



**Name of Committee:** Inner City Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 23 March 2023

**Directed To:** Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

A meeting of the Inner City Community Advisory Committee convened on March 23, 2023, from 9:06 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. virtually via [zoom/teams/webex/etc], with Trustee Co-Chair Alexis Dawson and Community Member Co-Chair Omar Khan presiding.

<b>Attendance:</b>	Trustee Alexis Dawson, Ward 9; Omar Khan, Community Member; Trustee Matias De Dovitiis, Ward 4; Ayan Kaillie, Community Member; Cherie Mordecai Steer, Community Member; Robert Spencer, Community Member; Crystal Stewart, Community Member; Robin Liu Hopson, People For Education; Wendy Hernandez, The Neighbourhood Organization; Michael Lacey, Toronto Public Health; Laurie Green, St. Michael’s Hospital; Farhana Jogi, Catholic Crosscultural Services;
<b>Regrets:</b>	Ingrid Palmer, Community Member; michael kerr, Colour of Poverty, Colour of Change; Anna Kay Brown, Jane Finch Education Action Group; Josette Holness, City of Toronto; Sejal Patel, Toronto Metropolitan University; Vicky Tourkolias, Toronto Public Library;

**Part A: Recommendations**

The Inner City Community Advisory Committee recommends:

Whereas, there are 24 Community Support Workers (CSWs) supporting 150 Model Schools Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade 8 which equates to approximately 1 CSW per 6.5 schools (1); and,

Whereas, CSWs work to “develop, engage and participate in local and system-wide parent/caregiver and community development initiatives that close achievement and opportunity gaps”(1). CSWs collaborate with parents/caregivers/ School Councils, TDSB departments, and community to:

- assist the school and parent/caregiver in co-planning goals that allow for active participation in decision-making or the ability to influence decisions related to

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their child(ren);

- collaborate with the community to support the needs of students, parents/caregivers and the school; and
- support students in transitions from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school; and,

Whereas, CSWs have always supported parents/caregiver engagement in High Schools, but it has been on an ad hoc or as needed basis to support a crisis or programs because Model Schools only support elementary schools. In recent months CSWs have supported violence crises and/or emergency situations at CW Jefferys, York Memorial Collegiate, Marc Garneau Collegiate, Woburn Collegiate, and Weston Collegiate and,

Whereas, research suggests parent/caregiver engagement is crucial to a High School student's development. The reality is that parent/caregiver participation declines significantly after Grade 8. The involvement of CSWs would be an asset to High Schools in supporting renewed parent/caregiver engagement and encouraging a positive school community; and

Whereas, including High Schools officially in the current CSW role, without increasing resources, will further dilute the support that CSWs can give to their communities; and,

Whereas, the Board has added staff at certain High Schools such as “School-Based Safety Monitors, Social Workers, [and] Child and Youth Counsellors/Workers” to provide additional supports (2). The staff mentioned are vital at supporting students in our schools, but their roles are different than that of CSWs and could be enhanced with CSW support that can bridge gaps between the school and parents and the community; and,

Whereas, engaging with parents and students and community supports before violent incidents occur can help enhance safety and prevent violence (3) and CSWs play an important, proactive rather than reactive role in community safety strategy; and,

Whereas, TDSB is currently “allocating additional resources to schools where [safety] concerns have been raised” (2);

Therefore, be it resolved that:

- (a) The ICCAC recommends to the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee that

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CSWs be allocated in the catchments of the 25 highest LOI (priority) High Schools;

- (b) The ICCAC recommends to the committee that the total allocation of CSWs be enhanced by 11 FTEs in year 1 (2023 budget cycle) and 9 in year 2 (2024 budget cycle) to support High Schools and that between Model Schools and the highest LOI High Schools, the school to CSW allocation is no more than 4 schools per CSW. The ICCAC recommends that in the first year no more than 5 schools per CSW and in the second year no more than 4 schools per CSW.
- (c) Over a two-year time period, the ICCAC be asked to make suggestions as to the priority LOI schools for immediate action in consultation with the senior staff assigned to ICCAC and the Director's office;
- (d) These recommendations be reviewed three years after the full implementation of recommendation 1 and 2 with a view to extending the CSW services to the other schools in the TDSB based on needs and in LOI priority order;

(1) <https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/csws>

(2) <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Addressing-School-Safety> (Dated version Feb 16 2023 retrieved from the Internet Archive: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230216161038/https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Addressing-School-Safety> )

(3) <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/prevention.html>

(4) Total number of CSWs required = (number of model schools + number of high LOI high schools) / average number of schools per CSW. For example, if the committee were to add 25 high priority high schools and implement an allocation of 5 schools total per CSW, then the total number of CSWs required =  $(150 + 25) / 5 = 35$  CSWs, an addition of 11 over the current allocation. In the second year the allocation would be  $(150 + 25) / 4 = 44$  CSWs, an addition of a further 9 positions.

## Part B: Staff Supplementary Information

An update on the 2023 Student Census was provided by Janet O'Reilly and Amie Presley, Research Coordinators, Research and Development

## Part C: Ongoing Matters

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**Report Submitted by:** Lynn Strangway, Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 3  
Jack Nigro, Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 4

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