



Name of Committee: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee (ASCAC)

Meeting Date: 13 January 2020

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on January 13, 2020 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm Committee Room A at 5050 Yonge St. with Boriana Karan, and Liam Rodrigues (Co-Chairs) presiding.

Attendance: Boriana Karan (Elementary Parent Co-chair), Liam Rodrigues (SEED, Secondary Co-chair),

Also present were: Michael Gurgol (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Rebecca Holzman (Parent, High Park Alternative School), Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 8), Denis Lopes (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Uton Robinson (System Superintendent), Rachel Rosen (Teacher, School Of Life Experience), Shannon Salisbury (Teacher, School Of Life Experience)

The following participated by electronic means: Cindy (Parent, Hawthorne II Bilingual), Patti Cross (Parent, City School), Daphne Gordon (Parent, Grove School), Diana Grimaldo (Parent, Mountview)

Regrets: Rizwana Jafri (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Manny Moura (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Andrea Parise (VP, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Prafulla Prabhu (Parent Co-Chair)

Part A: Recommendations

N/A

Part B: For Information Only

N/A

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Robinson provided an update on: EQAO, Job Sanctions, Optional Attendance, Staffing/ Projections for the 2020-2021 School Year.

There were some discussions around the review of P062. It was mentioned that Phase 1 of the review process was completed and presented to the Governance and Policy Committee on

April 24, 2019. Phase 2 which includes consultations on the revised policy should be starting in Spring 2020.

Future of ASCAC

The ASCAC Co-Chairs mentioned that ASCAC would prefer less formal meetings and have more “informal” meetings. The purpose of the informal meetings is for the ASCAC members (staff and parents) to discuss their needs, etc. and then bring any concerns forward to the formal ASCAC meetings. The Co-Chairs found these informal meetings to be more productive which in turn makes the formal meetings more productive since the same items are continuously being brought forward to the formal meetings only concerns.

Communication

Again, there were discussions regarding the need to have more promotion of alternative schools, both for the elementary and secondary schools and for alternative schools to have their own website.

The committee was reminded that at the April 2019 meeting a Communications Marketing/Promotion List was given which outlined what the TDSB Communications department can do to assist the committee. It was suggested that a member become the lead on organizing the communications. ASCAC was also informed that the Committee Assistant and the Communication staff worked with the ASCAC member over the 2019 Summer and the Alternative Schools Website was updated and that links to the Alternative School Maps were provided. Also, a statement was added to the Find Your School site indicating that in addition to your their school, there are a number of other options available to students including Alternative Schools.

Outreach/ Open House

Committee members mentioned that due to the labour sanctions, open houses were being cancelled. They were also wondering if Open Houses could proceed without teachers. If there aren't open houses than how can we promote alternative schools? Superintendent Robinson confirmed that as of January 13, 2020 school open houses were considered struck work. To promote alternative schools, it was suggested that a flyer/ poster be created and posted in community centres, schools, etc.

Review and Policy Impact

This was covered during the Superintendent's Update.

Climate Event for Alternative Schools – Update

ASCAC had wanted to host a Climate/ Change event in Spring 2020. Due to the labour and budget situation they will no longer be moving forward with this event.

Report Submitted by: Uton Robinson, System Superintendent; Learning Centre Central