



Program and School Services Committee

Report No. 07

PSSC:007A

Thursday, October 28, 2021

4:30 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Members Present Trustees Rachel Chernos Lin (Chair), Trixie Doyle, Dan MacLean, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata and Chris Tonks

Regrets Trustee Alexandra Lulka

Also Present Trustees Michelle Aarts, Christopher Mammoliti, Robin Pilkey, Manna Wong, and Student Trustees Isaiah Shafqat and Evan Woo

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. Elementary Alternative Application and Admission Procedures Feasibility: Update [4181]

The Committee considered a report from staff (see PSSC:007A, page 15) presenting information on the review of the application and admission procedures for all elementary alternative schools.

Moved by: Trustee Moise

Seconded by: Trustee MacLean

The Program and School Services Committee **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received.

Carried

2. Supporting Free Public Transit for High School Students

The matter, introduced by Trustees Tonks and Nunziata, was deemed as emergency business and added to the agenda.

Moved by: Trustee Tonks

Seconded by: Trustee Nunziata

The Program and School Services Committee **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, the Toronto Transit Commission is seeking feedback from stakeholders as it creates a 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook and will present an initial proposal on November 17, 2021 and hold a final vote in February 2022; and

Whereas, using transit at a younger age can encourage life-long use of transit, influencing behavioural change for a more sustainable future (Lachappelle et al, 2016); and

Whereas, a program in Kingston, Ontario to provide free transit passes to high school students, along with an on-bus orientation session to teach students how to ride the bus, has increased overall transit ridership by 73% since 2012 (Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2019); and

Whereas, students and teachers have reported a reduction in low-income students' enrolment in specialized programs, after financial constraints resulted in the end of a TDSB program to provide free TTC tickets to Grade 9-12 students taking French Immersion, Extended French, and Gifted programs in 2019 and to elementary Grade 6-8 students taking Gifted and French Immersion programs in 2020; and

Whereas, the TTC is free to ride for children 12 years and younger, but many young people do not have or carry identification and high school students reported in focus groups (TTCriders, 2021) that as younger teenagers they experienced discrimination from fare enforcement based on race and age, and were challenged about their age;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Toronto District School Board express support for an expansion of free public transit to high school students;**
- (b) That the Chair write to the Toronto Transit Commission Board by November 17, 2021, recommending that they expand free TTC rides**

- to high school students as they develop their 5-Year Fare Policy and 10-Year Fare Collection Outlook;
- (c) That the Chair write to the Mayor of Toronto, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Transport Canada to advocate for funding support for the Toronto Transit Commission in order to implement free transit for high school students;
 - (d) That a copy of the letters in parts (b) and (c) above, be shared with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the federal Minister of Youth;
 - (e) That trustees be encouraged to advocate to the City councillors in for support of free public transit for high school students;
 - (f) That trustees be encouraged to delegate to Toronto City Council and the Toronto Transit Commission Board;
 - (g) That a copy of the letter be sent to the federal Minister of Youth, requesting funding for free public transit for youth 18 and younger.

Carried

At the Committee meeting, parts (e), (f) and (g) were added on amendment of Trustee Moise, seconded by Trustee Nunziata.

Part B: Information Only

3. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

A meeting of the Program and School Services Committee was convened on Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:12 p.m., by electronic means, with Rachel Chernos Lin, presiding.

4. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee MacLean, the agenda was approved.

5. Declarations of Possible Conflict

No matters to report

6. Delegations

re Item 7.1 Supporting Free Public Transit for High School Students (Trustees Tonks and Nunziata)

1. Vivian Zhang, Student

2. Zain Khurram, Student
3. Debbie King and Ayan Kailie, Queen Victoria Public School and Swansea Black Student Success Committees

7. Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee Report, October 4, 2021

The Committee considered a report from the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee dated October 12, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 1). The report was presented by Committee Co-Chair, Trustee Chris Moise.

Moved by: Trustee Moise

Seconded by: Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

8. Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee Report, October 12, 2021

The Committee considered a report from the Community Use of Schools Community Advisory Committee dated October 12, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 3). The report was presented by Committee Co-Chair, Judy Gargaro

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Doyle

That the report be received.

Carried

9. Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee Report, October 5, 2021

The Committee considered a report from the Environmental Sustainability Community Advisory Committee dated October 5, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 7).

Moved by: Trustee Moise

Seconded by: Trustee MacLean

That the report be received.

Carried

10. Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee Report, September 27, 2021

The Committee considered a report from the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee dated September 27, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 9).

Moved by: Trustee MacLean

Seconded by: Trustee Mammoliti

That the report be received.

Carried

11. Inner City Community Advisory Committee Report, October 21, 2021

The Committee considered a report from the Inner City Community Advisory Committee dated October 21, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 11). The report was presented by Trustee Co-Chair Michelle Aarts.

Moved by: Trustee Doyle

Seconded by: Trustee Mammoliti

That the report be received.

Carried

12. Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Report, October 19, 2021

The Committee considered report from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee dated October 19, 2021 (see PSSC:007A, page 13). The report was presented by Committee Co-Chairs, D. Williams and Felicia Seto-Lau.

Moved by: Trustee Moise

Seconded by: Trustee Mammoliti

That the report be received.

Carried

13. Adjournment

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee Mammoliti, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

No matters to report

Submitted by: Rachel Chernos Lin, Chair of Committee