

# Name of Committee: Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: **Tuesday, April 20, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

## Attendance: via Zoom:

**Core Voting Constituents:**

Present: ) Dr. Joanne Dallaire (Elder), Pauline Shirt (Elder), Tanya Senk, System Superintendent Indigenous Education, TDSB), Christina Saunders (P, TDSB), Ryan Neepin (Teacher, TDSB), Mary Doucette (OA), Marilyn Hew (TYRMC), Tracy Mackenzie (Community Liaison, TDSB), Dr. Bob Phillips (Community), Adrienne Plumley (Instructional Leader, TDSB), Cynthia Bell-Clayton (ENACBE), Brandie Wilson (Native Learning Centre - NCFST), Natasha Gleeson (SST), Robert Durocher (VP. TDSB), Shannon Judge (Parent), Clayton Shirt (Elder), Selina Young (City of Toronto), Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB),

**TDSB Trustees:**

Present: Trustee Alexander Brown, Trustee Jennifer Story, Trustee Trixie Doyle, Trustee Dan MacLean, Trustee Michelle Aarts, Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)

**TDSB Staff:**

Present: Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent, TDSB), Barbara-Ann Felschow (Retired Principal, TDSB), Michael Griesz (Principal, TDSB), Michael Sanders (Principal, Eastview), Stephen Hepburn (VP, Eastview), Ixchel Bennett (VP, Eastview),

**Guests**: Melissa Hamonic (Native Child and Family Services)

## Regrets: Dr. Duke Redbird (Elder), Dr. Susan Dion (York U), Joe Rock (City of Toronto), Elise Twyford (VP, TDSB), Saby Chandi (TDSB Principal), Waabshka-Mkwa (2Spirits), J’Net Ayayqwayaksheelth (ROM)

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **MOTION /RECOMMENDATION**  |
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| Call to Order, Traditional Opening, Meeting Etiquette/Code of Conduct/ | Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire chaired the meeting, conducted a traditional opening and spoke to the code of conduct for UICAC members and guests. Introductions from the membership in attendance.  |  |
| Approval of Agenda | The agenda of April 20th, 2021 was approved by consensus  |  |
| Review and Approval of the minutes of March 23rd, 2021 | The minutes of March 23rd, 2021 were approved by consensus |  |
| Declaration of conflict of interest and Terms of Reference | None declared |  |
| UICAC Priorities for 2020-21 Re-visited:1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.
2. Indigenous TDSB Trustee
3. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.
 | UICAC Priorities:1. Facility, 16 Phin – Mobility, Accessibility, Health & Safety, Renovations.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** The work is grounded with the direction from the Elders Council and we will continue to move forward with the recommendations connected to the designs and the parents who are important representatives as part of this work. We need to look at ways to disrupt the colonial process that is in place to make sure the appropriate voices are sitting at the decision table.
1. Indigenous TDSB Trustee

**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, Indigenous Education TDSB)*** Discussions regarding the Indigenous Trustee were highlighted at our last meeting. Dr. Susan Dion spoke to putting together a subcommittee to further discuss and work on the appointment of an Indigenous Trustee.
* Indigenous Student Trustee, Isaiah Shafqat is here with us this evening and we look forward to hearing about the initiatives that are currently underway.
1. Hiring practices, recruitment, retention and mobility.

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** Pardeep Nagra will be making his report from Employment Equity part of an annual process.
* Pardeep will be presenting his Employment Equity report at our May meeting.
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| Elders Update:Staff Update: | Elder Pauline Shirt* Elders Council continues to collaborate and support initiatives with Indigenous Education.

Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire* Nothing to report

**Jim Spyropoulos (Executive Superintendent)*** The work that we are currently doing as a system is trying to address the fear, frustration and morale issues that exist with our staff, students, and parent communities. A parent has addressed their frustration on how difficult it was for their child to be online for 9 hours. Schools are not built to be virtual methods. We have handled this pivot with the learning we had from previous experiences and we are all doing our best under the circumstances.
* We continue to keep an eye on things and look towards September by making sure we have plans in place, which we hope to have a greater number of students in bricks and mortar and also planning for any contingencies as we know, based on the numbers that we are seeing today. We will have to prepare for virtual learning moving forward.
* There are a small number of students in our system who have exceptionalities for which they need to have face-face instruction. In January we did this previously with a number totalling around 900. We know that the number will be much less this time around because we are not automatically opening the doors of all congregated sites where the students typically go to school. We are simply talking about the hardest to serve students that need feeding tubes, breathing tubes, incubation with that type of level of service.
* Those students will come back in limited numbers and only if they are not able to accommodate a virtual program for them. Not all staff will go to each of these schools. Staff will be called back based on the number needed to support these students who have these types of exceptionalities. We look forward to being able to provide that service for our staff and students beginning as early as next week.

**Tanya Senk (System Superintendent, TDSB)*** Robert Durocher has moved into the role of Vice Principal at Kapapamahchakwew bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from previous portfolios and is an asset to the school community.

**Robert Durocher (Instructional Leader, TDSB)*** I look forward to coming in and doing the work for the best learning possibilities for the students of Kapapamahchakwew.

**Isaiah Shafqat (Indigenous Student Trustee, TDSB)*** We are working on a mental health conference which will be tomorrow and Thursday. It will be a place for students to learn about different topics. There will be a keynote speaker and three workshops for grades 6 to 12. The workshops are Mental Health, Financial Literacy and Wellness, Trauma Healing and Reaching out and Existing on Social Media.
* We have been working on sending a letter to the Ministry about access to free hygiene products for students in schools across Ontario. That motion was passed at the Board and Governance meeting.
* We have been approached by students about a diversity project that they had planned which would increase the number of books, documents and documentaries focusing on Indigenous Peoples, The Black Community, and the Latin Community.
* I am planning a 2S Pride Event with Robert, which aims to create a space that is inclusive for our 2S and Indigiqueer students for them to share their stories.
* The Student Trustees have been approached to join the Reference Group for renaming schools, which all did. The goal is to rename schools that have racist legacies like Sir, John A McDonald etc.
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| New and Other Business | No New and other business  |  |
| Future Topics: | Indigenous Board Trustee |  |
| Traditional Closing: | Elder Dr. Joanne Dallaire closed the meeting. |  |
| **Adjournment** | The next UICAC will be on September 21, 2021 @ 6:00pm on Zoom. |  |