



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

Committee Name: **Inner City Advisory Committee**

Date: **Thursday, March 10, 2016, Oakridge JPS, Library.**

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Present: Trustee Cary-Meagher (co-chair), Trustee Arp, Trustee Shan, Vicky Branco, Helen Fisher, David Clandfield, Kirby Davidson (RTP), Laurie Green, Michael Kerr, Shaila Krishna (TPH), Ingrid Palmer (co-chair), Sharma Queiser, Bob Spencer

Regrets: Trustee Gershon, Trustee Smith, Trustee Stiles, Trustee Story (vice-chair), Student Trustee Al Rubaie, Alejandra Bravo, Lee Ford - Jones, Nathan Gilbert, Stephen Hepburn, Graham Hollings, Josette Holness, Adam Iggers, Matthew Judd, Peggy Thomas. Nicole Welch.

Guests: Associate Director Usih, Principal Heather Groves , Vice Principal Rod Zimmerman, TDSB Comptroller Craig Snider, Central Coordinating Principal Diane DeiAmoah, Amita Handa, Cori Macfarlane, Auguste Munro, Gajan Fari, Elizabeth Robb, Laurie Poirier, Gazi Rahman, Abdu hai Patel, Barb Barta, Lana Miller, Namali Athapaththu, Kuga Palan, Edith Daniel, Andrew Holder, Joy Barrett, Hosne Arzu, Roxanne Chee, Yoga Raveendvan, Juliet Jones-Rodney, Mahbuba Khan, Ashraf Mutari, Margaret Blair-Grant, Gabriela Umana Peraza, Dalton Polius, Selvi Raj.

Recorder: Hilary Wollis, Coordinator

|  | <b>DISCUSSION</b>   | <b>RECOMMENDATION/MOTION</b> |
|--|---|------------------------------|
|  | <p>Ingrid welcomed the many parents, caregivers and families attending, thanked them for joining ICAC and EPAC to add their voices to the conversation.</p> <p>Palmer thanked Associate Director Chris Usih for attending the event.</p> <p>Palmer thanked Oakridge Principal Heather Groves and Vice-Principal Rod Zimmerman for hosting the event.</p> <p>Palmer also thanked Superintendent Vicky Branco for her support, as well as the Model Schools Community Support Workers, for their work with parents and their support of this evening.</p> <p>Palmer acknowledged the many ICAC and EPAC members attending, and thanked them for working together to share the evening's Agenda with the community.</p> <p>Palmer shared her experiences as a Model Schools Parent and a member of the</p> |                              |

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|  | <p>Cluster Parent Academy Committee (CPAC), noting that CPAC encourages parents to build community and builds their capacity to support their children and enhance their own learning.</p>  |                              |
|  | <p>Co-Chair Ingrid Palmer introduced TDSB Comptroller Craig Snider, and thanked him for attending the evening to present to parents and Advisory Committee members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snider provided a comprehensive presentation of the TDSB budget, including video, powerpoint slides, and a handout.</li> <li>• Snider shared information regarding how the School Board is funded, the process of setting the budget, the difference between operating and capital budgets, and he reviewed the challenges experienced by the Board of Trustees as it works to support student learning success.</li> <li>• Snider responded to numerous questions asked by the audience.</li> </ul> <p>Palmer thanked Snider for his presentation and for providing the opportunity to parents to ask many important questions.</p>   |                              |
|  | <p>Palmer introduced Diane DeiAmoah, Central Coordinating Principal, Equity and Inclusive Schools, to introduce the next portion of the evening's Agenda, a discussion of the Opportunity Gap Action Plan .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DeiAmoah provided the background to the Opportunity Gap Action Plan (OGAP), developed in 2011, and in effect through 2015.</li> <li>• The plan is currently being reviewed. The new plan, called OGAP 2.0, will be a three-year strategy to close the opportunity gap for students facing barriers.</li> <li>• DeiAmoah reviewed the community consultation process that has occurred to date.</li> <li>• DeiAmoah invited the audience to add their input to the process by responding (working in small groups) to the following question :</li> <li>• "What are the supports that you recommend we put in place to close the Opportunity Gap?"</li> <li>• Participants shared highlights from their discussions:</li> </ul> |                              |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should have more input into programs being developed to support their achievement.</li> <li>• Raise awareness in parents around supporting their children at home:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parent learning around how children learn now (example: math is taught very differently than parents were taught);</li> <li>○ Better understanding of what kids are learning in class, so that parents can better support test preparation, due dates, and more. Utilize tools like google classroom that parents / students can access from home without relying on children to bring home information.</li> <li>○ Expand opportunities for parents to experience their child's classroom.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Every student needs one co-operative education opportunity in secondary years to gain exposure to the workplace / a career.</li> <li>• End the steaming of students completely.</li> <li>• Offer more programs on wellness. Students need to learn to respect themselves, care for themselves, be good at heart.</li> <li>• Specific training for teachers, and all staff, and Board members, to recognize the challenges around equity, and develop an individual equity lens.</li> <li>• Make guidance counsellors a more significant presence in schools and students' lives. A 15-minute appointment is not long enough to advise on life choices.</li> <li>• Improve data-gathering around equity by including the demographic questions that are at the beginning of the parent / student census survey, and placing them on every intake form for TDSB. The data is then gathered for each family that enters the system.</li> <li>• Instead of a stand-alone like the afrocentric program, each class or group of classes should include learning about all of the cultures of their students, so that youth gain a stronger understanding of the experiences and struggles of their peers, and classes focus on the students who are in them, instead of learning about a standardized set of experiences that may not have meaning to them.</li> <li>• More staff should reflect the diversity of the students.</li> </ul> <p>Palmer thanked DeiAmoah for providing this consultative opportunity for Model Schools parents.</p> |                              |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Palmer acknowledged the Trustees attending the evening, Trustees Cary-Meagher, Arp, and Shan. The Trustees briefly introduced themselves.</li><li>• Parents were invited to register for the April 16th Parents as Partners Conference before departing the library. Model Schools Community Support Workers were available to assist parents with the registration process. Flyers for the event were also available to all attending.</li></ul> |                              |
|  | Adjourned 8:30 pm.  |                              |