



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

Meeting Date: 14 December 2020

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on December 14, 2020 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm via Virtual Meeting (Zoom) with Angela Matich (Interim Chair) presiding.

Attendance: Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 8, ASCAC Trustee Member), Angela Matich (Parent, Equinox, ASCAC Interim Chair)

Staff Lead: Peter Chang (System Superintendent, Interim)

Guests: Also present were: Yvette Duffy (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Nadine Francis (Parent, Downtown Alternative), Michael Gurgol (Vice Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Rizwana Jafri (Principals, Secondary Alternative Schools West), Matthew Jensen (TDSB Secondary School Student, East York Alternative), Denis Lopes (Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Jana Luettmann (Parent, Equinox), Liza Magcale (Parent, Avondale Alternative ES), Berardo Manari (Assistant Curriculum Leader, SOLE Alternative), Angela Matich (Parent, Equinox), Sanjoy Mitra (Parent, Delta Alternative PS), Emanuel Moura (Vice-Principal, Secondary Alternative Schools East), Rob Rennick (Teacher, Inglenook), Celeste Robinson (TDSB Elementary School Student, Avondale Alternative ES), Rachel Rosen (Teacher, School Of Life Experience), Shannon Salisbury (Teacher, School Of Life Experience), Ben Singer (Parent, Mountview); Sara Wilken (Parent, Beaches Alternative)

Regrets: N/A

Part A: Recommendations

N/A

Part B: For Information Only

Elections: Co-Chairs, Student Representatives and Members at Large

The Interim Chair gave an overview of ASCAC and the mandate/purpose of the committee. She also gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the membership. The floor was opened for questions and then for the nominations/self-nominations for committee membership.

The Committee had a successful election. Those who self-nominated themselves were acclaimed into the membership and the membership includes:

- Chair (parent from the elementary school panel)
- Two Student Representatives (one from the elementary school panel and one from the secondary school panel)
- Members at Large includes three parents/ guardians from the elementary school panel

Terms of Reference (Draft)

The Committee Chair spoke to the terms of reference and its purpose for the Committee. She instructed the ASCAC Members to review the terms of reference and to notify the Committee Assistant if there are any issues or suggested changes. At the next ASCAC meeting on February 22, 2021, there will be a vote amongst the members for acceptance of the terms of reference.

TDSB Board-Wide Updates (Trustee Shelley Laskin & System Superintendent Peter Chang)

Trustee Shelley Laskin and System Superintendent Peter Chang provided ASCAC with some system updates. The updates included information about the budget drivers, 2021/22 budget, ventilation units, outdoor learning and the secondary program review.

Budget Drivers – information was shared to the participants of ASCAC. Trustee Laskin reviewed the budget drivers, purpose and who received the survey link. FBEC is seeking feedback on the drivers (e.g., the importance of the drivers/ priority order or if there are any additional comments/ feedback that have not been captured). Trustee Laskin mentioned that one of the key purposes of the Advisory Committees is to provide advice to the Board.

2021/22 Budget – both the government and the board are offering opportunities for providing input for the upcoming school year budget. This process will close the middle of January 2021. FBEC will be having a special meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 to discuss TDSB priorities.

Ventilation Units – the province provided approximately six million dollars for ventilation units due to COVID-19. The TDSB used the money for HEPA Filters that have been installed in any classroom where the school did not have mechanical ventilation or limited fresh air intake.

Outdoor Learning – many schools have an embedded culture of outdoor school and activities. Some schools are not as experienced/comfortable with outdoor learning. The Board wants to

ensure there was a system response regarding outdoor learning so that any teacher who requires resources feels supported. The Board recently passed a motion for staff to work on supports for schools.

There were 34 schools which were designated as OPAL schools which was a British designation. The program uses found and recycled materials in order to add creativity into outdoor learning/ play. Unfortunately, this program was stopped for Canada and the TDSB is looking at how they can replicate this program. Many schools embraced the fact that fancy equipment wasn't required to have creative activities for outdoor play.

Secondary Program Review – at the November 11, 2020 Board meeting, the final report for the *Secondary Program Review* was accepted. The review is scheduled to start in the 2021/22 school year, dependent on the COVID-19 situation. The review will commence with small collegiate schools. Secondary alternative schools are designed as “small schools by design” and will be reviewed at a later date.

Policy reviews have been put on hold this academic school year due to concerns that it would be difficult to have deep community engagement. There is a policy review schedule, though due to COVID-19 and community spread, there may be additional delays to this schedule. An example of this delay is the Optional Attendance Policy (P013). The new policy was planned to be implemented in September 2021 but is now on hold and the current policy will be used.

Middle French Immersion Program – the program is for students in Grade 4 and is replacing the Grade 4 Extended French program. The application process will be opening in January 2021.

School Closures due to COVID-19 – Trustee Laskin gave a brief overview regarding Toronto Public Health (TPH) and school closures. At the time of this meeting 10 schools were closed by TPH due to Covid outbreaks. Parents are trying to figure out why schools with a small number of positive cases are being closed while schools with a larger number of positive cases are not being closed. TPH makes the decision on which schools need to be closed and the TDSB continues to follow the advance of TPH.

Open Floor - Any meeting attendee may bring forth any matter they wish to discuss with ASCAC. – meeting participants were welcomed to ask questions, provide feedback and or let the Committee know of any concerns they may have.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Elementary & Secondary Alternative Schools Virtual Workshops - Starting a sub-committee working group. Call for volunteers. – deferred to the February 22, 2021 meeting

Report Submitted by: Peter Chang, System Superintendent; Learning Centre Central

Blank Page