

**Inner City Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 05, 2013
9:30am to 12:30pm
5050 Yonge Street, Boardroom**

In Attendance	Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher (co-chair), Aim Mujib (co-chair), Trustee Howard Kaplan, Dian Borek, Alejandra Bravo, David Clandfield, Nathan Gilbert, Laurie Green, Lesley Johnston, Imogen Mercer,
Regrets	Graham Hollings, Jann Houston, Kendra Kerr, George Martell, Brian Nicholson, Ingrid Palmer, Debra Payne, Cheryl Skovronek
Staff	Vicky Branco, Helen Fisher, Maria Yau, Hilary Wollis, Jim Spyropoulos, Sharlene Bourjot, Michael Griesz, Ruth Sischy, Bonnie Macdonald,
Guests	Jennifer Arp

Welcome and Introductions (Aim Mujib)

- Community Co-chair Aim Mujib welcomed the group at 9:38 am.
- Introductions were made around the table.
- Mujib recognized Jennifer Arp, attending as a guest. Jennifer is a parent at Joyce Public School, and is active on her Cluster Parent Academy Committee and School Council.
- Mujib communicated the regrets from members unable to attend.
- There were no announcements.

1. Agenda Approval

- A request was made by David Clandfield to amend the draft Agenda to move the reports from the Special Education Committee and the Fairer Ways and Greater Means sub-committee higher in the order to number four.

Moved, Nathan Gilbert, Seconded Trustee Howard Kaplan, Approved as amended.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes (October 08, 2013)

Motion to defer approval until the January meeting.

Moved, Nathan Gilbert. Seconded, Howard Kaplan. Approved.

3. Model Schools for Inner Cities Research Update

- Maria Yau, Research Coordinator, [Model Schools for Inner Cities](#) (MSIC) and Superintendent Vicky Branco introduced a new presentation about the program.
- This presentation provides a progress report on and identifies trends within the MSIC program, which has now completed five years.
- In 2008 – 2009 there were 50 Model Schools. In 2012-2013, the program expanded to its current size, comprising 150 schools.
- TDSB has collected data over a five year period.
- This is a draft report, and it will be shared with the Director, and with the [Program and School Services Committee](#) in the new year. It is being shared today for the purpose of feedback, and gathering your impression. The report will not be released until approximately February or March.

4. Sub-Committee Reports: Special Education and Fairer Ways and Greater Means

- a) **Special Education Sub-committee:** David Clandfield gave the report.
- The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday December 19th. We have invited TDSB researcher Rob Brown, and his work partner, Gillian Parekh, to join us for further discussion of their reports, and the recently released supplements to their reports regarding Special Education.

ACTION: Hilary will distribute these reports once it is determined that they are public reports.

The committee is hopeful that we can still meet with SEAC in the future to discuss the 3 areas of concern that arise from these reports.

- At the November 20th ICAC meeting, the CPAC parents and students provided many comments regarding special education. The committee will be considering their feedback to determine how to work with it. The group is always interested in more input from parents and students.
- Is [Director Quan](#) speaking or holding a question and answer period at the SEAC meeting on December 9th ?

ACTION: MSIC will inquire whether the Director is speaking to SEAC.

- b) **Fairer Ways and Greater Means:** Lesley Johnston gave the report. Carla Kisko, Associate Director, Finance and Operations, submitted a solid report on the [Learning Opportunities Grant](#) at the Nov 25 Budget Committee meeting. The next Budget meeting is scheduled for December 10, and ICAC intends to speak to the report regarding the Learning Opportunities Grant at that time.
- A Handout of the report to the Budget Committee meeting of November 25, 2013, on the subject of the Learning Opportunities Grant and the ESL allocation was distributed. David Clandfield reviewed the report: The report breaks LOG spending into how money was spent. This report is more of an overview. Earlier in the year, the reporting on 2012-13 expenditures said to use LOG funds was based on projected sums. Now we have actual expenditures. This provides greater clarity but also raises questions.
 1. The LOG has to be divided into sweated grants that support specific programs, and the demographic allocation (DA) which is funding allocated on the basis of demographic criteria. The DA is the funding that supports the students in Model Schools.

Until the DA is separated, it is difficult to show that the money was spent on its intended purpose, which is to support those students who generated the grant in the first place.

2. The stated Rationale of this report is misleading because many at-risk students are not covered by this DA grant. By that I mean those with disability, or ESL needs.

- David Clandfield also distributed the sub-committee's draft response to this report (in re: Report No 10-13-2210, "Learning Opportunities and English as a Second Language Allocation Analysis"), which he reviewed with the group.
 - A coloured table divided into four parts:
 1. A Blue area for sweated LOG items, supporting specific programs that the Ministry funds directly: the first white column showed Actual expenditures; the second white column showed the specific Ministry of Education Allocations, and the third white column the Variances.
 2. A Green area for LOG-DA items that we all agreed align well with the target group. This time, the white columns are Actual amounts, Projected amount back in the spring, and the Variances.
 3. A Pink area for expenditures that the TDSB claimed to be directly funded through the LOG-DA, and which we challenge because we think they are system-wide and do not the demographic group that generated the grant.
 4. A Purple area for other items that are supported by the LOG-DA. These items appeared, in discussions last May, to have no connection with the objectives of the LOG-DA.

The expenditure lines that are claiming to draw upon the LOG-DA are considerably higher than the grant itself. As a result, these numbers do not allow us to match revenues and expenditures for planning purposes.

- The sub-committee is taking our concerns up with the Budget Committee, and we are hoping to move forward. As we begin to analyze the expenditures that the LOG-DA goes towards, we note that they are all program-related. We shall propose that we should divide the monies into three categories of aligned allocations:
 1. Specific programs that are indisputably LOG-DA related, like MSIC and the Urban Diversity Strateg, etc.,
 2. Program support and staffing allocations that are filtered through the Learning Opportunities Index (LOI) or similarly sensitive criteria, like the Learning Opportunities Supplement for school budgets or Vice-Principal funding,
 3. Discretionary funding to support program needs targeting the same students as these needs arise.
- We believe that this would help the Board increase the proportion of the LOG that goes to students in need. The advantage of using the LOI as a distributive factor is that it can target pockets of poverty more sensitively.
- David Clandfield thanked the TDSB is taking this seriously and as we are get more information, we hope to unpack it efficiently and rationally. He also thanked specific individuals: Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher, the Director and other Senior Staff, along with Lesley Johnston, John Campey, and Bob Spencer. It has taken a long time but we are now getting there.
- Lesley thanked David Clandfield for all of his work to pull together the analysis very quickly.

Comments:

- It would be nice to see the original power point presentation that clearly defines the LOI, LOG, LOS, and uses the Ministry of Education documents to support the assertions we are making, set against no documentation from the TDSB.
- The actual sweated LOG is underspent by \$6M; why is it not spent on defined programs as indicated by the LOG-DA?

- It is important that Trustees remind the Budget Committee that this report is one piece of the ICAC's request. The second piece is the LOI report. The third to assemble a workgroup to study how to account for expenditures that use LOG money.
- The 2014-15 Staffing report will be determined in March 2014, and we want to be able to make a reasonable request to the Board to mitigate any potential loss of staffing budget for MSIC. As we know, Coaches for Model Schools were cut, and the system is down to 30 of 90 LOI teachers.
- While we are working on greater transparency, we also need to work on what we want to accomplish, in face of an anticipated \$16M in additional cuts in next year's budget.

5. Action Items Update and Coordinator's Report

- Hilary Wollis gave the report.
- Member Nathan Gilbert is requesting that he be endorsed by ICAC as our representative to EPAC, the [Equity Policy Advisory Committee](#). Agreed.
- Nathan Gilbert has submitted a brief report regarding his attendance at one of the City of Toronto's public consultations on strategy for strong Toronto Neighbourhoods on behalf of ICAC. A copy has been provided to everyone.
- ICAC has submitted letters to two consultations in the past month. The first is to the Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy consultation, and the second was to the brief consultation to review the provincial funding formula for education. Thank you to Lesley Johnston and David Clandfield for working on those submissions.
- The Recommendations of the [Review of Community Advisory Committees](#) was accepted at the regular Board Meeting on November 13, 2013. It is recommended that the ICAC continue, along with most Advisory Committees. Wollis provided the group with a copy of the summary of the decision.
 - All [CACs](#) will have the opportunity to depute on these recommendations to the [Planning and Priorities Committee](#) of the Board. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 7:00pm at 5050 Yonge Street, in Committee Room A.
 - Aim Mujib has volunteered to give the deputation. Parent Jennifer Arp volunteered to work with him, and Lesley Johnston will support them in creating the deputation. Wollis will register them for the deputation online.
- [ICAC](#) sub-committees have meeting scheduled. A handout has been provided for all those interested. The meetings are as follows:
 - International Languages: December 19, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, in the cafeteria area at 5050 Yonge. Contact Bob Spencer for more information.
 - Special Education: Thursday, December 19, 12:00 to 2:00pm in Room C at 5050 Yonge, Monday January 20, 12:00pm to 2:00pm, location TBA, Thursday, February 27, 10:00am to 12:00pm, room A at 5050 Yonge, and Thursday March 27, 10:00am to 12:00pm, room C at 5050 Yonge. Contact David Clandfield for information.
- There are three other recent Board decisions that may interest ICAC members.
 - Also on November 13, the Board adopted the TDSB charter for Active Transportation. A further review and report regarding implementation will be presented in March 2014. At the Program and School Services Committee, Trustee Cary-Meagher asked, on behalf of ICAC, that parents and

students be included as internal TDSB partners within the Charter itself. This change was accepted at committee.

- A work group will be convened to investigate ways to improve student success in Mathematics was approved at the Board meeting on November 13. The Director will respond in January.
 - The Board referred to staff, to report back in February 2014, on the possibility of TDSB hosting a two day Toronto Skills Development summit.
- We will discuss opportunities for ICAC members to attend CPAC meetings in December during the Governance sub-committee report.
 - For your information, a copy of an article regarding an innovative literacy program in inner city communities in Oklahoma has been included in today's materials.

Draft Recommendations of the [Somali Task Force](#)

- Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos attended to present these draft recommendation to the group, and to seek feedback from ICAC members. This is not yet a public report. The Handouts were numbered library copies, and were returned at the conclusion of the discussion.

ACTION: Hilary Wollis will provide Jim Spyropoulos with a summary of the input from the committee.

Sub-Committee Reports: Governance

Alejandra Bravo provided the report.

- The committee last met on November 26.
- As we know, Aim's term as co-chair is complete. We need to elect a new parent / community co-chair.
- We ask that Aim continue for a couple of months while seek parent candidates for the role. A year's transition time might be appropriate for an interim co-chair. The election will be take place at our February meeting.

ACTION: Hilary Wollis can take nominations through January for an interim co-chair.

- Will we be spreading information about our need for a parent co-chair at CPAC meetings.
- Aim Mujib thanked everyone, and noted that he owes his success to teachers, and he wants to be involved in education and helping kids. When he came to ICAC he came and observed a couple of meetings, and then spoke for a few minutes, talked about himself, and was nominated to co-chair.

- We need to execute plan to visit CPAC meetings to talk with parents about ICAC. Imogen Mercer has created a power point for these presentations.
 - Meetings: Dec 17 DA Morrison or The Elms: Alejandra
 - Dec 11 Robert Service: Jann Houston
 - Dec 12 Bala Av: Laurie Green / Lesley Johnston
- Please sign up for CPAC meeting if interested.
- Jennifer Arp volunteered to speak at her January CPAC meeting.

6. Trustee Report

Trustee Cary-Meagher commented that Director Quan recently presented her [“Years of Action”](#) plan to Trustees. The Model Schools for Inner Cities portion of the plan was very well received.

7. Motion to Adjourn

Moved, Nathan Gilbert, Seconded, Trustee Howard Kaplan. Adjourned.

**Next Meeting:
Wednesday, January 08, 2014
9:30am to 12:30pm
5050 Yonge Street, Committee Room A**