



Governance and Policy Committee

Report No. 25 (Part 2)

GPC:026A

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

4:30 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present Trustees Christopher Mammoliti (Chair), Alexander Brown, Stephanie Donaldson, Harpreet Gill, James Li, Patrick Nunziata and Manna Wong

Also Present Trustees Michelle Aarts, Rachel Chernos Lin, Trixie Doyle, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, Dan MacLean, Chris Moise, Robin Pilkey, Yalini Rajakulasingam, Anu Sriskandarajah, David Smith and Jennifer Story

All trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#).

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. **P034, Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy Review: Phase 1 [3859]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see GPC:026A, page 1) presenting the policy review work plan for policy P034, Workplace Harassment Prevention, in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Moved By: Trustee Wong

Seconded By: Trustee Doyle

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the policy review work plan, as presented in the report, be approved.

Carried

2. **P031, Human Rights Policy Review: Phase 2, Status Update [3860]**

The Committee considered a report from staff (see GPC:026A, page 29) presenting an update on the recommended changes related to the review of policy P031.

Moved By: Trustee Pilkey

Seconded By: Trustee Donaldson

The Governance and Policy Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

3. Establishment of a Subcommittee on Emergency Response and Recovery

Considered by the Board on May 2, 2020.

Part B: Information Only

4. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By: Trustee Doyle

Seconded By: Trustee Donaldson

The agenda was amended to add a notice of motion and a matter for possible consideration as emergency business.

That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

Carried

6. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report.

7. Specialized Schools and Programs Policy, Phase 3, Status Update

The Committee heard an oral update from staff on phase 3 development of the Special Schools and Programs Policy.

8. P013, Optional Attendance Policy Review: Phase 4, Status Update

The Committee heard an oral update from staff on the review of policy P013, Optional Attendance (see attached).

Part C: Ongoing Matters

9. Written Notice of Motion

Information Access Protocol

At the Committee meeting, in accordance with Board Bylaws 5.15.1, Trustee Brown, on behalf of Trustee Kandavel, seconded by Trustee Wong, provided the following as notice of motion for consideration at the Governance and Policy Committee meeting on June 2, 2020:

Whereas on June 20, 2018, in her Annual Report, the Board's Integrity Commissioner, stated:

There should be an expectation and understanding on the part of Board staff that all information that does not fall within an exemption provisions of MFIPPA or confidentiality requirements of the Board, shall be disclosed to Trustees upon request or in accordance with an approved process.

and;

Whereas, on June 19, 2019, in her Annual Report, the Board's Integrity Commissioner, stated:

I noted, for example, that there was a need for clear communication about Trustee access to information under the custody and control of the TDSB. I recommended that the Board identify which records may be provided to the public and individual Trustees outside of the freedom of information process or through an approved access protocol.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director work with the Integrity Commissioner to craft a protocol, in compliance with the Ontario *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, that clearly outlines how Trustees can access information, pursuant to their role;
- (b) That the protocol at Part (a) be presented to the next meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Moved By: Trustee Wong

Seconded By: Trustee Nunziata

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Submitted by: Trustee Mammoliti, Committee Chair

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY P013 ORAL UPDATE

APRIL 29, 2020



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Background and Context

- Work plan for the review of the Optional Attendance Policy (P013) was presented to GPC on 29 May, 2019, and included the following proposed content changes:
 - Consider changes to priority considerations in view the TDSB's commitment to equity
 - Ensure alignment of the Policy with TDSB Equity Policy
 - Consider centralizing and providing online process for optional attendance applications, to support equity principles and advance consistency and compliance
 - Separate and clarify provisions related to optional attendance requests for regular schools/programs vs specialized schools/programs
 - Consider limiting optional attendance applications to current TDSB students only
 - Clarify the optional attendance rules applicable to alternative schools and French Immersion/Extended programs
 - Consider introducing system-wide timelines and deadlines for receiving and processing optional attendance applications to ensure consistency, fairness, equity and transparency of the process
 - Consider application and scope of the current references to Child Care and access to schools through Optional Attendance

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Background and Context (continued)

- Just over 50% of secondary students attend their home school by address (compared to 76% of elementary students).
- Some secondary schools are operating with fewer than 500 students, resulting in limited course choices and limited opportunities for students.
- Secondary schools are competing for a shrinking secondary school-aged population.
- Students are fleeing certain schools and neighbourhoods in favour of others.
- The impact of Optional Attendance is being felt overwhelmingly at schools in underserved communities (i.e. those with greater need).

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Created in 1999 when 6 school boards amalgamated to become the Toronto District School Board
- Legacy attendance areas, boundary agreements, technical and commercial boundaries
- Policy provided mechanism to facilitate choice whereby students could choose to go to a school outside of their designated area as long as the school had space

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Optional Attendance – At a Glance

Preparation for Optional Attendance

Mid November: Planning determines school status (Limited or Closed) based on building capacity and projected enrolment.

End of January: Enrolment projections sent to schools
Schools determine available spaces

Optional Attendance – Secondary Schools

Early February: Optional Attendance applications due
If demand exceeds available space, lottery conducted to determine offers

Mid-February: Parents/students notified about status of application

End of February: Parents/students must confirm acceptance

After the first Monday in March, no Optional Attendance offers can be made, including from a waiting list. The Optional Attendance process is over.

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Optional Attendance Policy Review



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Consultation Process – 90 days

November 1, 2019 to February 3, 2020

- Four public consultation sessions
 - Western Technical-Commercial School (November 14, 2019)
 - 140 Borough Drive (November 20, 2019)
 - CW Jefferys CI (November 26, 2019)
 - John Polanyi CI (November 28, 2019)
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (December 17, 2019)
- Community Advisory Committees (CACs) (January 7, 2020)
- Two online information sessions (January 30, 2020)
- Toronto School Administrators' Association (January 30, 2020)
- Wandering Spirit School students and staff (January 31, 2020)
- Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee (February 3, 2020)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (February 3, 2020)
- Secondary Alternative School Staff (February 4, 2020)
- Strategy and Planning Staff (February 12, 2020)
- Staff (CUPE, Schedule II, Principals, Vice Principals) (February 20, 2020)
- Student Senate (February 27, 2020)
- Elementary Itinerant Counsellors (March 13, 2020)

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Consultation Process (continued)

- Online Survey
 - 623 responses
- Ongoing:
 - Optional Attendance Steering Committee meetings
 - E-mail feedback to SecondaryReview@tdsb.on.ca
 - Over 200 e-mails about Optional Attendance
 - Meetings with Special Education, Planning, and other central departments

Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Working Draft Policy

Current Policy Name:

Proposed Policy Name:

Optional Attendance

Out-of-Area Attendance

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Suggested name change *Attendance at Schools Outside of Designated Attendance Area | 391 (63%) | 169 (27%) | 60 (10%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Policy Changes

Current:

Applies to:

- a) Regular schools
- b) Schools with French programs
- c) Alternative schools
- d) Specialized schools/programs

Proposed:

Would apply to:

- a) Regular schools
 - b) Schools with French programs
- Current Policy/Procedure on **Alternative Schools** will be updated to include Admissions Procedures.
- New Policy for **Specialized Schools and Programs** currently out for consultation.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| The revised Optional Attendance Policy would only apply to: (1) Regular schools and (2) Schools with French programs. Specialized schools will no longer be included in this policy. | 289 (51%) | 148 (26%) | 129 (23%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Policy Changes

Current:

Applications can be submitted to:

- 2 Regular schools
- 2 Specialized Schools/Programs

Proposed:

2 Regular schools

Draft Specialized Schools and Programs Policy also recommends 2 applications.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| One application for a regular school only. There will be a new Policy/Procedure to specify the application process to specialized programs. | 132 (24%) | 356 (64%) | 64 (12%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Working Draft Policy

Current:

Students in school-based child care are automatically admitted into the school, without an Optional Attendance application.

Proposed:

Students in school-based child care who register before January 1 are automatically admitted into the school. After January 1, parents must apply for their children as out-of-area students.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Students in school-based child care who register after January 1 must apply as out-of-area students. | 227 (43%) | 188 (36%) | 112 (21%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Working Draft Policy

Current:

Students who change residence must change schools.

Proposed:

Elementary students who change residence must change schools at the end of the school year, unless the following year is a graduating year.

Secondary students who change residence may remain or register in the new designated school.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Students who change residence or who withdraw from child care must change schools, unless the following year is a graduating year. | 321 (61%) | 155 (30%) | 48 (9%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Working Draft Policy

Current:

Students who withdraw from child care must change schools.

Proposed:

Students who withdraw from child care must change schools at the end of the year, unless the following year is a graduating year.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Students who change residence or who withdraw from child care must change schools, unless the following year is a graduating year. | 321 (61%) | 155 (30%) | 48 (9%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Working Draft Policy

Current:

7 Priority Groups

Distinction between students who attend the feeder school as in-district students vs. those who attend as Optional Attendance students.

Proposed:

6 Priority Groups

No distinction for feeder school students.

Additional priority for current TDSB students vs. non-TDSB students.

| In consultation process, we suggested: | Agree | Disagree | Not sure |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| There will be an additional priority grouping for TDSB students vs non-TDSB students. | 367 (67%) | 126 (23%) | 51 (9%) |
| There will be no distinction for feeder school students who apply via Optional Attendance. | 234 (44%) | 156 (29%) | 139 (26%) |



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Comparison of Current and Proposed Priorities

Current Optional Attendance Policy

- **Priority 1:** Students who have siblings already in the requested school and expected to be in the school for the next school year.
- **Priority 2:** Secondary students whose child(ren) is/are enrolled in the child care centre in the catchment areas of the Secondary school.
- **Priority 3:** Students attending licensed child care, including licensed home childcare, in the catchment area of the requested school.
- **Priority 4:** Students receiving child care in the catchment area of the requested school.
- **Priority 5:** Feeder school students who are currently under optional attendance.
- **Priority 6:** Students who are in district to the feeder school, but not in district to the next panel school.
- **Priority 7:** Other students resident in the City of Toronto.

Remove

Combine & Revise

Combine

Proposed Out-of-Area Attendance Policy

- **Priority 1:** Students who have siblings currently attending the requested school and the siblings will be attending at the requested school for the next school year.
- **Priority 2:** Students currently attending a feeder school of the requested school. **(Former 5 & 6)**
- **Priority 3:** Children enrolled after January 1 in the school-based child care pre-school program of the requested school. **Proposed NEW**
- **Priority 4:** Current TDSB students **Proposed NEW**
- **Priority 5:** Other students residing in the City of Toronto.
- **Priority 6:** Students residing outside the City of Toronto. **Proposed NEW**



Governance and Policy Committee – Optional Attendance Policy Update

Other Recommendations

Current:

Paper application process

Students/Parents must have forms signed by current principal and then submit forms in person to each requested school.

Proposed:

On-line application process

Utilize an online, web-based tool to manage applications, offers and acceptances.



