

ICAC Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2011
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Fairmeadow Centre

In attendance:

Nanci Goldman, Jeff Kugler, Marcia Brown, Nathan Gilbert, Jann Houston, Michael Griesz, Aim Mujib, Trustee Cary-Meagher, Trustee Glover, Trustee Kaplan, Trustee Dandy, Peter Mallouh, George Martell, Colin Husbands, Martin Long, Lesley Johnston, Varun Desai, Bob Spencer, Laurie Green,

Regrets:

Alejandra Bravo, Tanya Senk, David Clandfield, Jenny Williams (Student Trustee), Cheryl Skovronek

Guests:

Maria Herrera, Galya Bravo, Zane Schwartz, Ahmed Hussein, Jacob Laiovitz, Jack Nigro*, Jeanette Robinson*, Andrew Davis*, Nadia Heyd, Caitlin French, Graham Hollings, Rebecca Bassey, Hoyssam Hulogs, Ken Mayhew,

*Indicates Ministry of Education Staff

Staff:

Marjolein Winterink, Carl Riley, Vicky Branco, Manon Gardner, Heather Gollob, Shauna MacKendrick, Kiera Vanderlugt, Vidya Shah, Irene Chewchuk, Rodrigo Fuentes, Janet Allen, Curtis Ennis, Roger Dale, Jaclyn Cathysse, Jennifer MacKay, Sue Kenny, Julie-Ann Baxter, Cassie Bell, Jacqueline Goh

1. Introductions

2. Draft ICAC Agenda Approval – moved by N. Gilbert, seconded by N. Goldman, approved unanimously

3. Previous ICAC Meeting Minutes Approval (May 5, 2011) – moved by L. Johnston, seconded by N. Gilbert, approved unanimously

4. ICAC Co—ordinator’s Report – Cassie Bell

- (i) Circulation of handouts – latest People for Education Report, article on EQAO/standardized testing, Toronto Star article :”Wait Lists for Special Education double for Low Income Students”, booklet, “I am a Romani Woman”, complements of the Roma Community Centre, Budget document
- (ii) ICAC 2011 – 12 Meeting Dates – ICAC approves meeting on a rotational basis – morning and evenings¹; eliminated afternoon meetings at request of ICAC Community Co-chair in order to

¹ Morning meetings: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm; evening meetings 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm unless otherwise specified
www.tdsb.on.ca/icac

accommodate work schedule; first meeting of academic year:
Wednesday September 21 @ 9:30 am; ICAC Co-ordinator to circulate details

- (iii) ICAC “Action Items” from May 5th, 2011 Minutes:
- Page 2 – ICAC input for TDSB Strategic Directions Plan collated and forwarded to Chair’s Office **COMPLETE**
 - Page 3 – MSIC 2011-12 Organizational Chart – to circulate asap? **COMPLETE**
 - Page 4 (top)- Invitation to Ministry of Education for consultation **COMPLETE**
 - Page 4 – Staff to request confirmation of fees gathered from highest 150 LOI elementary and secondary schools vs.150 lowest **COMPLETE** (see attached WORD doc.)

5. Staff Report – Roma Community Support – Chief Academic Officer, Manon Gardner

- Following up on discussion regarding supports provided for Roma students and their families within context of TDSB
- Large numbers of Roma students found in two main areas of city – Parkdale and east Toronto (Greenwood area); influx began approximately two years ago
- Majority of students in Parkdale area – 350 – 400
- Asked staff to come and update ICAC on specific supports being put in place to help these students succeed – Superintendent Curtis Ennis and the Vice Principal (VP) of Parkdale Collegiate Institute (CI)
- Superintendent Ennis begins by thanking ICAC for ongoing support and interest – grateful for this and for system support; still face many challenges
- May 24th Parkdale CI met with Roma community and full day PD was held March 25th to begin discussions with parents and teachers and gain insights into concerns and challenges all are facing

Supports being provided to Roma Families –

- Hungarian newcomer sessions (once a month per school) – introduction to settlement workers and other service providers/resources available in community, for example – legal aid, immigration, healthcare
- Class visits – parents come in and visit classes in session and have opportunity to speak to teachers; this provides parents with better understanding of school expectations, helps to establish partnerships and brings families into schools (making them feel more comfortable)
- Bi-weekly meetings at Parkdale CI for parents on various topics related to school activities (i.e., parent/teacher interviews)
- Excellent partnerships with St. Christopher House to support and strengthen families, and with Parkdale Legal Aid – available at Parkdale Public School weekly to provide legal advice
- Translation of information sent home, i.e., school flyers and newsletters
- Phone calls out to families to invite them to specific events
- Information / education sessions to *non*-Hungarian parents and communities about Roma culture
- Noted that students and families are asking for “civics” courses as they relate to immigration and refugee status

Specific supports being provided to Roma students –

- Reception classes, increase in number of LEAP* type classes * (Literacy Enrichment Academic Program)
- Increase in additional staff provided (for example, ESL teachers, interpreters, Hall Monitors, Administrative staff, Child and Youth Counselor (CYC) etc.)
- Regular resource support – 1 or 2 periods a day plus in-class time
- ELS/LEAP programs offered to meet varied/individual needs and abilities of students, plus, some integrated LEAP courses offered
- Students supporting students – for example, Hungarian Club, weekly meetings and “Speak Up” grant
- Social events to promote inclusion, intra-mural sports offered, Parks and Recreation soccer group after school
- CYC/CYW working with some students after school to improve social skills
- Staff encouraging experiential learning and field trips
- Roma classes for Roma students at Parkdale Public School – six students regularly attended and parents also invited; will continue at Queen Victoria Public School next year
- Connection with Roma Community Centre – access to three settlement workers and partnership with CultureLink; annual cultural ;event’
- Recent partnership with the Centre for Urban Schooling at OISE/UT; mini film fest – students created films about Parkdale CI experience – reaching out to community there – amazing event May 31st
- Need for public education and awareness building regarding Roma history, culture and current situation vis-à-vis immigration

Resources being provided and/or developed for teachers and students

- Planning a resource manual for teachers containing background information, present situation, extensive list of resources and differentiated instruction strategies (currently being worked on by Gina Csanyi of the Roma Community Centre and Vicky Branco, CCP for the MSIC program)
- Student agendas translated for Roma students
- Lunch’n’Learns with guest speakers
- PD sessions
- Full day (March 25th) PD session
- After school events at the Bickford Centre supporting Roma students in our schools
- Proposed translation of some texts into Romani/Hungarian

Current Challenges –

- Irregular attendance of some students
- Punctuality
- Parental participation
- Language barrier

Next Steps-

- Opportunities for non-Roma students to learn about Roma culture, history and traditions, “building bridges”
- Opportunities for Roma students to meet Roma role models

- ESL Co-Op courses
- Partnership with Toronto Public Library re: homework clubs
- 2011-12 focus on student work and working all partners, i.e., Roma Community Centre, staff and administration – still lots to do!

A sincere “thank you” to staff for the update was offered by ICAC Co-chairs

Discussion –

Q: Do parents tend to come separately and families follow, or do families emigrate together typically?

A: Roma are very family oriented and tend to come to Canada as a family group

Q: How many staff have been added apart from teachers to support increased enrolment?

A: Since influx began in 2008, 25 staff have been added; 17 are classroom teachers, others include positions such as CYC, hall monitor, VP etc.; seven more staff planned for 2011-12 for ESL and LEAP; part of challenge is also finding staff who speak Romani

Q: Are resources also being added in Greenwood area?

A: Yes

Q: Has it been a help or a hindrance to bring issue forward at the ICAC?

A: Staff were a bit taken aback at lack of awareness and/or knowledge of initiatives out in community, but took stock, stepped back and tallied resources; challenges are there for sure and it has been an eye-opener that perhaps we are not as good at disseminating information as we should be

A: Through MSIC program, Parkdale and Queen Victoria P.S. have received between \$50 and \$60K; introducing summer school for “families” this year at Parkdale; adults will take ESL while kids are in school – works better as family “unit” program; working to develop guide which will provide good background knowledge and help eliminate biases

6. MSIC Resource Team Update (see link to latest MSIC newsletter below) –

- MSIC Lead Teachers updated ICAC and guests on continued work with staff, parents and students to support our inner city schools – ongoing work includes new MSIC Pediatric Clinic launched at George Webster Elementary School – the *Paul Steinhauer Pediatric Clinic* – congratulations George Webster community! Also, the OneSight Vision Van program at Cedarbrae Collegiate with amazing results – bravo! Read more at:

http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/schools/inner_city_schools/docs/MSIC%202010-2011%20Term%201%20V3.pdf%20%20Newsletter%20June%202011.pdf

7. Toronto Public Health – Reunification and Adaptation Program Overview

- Due to time constraints ICAC was unable to hear this presentation – *sincere* apologies offered to TPH staff who attended to present

ACTION ITEMS

TPH Staff to meet with MSIC Steering Committee to share program overview, discuss possible links and ‘next steps’ (complete)

ICAC Co-ordinator to forward PowerPoint presentation to ICAC in later update (complete) and forward contacts for TPH staff on request

- 8. ICAC Research Symposium – N. Gilbert and group (see also attached)**
- Overview and key ICAC motions leading to idea of symposium outlined
 - Research Symposium Work Group (RSWG) member Alejandra Bravo has put together letter to ICAC requesting approval/endorsement of ‘next steps’ for symposium, including meeting during the summer to nail down context, title, timelines etc. (please see attached)
 - *Endorsement moved by R. Spencer, seconded by L. Johnston, approved unanimously*
 - Volunteer names collected – included so far – Jeff Kugler and/or members from Centre for Urban Schooling at OISE, U/T, Alejandra Bravo from the Maytree Foundation, Lesley Johnston from Social Planning Toronto, Nathan Gilbert from the Laidlaw Foundation, Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher, Parent representatives Bob Spencer and Nadia Heyd.

ICAC PART II

Consultation with Ministry of Education on School Fundraising Draft Policy Guidelines

- Please see attached ‘pdf’ of transcription of this portion of the meeting

ACTION ITEM:

ICAC Co-ordinator will forward final copy of transcription to ICAC and to MoE representatives before consultation deadline of August 31, 2011 for consideration in their consultation process. **(COMPLETE)**

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting

Wednesday September 21, 2011

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

5050 Yonge Street

Boardroom, main floor