**TDSB Task Force on the success of Students of Somali Descent**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday July 3rd, 2013**

**Time:** 6:00PM  
**Location:** 5100 Yonge Street – Cafeteria


**Guests:** Karlo Cabrera- TDSB Inclusive Schools, Diane Dei Amoah – school principal, Mahad Mohamood-Student, Zakaria-Observer


**Minute Taker:** Zahra Hassan

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. **5:30 pm - 6:00 pm -Dinner**

2. **Welcome**  
   - Agenda approved  
   - Ali Mohamed chairing the meeting  
   - Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM

3. **Recommendations**  
   - **REVISIONS – GROUP LEADS**  
   - **ANYTHING MISSING? REDUNDANCY?**  
   - **TIMEFRAME – WHAT CAN BE DONE IMMEDIATELY? WHAT WILL TAKE LONGER?**  
   - **RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTATION – NONE? SOME? A LOT?**  
   - Intention is to look at what has been done and move towards finalizing recommendations  
   - Centralize work - chair + willing members to keep the recommendation moving

   **Recommendation #1:**  
   - **Suggestion:**  
     - Recommendation divided into phases and time frames  
     - Message language i.e., use of mandatory  
     - Identify key schools with high Somali population in phase #1  
     - Build this training around existing trainings  
     - Q: What are some of the mandatory trainings teachers currently take  
     - A: Positive space and child abuse/neglect  
     - Most schools have equality rep to report back to staff- sort of like train-the-trainer

   **Recommendation #2:**  
   - Having heritage week connected to a heritage site  
   - Working with Toronto Public Libraries  
   - Having real people in libraries –alders visible at the site as gatekeepers of a particular collection

   **Suggestion: Heritage week**  
   - In order to create heritage week, approach trustee and ask them to present a motion at PSC
meeting

- Coordinate with Toronto Public Library (TPL) for heritage week –add events to the TPL quarterly publication
- Schools have their own libraries - work with them
- Create suggested curriculum for teachers to use during the heritage week
- Q: How about East African Month?
- Group: Keep it only Somali - all in favour
- When: TBD – most members voted for April

**Other Suggestions:**

- Have parenting centers near where the kids go to schools
- After school Parent Academies
- Mentorship for Somali teachers into leadership roles – work with employment and equity departments

**Other Suggestions:**

- Co-chairs along with interested committee members working on recommendations next week for group presentation input during next meeting
- Draft recommendations will be circulated prior to next meeting

### 4. Ramadan Plans

- End of the week will put together solid recommendations.
- Next meeting: Wednesday July 31st, 2013
  - Finalize recommendation and present final template
  - No food (due to Ramadan)
  - Start 5:30pm

### 5. Other Business

- n/a

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday July 31st, 2013
5:30PM - 7:00PM Meeting
No dinner (due to Ramadan)

**ADJOURNED:**

8:45PM