



Toronto District School Board
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Name: **Inner City Advisory Committee**
 Date: **Thursday, April 09, 2015**
 Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, 5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A
 Present: Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher (co-chair), Trustee Howard Kaplan, Trustee Chris Glover, Helen Fisher, Kwabena Yafeu, Alejandra Bravo, Nathan Gilbert, Pat Gracey (TPL), Laurie Green, Michael Kerr, Shaila Krishna (TPH), Sejal Patel, Debra Payne, Annie Peng.
 Regrets: Trustee M. Ford, Trustee Stiles, Ingrid Palmer (co-chair), Sharlene Bourjot, David Clandfield, Michael Griesz, Claudette Holloway; Adam Iggers, Matthew Judd, George Martell, Chris Penrose, , Cheryl Skovronek, Bob Spencer.
 Guests: Monique Schwarz, Edith Lopez,
 Recorder: Hilary Wollis, Coordinator

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION
Call to Order/Quorum Welcome and Introductions	Trustee Cary-Meagher called the meeting to order. The Committee agreed that Debra Payne will act as community co-chair this evening in the absence of Ingrid Palmer. Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table. The group welcomed guests, parents Monique Schwarz and Edith Lopez.	Approved as presented
Approval of Agenda	Moved, Nathan Gilbert, Seconded Laurie Green.	Approved as presented
Approval of Minutes	The draft minutes from the meeting held on January 15 2015 were presented for approval. Moved, Alejandra Bravo. Seconded Howard Kaplan. The draft minutes from the meeting held on February 19, 2015 were presented for approval. Moved, Nathan Gilbert, seconded Alejanda Bravo..	Approved as presented
Model Schools for Inner Cities Update	Helen Fisher, Central Coordinating Principal, provided the report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual Parent Academy Conference is soon approaching. The theme for this year's event is "Education, Empowerment and Employment." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The East Conference takes place next Saturday, April 18th at Cedarbrae CI. ○ The West Conference is on Saturday, April 25th at Thistletown CI. • Fisher read a list of the workshops offered. Model Schools parents have 	ACTION: ICAC table at the Parent Academy Conferences: -Debra Payne will attend Cedarbrae CI on April 18 (over the lunch period). -Laurie Green will attend

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	<p>created and will present the workshops themselves. this year, presenters include several grandparents as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-ins are welcome if you haven't registered. • Transportation: in locations where there are large numbers requesting transportation, there will be bussing provided. Otherwise parents will be reimbursed with TTC tokens when they arrive. • The event includes a large marketplace featuring many community agencies, programs and City partners, along with TDSB representatives and several of the Community Advisory Committees (CACs). 	<p>Thistletown on April 25.</p> <p>The ICAC representatives will be provided with copies of the ICAC Backgrounder and a sign-up sheet for parents.</p> <p>-MSIC will make the photocopies and a sign for the table.</p> <p>ACTION: Hilary Wollis will distribute the Conference notice to ICAC.</p>
<p>Governance Sub-Committee: Terms of Reference</p>	<p>Laurie Green presented this item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICAC has been tasked with creating a formal Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Committee. An original draft was presented in January. This revised draft includes suggested changes. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Suggestion: pg. 2, change Coordinator back to "employed through" MSIC.</p> <p>Suggestion: Why reference to " alignment to the strategic directions?" These can change.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> If, in future, the strategic directions change, then the TOR needs to be opened up again. This statement is better suited to a work plan - next step.</p> <p>Recommendation: Strike the reference to Strategic Directions.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The TOR should be short, accessible to parents. Detail dilutes energy.</p> <p>Suggested amendment from member Martell: The member was not present to speak to his amendment.</p> <p>Recommendation: The sub-committee should consider incorporating some of the language.</p> <p>Recommendation: The Governance group will, as next step, work on the framework for a Work Plan.</p> <p>Suggestion: Description of voting and non-voting members: Do trustees vote? Do staff vote if they attend regularly? Should this section be revisited?</p>	<p>The draft TOR will return to the sub-committee. Please send all suggested revisions to the Coordinator. The draft will be presented in June for adoption.</p>

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	<p>Recommendation: Decision making is achieved through consensus. Nathan Gilbert offered to share some language around consensus.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> The committee should work to consensus, but formal voting should rest with the community because it is an advisory role.</p> <p><i>Comment:</i> Return to the original 2005 Model Schools Task Force document and take the practices from that.</p> <p>Suggestion: page 6 top: change “best practices” to “promising practices” because best practices are always changing.</p> <p>Suggestion: page 2: ICAC will review its practices every 2 years.</p>	
<p>Sub-Committees</p>	<p>Special Education: Laurie Green provided the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the January meeting Minutes, the Special Education Superintendent, Anne Seymour described the plan for the Inclusion strategy. Seymour indicated that they were focused on Grade one students within 3 exceptionalities (LD, MID, behaviour). During the IPRC meetings, parents would be offered inclusion placement for September. Seymour indicated that approximately 420 students would be affected. • At the most recent Special Education Advisory Committee(SEAC) meeting, the Board: reported that of the targeted 420 students, only 35 will be returning to their home schools as an inclusion placement. . • The sub-committee is concerned that students from low income and newcomer families are overrepresented in these classes. There appears to be some resistance to the inclusion strategy from several sides. • At the same time, budget cuts to Special education are proceeding. A key part of the Inclusion strategy was having special education teachers released from contained classrooms to support teachers in home schools. How are these 35 students and their classroom teachers being supported? • Special Education Conference (March 29): There were concerns expressed in the Inclusion workshops from both parents and from exceptionalty representatives regarding support. 	<p>LG: Should we be doing a deputation to SEAC around the racialized and low income children concerns w/ spec. ed.</p> <p>LG: Aim for the June SEAC meeting is the next opportunity.</p> <p>HW to circulate a request to participate and share concerns w/ special ed sub-committee.</p>

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	<p>Q: What is the takeaway? Inclusion is being driven forward – what is the main concern? <i>Comment:</i> Many parents are unaware that students cannot make up the learning gap to be in a “regular” class in grade 9, as most special education ends in grade 8, and there is not special placement for many students in secondary. Inclusion can have good outcomes if the support is there for children and the bar is high.</p>	
Trustee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Education is currently running a public Consultations on TDSB Governance: • The Coordinator shared a flyer that includes the website address. Public meetings are listed on the overleaf. • Helen Fisher noted that Model Schools received the announcement through the Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) and has distributed it to all Model Schools. <p><i>Comment:</i> There appear to be some inclusion and equity concerns with this process. For example, is the information available in translation?. Is this a process that offers equitable access - through things like translation, paper flyers, meeting locations. Should ICAC speak up about the equity concerns in this consultation?</p>	<p>ACTION: The Coordinator will investigate opportunities for deputations, written submissions in late May, along with an inquiry re: concerns around interpretation, meeting locations in priority neighbourhoods, how the consultation is promoted to ESL communities.</p>
New Business	<p>Social Planning Toronto shared a flyer for a Free event focused on newcomer youth recreation..</p> <p>Michael Kerr shared a flyer for the Solidarity against Inequality Assembly, and information for the Nelson Mandela Walk .</p>	
Next Meeting Date	<p>Thursday, May 14th 2015:</p> <p>Morning: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at 5050 Yonge Street, Room C (rear of Cafeteria seating)</p> <p>Evening: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Crescent Town Elementary School</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Nathan Gilbert moved, Laurie Green seconded. Adjourned.</p>	