



Specialized Schools and Programs Policy: Consultation Update

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 27 October, 2021

Report No.: 10-21-4186

Strategic Directions

- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the update on the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy Consultation process be received for information.

Context

The purpose of this report is to provide Trustees with a more detailed outline of the consultation process which has been initiated.

In April 2020, the Secondary Program Review team was instructed to complete one final public consultation as the process had been put on pause due to the pandemic. It was felt that the public needed to be engaged one further time, to ensure that all stakeholders voices were heard in a genuine and authentic way.

The communication plan includes:

1. Three live Zoom Webinars for any interested parties (November 18, 7:00 pm and November 22, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm).
2. Information videos will be posted on the [TDSB Specialized Schools and Program Policy website](#) and shared via social media,
3. Electronic Communication:

Information about the policy, resources, link to an online consultation survey and an invitation to the live consultation sessions will be first shared with Trustees on Friday, October 29.

Information about the policy, resources, link to an online consultation survey and an invitation to the live consultation sessions will be distributed on November 1, 2021 via:

- School Principals for community distribution
 - School Council Chairs, Advisory Committees, Student Senate, Professional Associations and Unions
 - All TDSB School Staff
 - Direct email and phone invitation (via School Messenger) to all parent/guardians and students in grades 5 -12
4. A Qualtrics consultation survey will be available in 18 languages. A paper version of the Qualtrics survey will be provided to school Principals and families will be made aware that the survey can be requested and returned to the school for submission.
5. Community Support Workers (CSWs) from across the city will be consulted with to develop and implement strategies and alternative methods of reaching members of their community.

45 Day Consultation Period

The 45 day consultation period will be initiated by the mass email to the community (all stakeholders listed above) on Monday, November 1, 2021 and will conclude on Friday, December 17, 2021.

The online consultation survey will be open for the entire 45 day period. Reminder emails / phone calls will be placed just prior to the live consultation webinars.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Feedback from the live consultation webinars, the online/paper survey submissions and feedback provided via email will be considered and a revised draft of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy will be presented to the Governance and Policy Committee, and subsequently to the Board of Trustees in the 2022 winter cycle.

Resource Implications

No financial resources will be required for the development of the Specialized Schools and Programs Policy at this time.

Communications Considerations

The detailed Communications plan outlined above has been created in collaboration with the Communications Department. Communications will support the distribution of information and with the running of the three live Webinars.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Optional Attendance Policy (P013)
- Alternative Schools Policy (P062)
- Optional Attendance Procedure (PR545)
- Alternative Schools Procedure (PR584)
- Admission to Specialized Schools and Programs (PR612)

Appendices

Not applicable

From

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