

**ICAC Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday February 8, 2011**  
**6:30 – 9:30 pm**

**In attendance:**

Darcy MacCallum\*, Don Dippo, Janice Gillespie, Tanya Senk, Laurie Green, Jann Houston, Lesley Johnston, Varun Desai, Justin Jagdeo, Chris Penrose, Maria Rodrigues, Nathan Gilbert, Chris Glover, Chris Tonks, Sheila Cary-Meagher

\*Interim Community Co-chair

**Regrets:**

Manon Gardner, Sejal Patel, Peter Mallouh, George Martell

**Guests:**

Michael Kerr, Marcia Brown, Aim Mujib, Huma Umar, Howard Kaplan, Caitlin French, Graham Hollings

**Staff:**

Heather Gollob, Vicky Branco, Julie-Ann Baxter, Marjolein Winterink, Cassie Bell

**1. Introductions and welcome**

2. **Agenda** – moved N.Gilbert, seconded by J. Houston, approved unanimously

3. **Previous Meeting Minutes (January 6, 2011)** – moved by L. Johnston, seconded by N. Gilbert, approved unanimously

**4. Action Items arising from minutes:**

- *Page 1: Fundraising data*
- No report to date but TDSB staff are working on it
- Need clarification so all can understand it – i.e., year-over-year vs. biannual data etc.
- Accurate numbers are important
  
- *Page 2: ICAC's Achievement Gap Work Group (AGWG)*
- Ad hoc group consists of: Michael Kerr (EPAC), Chris Penrose (Success Beyond Limits/ICAC), Nathan Gilbert (Laidlaw Foundation/ICAC), Justin Jagdeo (Student Super Council/ICAC), Darcy MacCallum (SWIS/ICAC), George Martell (ICAC), Caitlin French (Laidlaw Foundation)
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> this group met from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm at the Laidlaw Foundation; rich discussion held; set date for meeting with other invités (expand group a little): February 24<sup>th</sup> evening; venue to be determined
- Comprehensive research and consultation agenda feeds in; legacy initiatives funded to close gap; some discussion should inform these initiatives and make them more effective; marry and connect work being done on the ground with policy, research etc.
- Felt it was important to re-frame the question: “achievement gap” -> opportunity gap -> relationship gap --- what is achievement???
- Measuring achievement through a narrow lens, not a gap in ability or intelligence, but barriers (systemic, equity etc.) which prevent ‘achievement’
- Looking at MSIC program, it addresses both pedagogy and families and the connection between the two; looks at what program is trying to achieve as an educational institution
- Important first step is not to refute report, but rather to broaden discussion

- Opportunity Gap and health component are key to success for kids
- EQAO and standardized testing came about to test curriculum, not kids or teachers
- Message has shifted unfortunately through media
- Educators are not opposed to standardized testing in principle – data should inform and drive practice
- We haven't yet spoken about learning – why?
- EQAO data has 'pros' and 'cons' – need to look at more than just standardized tests – should be including other data to derive rich and full picture of child (i.e., Census, health data, demographic data etc.); EQAO is not a measure of the *whole* student
- In Gr. 9 Maths class the EQAO Math test is now worth 10% of final mark, however, teacher did not teach curriculum and students did poorly – is that fair?? Does that accurately reflect students' capabilities?
- OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) held in Gr. 10 is not only mandatory, but students must pass it to graduate; what about other areas in which students excel but are ignored? (i.e., areas/subjects not “tested” or counted)
- Article in Vancouver Sun about resistance to standardized testing; points out when standardized test results are published publicly, public confidence in public education plummets; prior to introduction of widespread publication of data public confidence was highest ever
- EQAO narrows curriculum focus and promotes 'teaching to the test' philosophy

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- (i) **ICAC Co-ordinator to circulate article/link to Vancouver Sun article**
  - (ii) **ICAC Co-ordinator to send out confirmed venue and time for February 24<sup>th</sup> AGWG meeting; goal is for meeting to be as inclusive as possible**
- *Page 2 Student Fees Subcommittee*
  - Subcommittee members reviewed process thus far; no response from MoE (Ministry of Education) to ICAC submission on consultation on student fees except to acknowledge receipt
  - PSSC presentation by ICAC subcommittee was huge success in that Trustee Laskin (Ward 11) asked for a staff feasibility report on first two items in ICAC report; last two items ignored
  - Social Planning Council's (SPC – T) Research and Policy Forum on February 7<sup>th</sup>, “The Real Cost of Public Education”, had three speakers, including Hugh McKenzie looking at long term financial policies in the education sector, Annie Kidder, Executive Director of People for Education looking at impact of fundraising vis-à-vis P4e's annual surveys and parent feedback, and Faduma Mohamed, Labour Community Services and parent
  - Discussion was rich and informative; recommendation was not to look back, but rather public and government to consider, “what is our *vision* of education?” Who are we educating and for what?
  - What is the correlation between student fees and school budget cuts? Schools have had fewer and fewer government-funded resources to meet student needs with over past 10 – 15 years
  - Students have worked hard on TDSB “Student Fees Policy” to ensure secondary principals develop a fair and standardized process; HST hit schools hard
  - Social Planning Council student called some schools informally to ask about student fees; discrepancy in that ‘richer’ schools reported up to \$25 per student for an “arts” fee, while ‘poorer’ schools reported a \$2 fee; begs questions – how are the experiences of students in each school different?
  - Example of MSIC Program and Arts program at George B. Little; kids had a wonderful experience thanks to money supplied for art supplies etc. Principal of George B. Little encouraged two students to apply to Wexford School of the Arts, in spite of only having one

piece of artwork to submit – both were accepted! This is the “difference” MSIC can and does make

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**ICAC Co-ordinator asked to forward links to social Planning Council Research Forum and to Metro Morning podcast on issue (see below), as well as “Essential Schools Document”**

- (i) **Social Planning of Toronto – Research and Policy Forum – “The Real Cost of Public Education”**

<http://us1.campaignarchive1.com/?u=a8f54eab94acd8c455bb09550&id=7be7112893#2>

- (ii) **Metro Morning Podcast**

<http://www.cbc.ca/metromorning/episodes/2011/02/07/cost-of-education/>

- *Page 6 Research Symposium*
- ICAC Co-ordinator requests further direction regarding symposium, i.e., timing, purpose etc.
- Olivia Chow initiated “Report on Children” with maps and various overlays of results (i.e., nutrition programs etc.); showed potential convergences of issues very clearly; this process shines light on poverty and its impact
- LOI review two years ago involved survey across board to ask how LOI is used And racialized student data to further inform LOI
- Where is this information?
- Time is right for this symposium discussion; Harvey Low great person at city who is currently mapping health inequities
- We are also faced with potential loss of long form Census which will mean dramatic loss of data
- Might also be intersection with TDSB’s *Future’s Conference* (May 2-4<sup>th</sup>)?
- Suggest that symposium be delayed until AGWG finishes its process; no timeline on ICAC motion so keep it coming back to table for ongoing discussion
- Might also be intersection with TDSB’s *Future’s Conference* (May 2-4<sup>th</sup>)?

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- (i) **ICAC Co-ordinator to continue to build list of invités for symposium and bring issue back to ICAC table on a regular basis for discussion/input**
- (ii) **Jann Houston (TPH) to informally bring idea of TDSB symposium to attention of Harvey Low at City of Toronto**
- (iii) **ICAC Co-ordinator to ask Staff about LOI “reports” coming out of LOI review**

## **5. Staff Updates**

- Recent trip by Model Schools Staff at request of German government to profile MSIC research and programs – formal update at ICAC in next few months
- Five MSIC Parent Academies launched across city
- 120 parents attending – outstanding response!
- 90% representation from clusters
- Director Spence and CCP Vicky Branco both had videoed message for launch of each “Cluster Parent Academy Committee” (CPAC) launch

- Presentation by Director Spence outstanding
- Staff will support Parent Academies but they are *by parents for parents*
- On-line presentation of Parent Academy Facebook page – set up, content, access etc.
- Includes “events” page for CPACs
- All parents will have access to Parent Academy (see directions below)
- Lead Teacher Heather Gollob will moderate site
- Board will have a “like” button on their public site and Communications Staff are actively promoting site
- We can include links to organizations such as Toronto Public Health, TFSS (Toronto Foundation for Student Success), United Way etc. on page
- Also can have ‘live chats’ between parents on site

**Accessing MSIC Parent Academy Site:**

1. Go to Facebook – [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (you must have a Facebook account to access)
2. Search: “TDSB Model Schools for Inner Cities Parent Academy”
3. Page will open (you do not have to request to be a ‘friend’)

**Question:** Will conversation be taken out to community eventually?

**Answer:** Yes, community links, school council dates and other useful information; just trying to grow W2 process now; learning experience; Principals advised not hold Facebook accounts so this will be a community tool aimed specifically at parents

**Q:** How much linking is being done with Continuing Education Programs?

**A:** Con Ed is at the table for CPACs; Facebook area to share great ideas/advice etc. so Con Ed could post their site and parents can check it out; parent workshops by Con Ed are very successful; most identified areas by parents are ESL, Heritage Classes, General Interest classes etc.; General Interest classes operate on fee-for-service basis however; interest in certain programs/classes by parents should drive availability

**Answer:** More input/recommendations will be requested from ICAC as Parent Academies continue; Discussion /de-brief on process scheduled for June ICAC

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting**

**Thursday March 3, 2011**

**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**5050 Yonge St., Committee Room “A” (main floor)**