- Proposal put forward at PSSC (Programs and School Services Committee) this year that LOI will be used as a staffing filter *next year* – this was agreed to (Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher)

Q: Is it clear a filter was not used this year?

Q: How is LOI used in staffing, or is it?

A: Historically LOI was shown to be used in all staffing allocations – from VPs to caretakers to teachers; no clarity on this issue now, although it is part of ICAC’s LOI motion referred to earlier in meeting

A: Some demographics are available through TDSB Student and Parent Census; one option is to add questions about ethno-racial backgrounds etc. at front end of all school registration data collected; this would add greatly to LOI and other key demographic data for the board

A: Upcoming Student and Parent Census data will be used as part of SIPs (School Improvement Plans)

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting –

Thursday May 5th

6:30 – 9:30 pm

5050 Yonge St.

Committee Room “A” (main floor)

Additional Information for ICAC Minutes

1. Student Fees Issue

ICAC motion (referred by Trustee Laskin at PSSC in January 2011, passed at Board February 9, 2011) – Excerpt from Summary of Board minutes from website:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/boardroom/bd_agenda/uploads/minutes/2011/110209%20Summ.pdf

Presented in Program and School Services Committee Report No. 14, January 19, 2011	13.11(1)	41
<p>Socio-Economic Considerations re Student Activity and Course Cost Fees</p> <p>The Board decided:</p> <p>Whereas, the Inner City Advisory Committee has provided four recommendations in its report to the Program and School Services Committee on January 19, 2011 with regard to student fees;</p> <p>Therefore, be it resolved that the matter be referred to staff for a report to be presented at the next meet-ing, on the following recommendations of the Inner City Advisory Committee:</p> <p>(a) That funds be used from the Learning Opportunities Grant to offset all student fees, to address the aforementioned inequitable opportunities experienced by the most vulnerable student populations, that is, mean elementary schools ranked 1-150 on the Learning Opportunities Index, and 1-30 on the secondary Learning Opportunities Index;</p> <p>(b) That school boards, principals, parents, students and staff work to create a sensitive and respectful process for those students/families living in poverty to indicate hardship beyond baseline indices of poverty, that is, for those students located in ‘pockets of poverty’, and an opportunity to obtain a waiver of student fees be created.</p>		

2. Background Information for LOI motion

Please find below -

- (i) Email from Sandra Gatti (who worked with Peter Gooch, staff person who handled LOI Review in 2009) with link to approved LOI Procedures (see esp. **Section 4.5** as indicated in ICAC motion) **MARCH 26, 2009**
- (ii) ICAC input/recommendations to LOI Review Committee re: new LOI Policy and Procedures docs.

		<u>LOI Procedure</u>	
From	Gatti, Sandra	Date	Thursday, March 26, 2009 2:17:32 PM
To	Bell, Cassie		
Cc			
Subject	LOI Procedure		

Cassie,

The LOI Procedure (PR526) was approved by Executive Council on March 24. It is now posted on our internal and external websites and can be found under Policies, Procedures, and Forms.

For your convenience, you can access the procedure directly by clicking on the following link:

<http://tdsbweb/ppf/uploads/files/live/88/1726.pdf>

We appreciate your advisory committee's input into the development of the procedure.

Sandra

Sandra Gatti

Senior Policy Officer
Toronto District School Board
5050 Yonge Street, 5th floor
Toronto, ON M2N 5N8
416-397-2500

FEEDBACK FROM ICAC RE: LOI POLICY AND PROCEDURES

MARCH 4, 2009

COMMENTS RE: LOI POLICY

The ICAC strongly supports both the implementation of the new index and the direction to include, as soon as it is available, a variable that will reflect race (currently being investigated by the board). While the group understands the rationale for the changes to a number of the variables, the following concerns were expressed:

- Mobility variable: previous variable not well correlated to achievement but felt it may be a better measure of external challenge if it were to capture only students affected by multiple moves (**homelessness/living in shelters**).
- **needy immigrant populations** Immigration variable: Concerns that some will now be under-represented with removal of the immigration variable and inadequate ESL funding (and no race variable as yet)
- Immigration variable: Strongly supported the specialized data collection and tracking of **Aboriginal** students because of their well-documented high level of external challenge, poor performance and low prevalence within the TDSB.

The committee also expressed strong concerns about using **EQAO as the achievement measure** including concerns about its ability to show improvement at the lower achievement levels. The ICAC feels that the research department of the board should be involved in modelling other achievement measures which are likely to better reflect gains made by inner city students.

COMMENTS RE: LOI PROCEDURE

The ICAC has the following recommendations to make regarding the draft LOI procedure:

- **Staff Education:** A major determinant of the successful use of the index within the board will be the level of understanding of the index and staff's belief in its ability to accurately reflect external challenges within the school population. As supervisory officers will be charged with the implementation of part of the staffing allocated by the index, it is pivotal that they have a fundamental understanding of the LOI. The ICAC strongly believe that the education piece of the LOI with respect to the board staff should be formalized in the procedure document.
- **Research component:** The design of the research component is also pivotal to its ability to reflect educational and non-educational gains in a student population with substantial external challenges. If it is to reflect "the value of these resources, how they are used and the benefit to student learning", then the research department should be involved to determine the specifics of the "information" collection re: sample size, achievement measures used, etc. The ICAC recommend that the design of this information gathering be determined well in advance of data collection and well-publicized.
- **Accountability:** In addition, the ICAC also strongly believe that such a report should be a public document that is presented to the ICAC and other advisory committees for review and feedback. To this end, the following motion was passed at ICAC: "**The information stemming from the annual LOI review (as**

per the procedure document) come back annually to the ICAC and other concerned advisory committees for review and input”.

- **Staff Allocation:** The ICAC reiterated the previously stated (see attached) recommendation that teaching staff allocations should be targeted to the top 150 elementary schools and the top 30 secondary schools. This should include the allocation of other important school-based staff such as vice-principals, secretaries/office assistants, educational assistants, social workers, child and youth workers, caretakers, etc.

Pleased find attached the December 17, 2007 feedback document from the ICAC to the LOI review committee.

The ICAC would like to thank the LOI review staff for the opportunity to respond to this document. We look forward to receiving your comments and would appreciate reviewing revised documents.

3. ICAC Motion as moved and approved by TDSB regarding Roma Students

April 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting –Motion submitted by Trustees Kaplan and Cary-Meagher:

Roma Students and Their Families

Whereas, 2011 is the 25th anniversary of Canada receiving the Nansen medal from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees--the first time an entire people were so honoured for the years of work by Canada and Canadians in support of refugees; and

Whereas, there is a disturbing anti-immigrant, anti-refugee spirit in both recent Federal Bills, C-11 and C-49, reflecting an effort to criminalize and stigmatize new Canadians and refugee asylum seekers in the mind’s eye of the Canadian public; and

Whereas, the Inner City Advisory Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on April 5, 2011 and the members agreed with following;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Board advocate vigorously on behalf of Roma students and their families in TDSB schools;

(b) That the Chair send a communication on behalf of the Board to encourage the Federal Government to re-examine the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada’s decisions on the status of Roma refugee claimants in Canada and refute Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason T. Kenney’s claim that Roma people are, “economic migrants jumping the queue who could easily move to 26 other Western democracies in the European Union,”¹ a statement which has impacted the supposed neutrality of the Refugee Board in its decision making.

¹ *Toronto Star*, Monday, March 22, 2010

