

Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

1. OVERVIEW

Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee (ASCAC) has existed in various forms since 1968. The Current iteration of ASCAC was founded in 2008, consistent with Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Policy 062.

2. MANDATE

- To consult and collaborate with the Board to make recommendations to the TDSB in order to ensure access and equity considerations regarding alternative schools
- To make recommendations to the TDSB in order to ensure adequate resources, training, support and consideration are made available to alternative schools given the specific nature of pedagogy provided within each school within the system

3. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

- ASCAC affiliated trustee(s)
- Parents, guardians and caregivers caring for students enrolled in TDSB schools
- Students enrolled in elementary and secondary TDSB
- TDSB staff
- Toronto community
- Community advocacy groups

Chair/Co-Chairs can be drawn from the following groups to bring perspectives from students, teachers, parents committed to progressive pedagogies and/ or alternative schools.

Committee membership should be reviewed annually to ensure the broadest representation from the public alternative schooling community. This may include:

- Board Trustee(s)*;
- Parents, guardians and caregivers caring for students enrolled in TDSB Elementary and/or Secondary alternative schools;
- Students enrolled and/or unregistered with the TDSB in an Elementary alternative school;
- Students enrolled and/or unregistered with the TDSB in a Secondary alternative school;
- TDSB staff (as designated by Director)*;
- Teachers registered with the TDSB and employed in an Elementary and/or alternative school;
- TDSB Staff and Trustees are non-voting members.

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4. TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Members:

Community representatives will generally serve on an unlimited basis. Voting membership includes all sitting members, who are not trustees or employees of the TDSB.

Chair/ Co-Chairs:

The community Chair/ Co-chair(s) will act in the role for up to two years with the opportunity of renewal. To continue the role of the Chair, the succession process will be to have a second co-chair whose one-year term will overlap or stagger with the term of the current Chair.

The Chair/Co-Chairs are required to participate and attend a minimum of 75% of formal ASCAC meetings.

5. QUORUM

- Quorum shall be seven (7) sitting voting members;
- A Chair/Co-Chair should convene the meeting as soon as quorum of the members is present, but not before the scheduled start time;
- If quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, the committee may discuss Agenda items but no votes will take place.
- If quorum is present, and a Co-Chair is not present, the first item of business is to select an acting Co-Chair from among the voting representatives.

Decisions will be made by consensus: that is working with dissent in pursuit of an acceptable compromise.

6. MEETINGS

- a. At least, four (4) Formal meetings will be scheduled and shared publicly each academic year.
- b. Schedule of meetings for the ASCAC will be established in advance and published by the Committee Assistant.
- c. Attendance at meetings may be in person or by telephone.
- d. Occasional meetings may be conducted by conference call, if necessary.
- e. Informal meetings are open to all members and may be proposed and scheduled by any member.
- f. Workgroups, if required, may meet more frequently.
- g. Agenda coordination is facilitated by the Committee Assistant who arranges timelines for the Superintendent for Alternative Schools.

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- h. Agendas and, notice of meetings, and minutes to be circulated by the Committee Assistant at the earliest opportunity and no later than one week in advance of a Formal Meeting.
- i. Minutes may be recorded by any member appointed by the Committee and should follow a standard template available from the Committee Assistant upon request.

7. REPORTING

Motions are directed through Program and School Services Committee

8. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Committee will abide by the Code of Conduct established by the TDSB Board.

9. NETWORKING

The Committee is free to establish its own communication network among itself and to participate in joint or collective activities relevant to its role.