



Name of Committee: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 27 March, 2023

Directed To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on March 27, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. virtually via [zoom/teams/webex/etc], with Jeffrey Leibovitch and Laurie McAllister (Co-Chairs) presiding.

Attendance:	
Regrets:	

Part A: Recommendations

The Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee recommends:

WHEREAS TDSB Secondary Alternative Schools provide a lifeline for students who are affected by external challenges, and challenges within the system, which put them at increased risk of being pushed out of the system, not returning to the system, not graduating, and the related risks to their well-being;

AND WHEREAS the Board has strongly committed to maintain the viability Secondary Alternative School programming;

THEREFORE, the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee recommends that the Board be reminded of its commitment to Secondary Alternative School programming and the students relying on the lifeline it provides, in the Board's review and approval of the 2023-24 Operating Budget.

Note: On May 25, 2022, the [Board decided](#), inter alia, that Community Advisory Committees may "report out to any standing committee of the Board" with "recommendations only and all other information and activities are reported annually".

For more information on the mandates of Standing and Permanent Committees of the Board, and to assist Staff Leads in directing Community Advisory Committee reports, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Committees>

Part B: Staff Supplementary Information

At the February 24, 2022 Special Meeting, the Board of Trustees carried the following recommendation that arose from the February 23, 2022 PSSC meeting:

Whereas:

Compared to the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) general population, students in secondary alternative schools are “much more at-risk”, and the COVID-19 pandemic has both amplified the student mental health crisis and disproportionately impacted the communities served by secondary alternative schools;

The TDSB’s Pandemic Recovery Plan acknowledges that “prioritizing mental health and well-being as we re-engage and integrate students who have been most impacted by the pandemic is essential”, and, its Strategic Plan has committed to support student mental health and well-being, and to ensure that every school offers a wide range of programming and safe, welcoming inclusive learning environments for all students;

The TDSB has existing safe spaces in secondary alternative schools that it can utilize as a component in a student re-engagement plan, and to meet its goals in the Strategic Plan;

Program viability means different things to different secondary alternative schools depending on its programs and the populations that it serves;

And further destabilization of secondary alternative schools would impact some of the most in-risk students within the Board;

Therefore, The Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee recommends that the Toronto District School Board consider program viability as the primary driver for staffing secondary alternative schools, rather than projected enrolment, until the Secondary Alternative Schools Review is completed and its recommendations related to staffing are implemented.

This item was referred to the March 3, 2022 Special FBEC meeting. At this meeting, the Secondary Alternative Schools Supplement, among Secondary Teacher Allocation was recommended by staff. At the March 9, 2022 Regular Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendations carried from FBEC.

Report Submitted by: Peter Chang, System Superintendent and ASCAC Staff Resource Person

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