



Elementary Alternative Application and Admission Procedures Feasibility: Update

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 28 October, 2021

Report No.: 10-21-4181

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Transform Student Learning

Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be received.

Context

At the May 5, 2021 Program and School Services Committee (PSSC) meeting, the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee (ASCAC) brought forth the following recommendations:

That the TDSB conducts a review of the application and admission procedures across all elementary alternative schools to ensure they are consistent and equitable.

Furthermore, ASCAC recommends that TDSB consider creating one universal elementary alternative schools' application form, as well as one set of clear and detailed admissions procedures for all elementary alternative schools to ensure consistency, equity and remove potential barriers. Ideally, this information will be clearly posted on the TDSB website to make it easily accessible to the schools and the general public for reference.

At the May 26, 2021 Board meeting, the Board decided:

(a) That the Director conduct a review of the application and admission procedure across all elementary alternative schools to ensure that they are consistent and equitable;

(b) That the following be referred to staff for a report on its feasibility in the fall 2021 cycle of meetings:

i) that the Director consider creating one universal elementary alternative schools application form, as well as one set of clear and detailed admissions procedures for all elementary alternative schools to ensure consistency, equity and remove potential barriers;

ii) That the application process be clearly posted on the TDSB website to make it easily accessible to the schools and the general public for reference

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

In accordance with Board motion (a), staff are in the process of reviewing the application and admission procedures of all elementary alternative schools to ensure that they are consistent and equitable.

Staff are currently collecting information about elementary alternative school admissions from schools and central staff. Based on the preliminary data, staff confirm that it is feasible to begin the process of creating a centralized elementary alternative schools' application form, as well as one set of clear and detailed admissions procedures for all elementary alternative schools to ensure consistency, equity and to remove potential barriers.

In May 2021, the Elementary Alternative Application and Admission Procedures Working Group (Working Group) was formed.

In June 2021, the Working Group met with the administrators and Superintendents of the elementary alternative schools about the Board Motion and to discuss the current application process in each school. In addition, the Working Group consulted with IT Services staff about technological support for an online application process.

In the upcoming months, the Working Group will meet regularly with elementary alternative schools and members of ASCAC, have consultation sessions with representatives from the Board's Community Advisory Committees, and seek guidance from Equity, Indigenous Education, Human Rights, and Legal Services staff.

Resource Implications

The Working Group will work with IT Services and Research Department to access their expertise and resources in developing a consultation framework and an online application form that meets all the requisites gathered from the consultations.

Communications Considerations

The Working Group will work with the Communications Department to develop a communications plan upon completion of the centralized admissions process.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

P062 Alternative Schools

PR584 Alternative Schools

Appendices

N/A

From

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