



Toronto District School Board  
**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Committee Name: **Inner City Advisory Committee**  
 Date: **Tuesday, March 10, 2015**  
 Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Nelson Mandela Park PS  
 Present: Trustee Cary-Meagher (co-chair), Trustee Arp, Trustee Glover, Trustee Kaplan, Ingrid Palmer (co-chair), Vicky Branco, Helen Fisher, Simona Emiliani, Ian Macpherson, Lynn Martens, Michael Papathanasakis, Marta Brum, Melissa James, Alejandra Bravo, Sharlene Bourjot, David Clandfield, Anniqye Farrell, Laurie Green, George Martell, Sejal Patel, Bob Spencer, Nadira Yasmin.  
 Regrets: Trustee Stiles, Fiona Bowser, Cheryl Skovronek, Adam Iggers, Matthew Judd, Annie Peng, Ying Ong,  
 Guests: Andrea Austen and Ricardo Tranjan, City of Toronto; Laura Hammond, Paulet Bannister, Shahla Khan, Yasotha Mahenran, Asma Begum, Azka Atique, Marian Iveril, Abdessamad Rfifi, Ricardo Tsaiuyzu, Tosin Matti, Jennifer Fraser, Ines Garcia, Zul Yarow, Irum, Siddiqui, Georgina Dadi, Mete Yorgun, Fos Ashkir, Afrah Ibrahim, Ismail Afrah, Sahra Haji, Erin Atemoglu, Bukhana Kudabakhs, Nimo Mohamoud, Fezeyya Mohamed, Farriel Sharms, CoriMacfarlane, Mayooran, Kamalanathan, Fatuma Aburakar, Kuga Palan, Aparna, Shukla, Logara Thiruchelvam, Roman Mulugeta, Shibani Kulkarni, Nasro Ggueh, Suad Ahmed, Rosalee Edwards, Emma Vasquez, Anita Alagurajan, Monica Rupehand, Sophia Ruddock, Wifa Butt, sailesh Mehta, Mikhael Bornstein, Angheson Chebreyohannes..  
 Recorder: Hilary Wollis, Coordinator

ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATION/MOTION
Call to Order/Quorum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chair Ingrid Palmer called the meeting to order. Palmer thanked the Regent Park Catering Collective for the delicious food.</li> <li>• Trustee Glover agreed to act as interim co-chair until Trustee Cary-Meagher's arrival.</li> <li>• Palmer commented on the large number of parents in attendance.</li> <li>• Palmer reflected on her experiences as a parent in the TDSB, and her own journey in learning to advocate for the learning needs of her children. Palmer noted that the support and encouragement offered within a Model School benefited her children and the family as a whole, including opportunities for Palmer to participate in the school community, and develop her leadership skills, leading to roles in the Parent Academy Committee (CPAC) and now, ICAC.</li> <li>• Palmer commented that among the benefits of being involved at the Advisory</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Committee level is a different understanding of TDSB, of the many paths that are available for students and parents. I understand how grading works, and how Special Education works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palmer shared an anecdote that culminated in the adage "I am who I am because of who we all are." When we all succeed, we all succeed.</li> <li>• Palmer added that ICAC is concerned with all children. ICAC wants the gaps to close, to build bridges, and create ladders that help students get to the pathway they need to succeed.</li> <li>• ICAC greatly values parent opinion and input, because it helps the Committee to focus on the right things.</li> </ul>	
<p>Cluster C4 Parent Academy Committee</p>	<p><b>Rose Avenue PS School Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the first time that Rose parents have met with School Council parents from other schools, to see how this kind of event works.</li> <li>• I've had the privilege of working with the CPAC and the annual Parent Academy Conference.</li> <li>• As a new immigrant, I didn't know the school system, how the teachers worked with the children, and what the education was like. From this starting point I've gone on to work with Trustee Ward, and for the first time the St. Jamestown community has a voice.</li> <li>• I encourage parents to come and see what other schools and the CPAC are doing, to meet the Regent Park parents to learn what they are doing to create sustainable communities, and to learn from their experiences in getting better jobs, accessing child care, food, and more.</li> </ul> <p><b>Parkdale Jr / Sr PS School Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are pros and cons to the Parent Academy (CPAC).</li> <li>• This year, the CPAC is offering more programs like CPR and food handling, computer skills, retail sales. These are the programs that parents ask for because they help them to get better jobs.</li> <li>• I ask ICAC to advocate to increase the budget for the Parent Academy( CPAC) program? \$10,000 is not a lot to run all of these beneficial programs, and also provide childcare and food.</li> <li>• Ingrid Palmer thanked the parent speakers, and reminded the group that the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>annual Parent Academy Conference is upcoming on April 18th at Thistletown CI in the west, and on April 25th at Cedarbrae CI in the east.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palmer introduced the Trustees present: Arp, (also a MSIC parent), Glover, Kaplan, Cary-Meagher.</li> <li>• Palmer also acknowledged all of the ICAC members in the room.</li> </ul>	
<p>City of Toronto Dialogue on the Poverty Reduction Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palmer introduced guests Andrea Austen and Ricardo Tranjan from the City of Toronto, who are attending to support the dialogue on the Poverty Reduction Strategy.</li> <li>• Austen introduced the consultation portion of the evening:</li> <li>• City Council directed two departments to develop a strategy to work to reduce poverty in the City. We will return with a full strategy by the summer.</li> <li>• The long term goal is to provide consistent and long term strategies to support communities, and prevent residents from falling into poverty.</li> <li>• In the fall, phase one of the process resulted in six themes to be addressed through a social justice lens. Currently, we are in phase two of the consultation into this strategy. We want to learn about what is important to you in your lives.</li> <li>• Helen Fisher described how the consultation session is organized. Scribes will rotate around the room, discussing all six themes at each table. At the conclusion of six rounds, each group will discuss priorities for decision making.</li> <li>• The input gathered at this event will be forwarded to the City for inclusion in the strategy consultations.</li> <li>• At the conclusion, Vicky Branco thanked everyone for attending and participating with great energy. Branco also thanked Nelson Mandela Park PS for hosting this event, and all of the Model Schools staff and Community Support Workers who supported this successful evening.</li> </ul>	
<p>New Business</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 09th, 6:00pm to 8:30 pm 5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Ingrid Palmer adjourned the meeting.</p>	