



Name of Committee: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: 21 April 2023

Directed To: Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on April 21, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. virtually via [zoom/teams/webex/etc], with Jeffrey Leibovitch and Laurie McAllister (Co-Chairs) presiding.

Attendance:	Sarah Bogatie (Student, Avondale Alternative Secondary School; Secondary School Student Representative); Diana Grimaldos (Parent, Mountview Alternative Junior School, ASCAC Member); Serge Guschin (Parent, Beaches alternative School, ASCAC Member); Joanne Huber (Parent, High Park Alternative JS, ASCAC Member), Olga Ingram (Parent, Alternative Scarborough Education 1, ASCAC Member), Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 8, ASCAC Trustee Member); Jacob Leibovitch (Parent, ALPHA Alternative Junior School, ASCAC Co-Chair); Laurie McAllister (Parent, Avondale Secondary Alternative School, ASCAC Co-Chair)
Regrets:	

Part A: Recommendations

WHEREAS the TDSB has committed to provide equity of access to learning opportunities for all students;

AND WHEREAS a breach of the 2023/24 centralized elementary alternative school admissions process excluded students who disclosed aspects of their identity which are protected by the *Human Rights Code*, and the TDSB has indicated that it may, where possible, allocate 89 currently available spaces to those students as a restorative measure;

AND WHEREAS the number of students excluded from the process based on their disclosure of race, disability and 2SLGBTQIA+ identity is greater than 89, and such potential allocation is neither equitable nor restorative, the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee recommends that:

in its review and approval of the 2023/24 Operating Budget, the Board allocate appropriate funding and resources for reparative measures, to enable a resolution which is equitable,

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and restorative, for students disenfranchised by the 2023/24 centralized elementary alternative school admissions process.

Part B: Staff Supplementary Information

On April 21, 2023, families of students who applied for admission into Elementary Alternative Schools for September 2023 received an update apologizing for a technical error that occurred. The error occurred after offers were given to Indigenous applicants and students with siblings at the school, where space was available, and after 25% of the remaining spaces were then offered to students from underrepresented communities.

Students from underrepresented communities not offered seats in the previous two stages were to be included for the remaining available seats in the random selection process. This did not occur.

To fully redress the error and restore opportunities for students from underrepresented groups, the following actions were taken:

- After determining that 98 additional spots should have gone to students from underrepresented groups, we are making 98 seats available to these students
- In addition to this, we are offering 34 more seats across the 17 schools to students from underrepresented groups
- Continuing to place students from underrepresented groups, based on their waitlist position, in spaces as they become available (should offers be declined by any students) until Friday, June 16.

This will ensure that the number of students from underrepresented groups in Elementary Alternative Schools will slightly exceed original expectations if all students accept the seats which they were offered.

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

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