



**Equity Policy Advisory Committee  
Draft Minutes  
Thursday, December 13, 2012  
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
Committee Room A, 5050 Yonge Street**

**Present:** Saida Sabrie (SPLC Representative); Michael Kerr (Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change Co-Chair); Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Coordinating Superintendent, Inclusive Schools, Student, Parent and Community) ; Imam Abdul Hai Patel (Former Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights); Marjolein Winterink (TDSB Staff Resource Representative for Maria Rodrigues); Christopher Penrose (Success Beyond Limits Representative); Margaret Blair-Grant (Parent Representative); Tara Gallagher (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Officer, Human Rights); Ken Jeffers (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Co-ordinator, Gender-Based Violence Prevention); Kourosh Houshmand (TDSB Student Trustee); Harout Manougian (TDSB Trustee) Sheena Resplendor(Asian Canadian Educators Network); Sharon Simpson (Urban Alliance on Race Relations); Roger Love (African Canadian Legal Clinic); Yolanda McLean(CUPE, Local 4400); Patricia Hayes (Manager, Human Rights, TDSB)

**Tele – Conference:** Karlo Cabrera (TDSB Staff Resource to Committee, Program Coordinator, Equity)

**Recorder:** Linda Mendonca (Committee Assistant, EPAC)

| Item                                      | Information/Discussion  | Action/Recommendation   |
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| 1.Call to order-Welcome and Introductions | Jim called the meeting to order @ 6:38 pm, followed by introductions.   |   |
| 2. Approval of Agenda                     | ***Motion to approve the agenda with the following amendments was moved by Saida, seconded by Abdul, all in favor.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff Report was moved to Item #4</li> </ul>   |   |
| 3. Approval of Nov 1 Minutes              | ***Motion to approve the minutes with the following amendments was moved by Margaret Blair-Grant, all in favor.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and correct the attendance and regrets and then update minutes on the website</li> <li>▪ Saida was present at the Sept meeting, and Abdul was absent</li> <li>▪ Members asked for an update on the Somalian Task Force, and staff hiring to work with Somali children/youth. Jim confirmed that he would give an update about this in his Staff Report today.</li> <li>▪ Members asked for the links to e-versions of the Census portraits, and Ethno-specific profiles. Karlo confirmed that he, Debbie, or Linda would send out the link tonight after the meeting.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Karlo, Debbie or Linda will send out the link to the e-versions of the census portraits, and ethno-specific profiles tonight after the meeting.</li> <li>▪ Linda will adjust the previous minutes and update it accordingly on the website.</li> </ul> |
| 4. Staff Report                           | The Board has approved a Task Force to examine the needs by Somali community; youth   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staff will send a request to</li> </ul>  |

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|                      | <p>and students. A date for a meeting is being set up as we speak at the Toronto Congress Centre. The meeting will allow for significant community input. Two Somali-speaking Community Support Workers (CSW's) have been hired to work with the Somali community. Looking into hosting a Somali conference. TPS and TCHC continue to fund 1-day programs for 100's of Somali children and youth. TDSB was invited to Scadding Court Community Centre to view a presentation on how Somali students are doing as compared to the U.S. and Europe</p> <p>Jim reported that TDSB has been of much interest in the last few weeks. Bill 115 is causing some concerns in the province. Elementary School Teachers are scheduled on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, for a 1-day walkout. High school extra-curricular activities have been cancelled. Settlement is uncertain at this point.</p> <p>TDSB is in a very difficult budget situation, facing further cuts after \$110M in cuts last year. A team from Price Waterhouse Cooper, on request by the ministry did a capital review of TDSB and made a series of recommendations to cut costs.</p> <p>Members asked it was possible for someone to come to a meeting to explain why we are in this deficit situation year after year because the impact of underfunding affects programming for newcomers, special education students, etc.</p> <p>Staff recommended that EPAC could request the following to attend the January meeting to hear back on the TDSB's budget situation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Trustee Chris Glover – report on history of budget</li> <li>2.) Ministry of Education – to speak on funding formulas</li> <li>3.) Chief Financial Officer Reggio – presentation on what business operations are happening in the Board.</li> </ol> <p>Jim informed members that we could try for all three presentations at next meeting. If not all three, the Ministry could present at the subsequent meeting.</p> | <p>Trustee Glover, CFO Reggio, and the Ministry of Education to present at the January meeting.</p> |
| 5. Co-Chair Election | <p>Members were reminded that the Co-Chair Election was today. There were four candidates to start with, Micheal Kerr, Omer Kowser, Chris Penrose, and Sheena Resplandor. Sheena decided to step down as a candidate as she would like to be more involved in the meetings. Omer Kowser, could not be present at today's meeting due to a personal bereavement situation. Omer was asked if she wanted to submit anything in writing to be read at the meeting, but did not offer anything.</p> <p>Ken Jeffers reviewed the Elections Guidelines with members and reminded everyone of the voting membership guidelines according to the Terms of Reference, and reminded members that staff or union reps do not have the right to vote.</p>   | <p>▪ Co-Chair Penrose and Co-Chair Kowser will chair the next meeting.</p>                          |

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|  | <p>***Motion to approved the Elections Guidelines was moved by Abdul, seconded by Saida, all approved.</p> <p>Yolanda McLean raised the concern about Union Reps not having the right to vote, as it was not stipulated in the previous Terms of Reference. Jim noted that the detail of the Terms of Reference was discussed at length for several months and no one raised any concerns about them.</p> <p>Staff recommendation is to add Union reps to the voting membership</p> <p>Following some discussion regarding voting membership, and the number of voting members present, Staff recommended that Elections proceed with a threshold of 14 voting members present.</p> <p>Members were asked if they agreed to adopt the Elections Guidelines, all in consensus.</p> <p>Voting began at 8:10pm. Nominees Chris Penrose, and current Co-Chair Michael Kerr were given 3 minutes each to speak to why they wanted to be Co-Chair.</p> <p>Voting members were each given two ballots, and reminded that they must select 2 Co-chairs or their ballots would be considered spoiled. Once members filled in their ballots, 2 scrutineers left the room to count the ballots. At 8:18pm, the scrutineers returned and reported that Chris Penrose came in first place and was selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair. There was a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place between Co-Chair Michael Kerr and Omer Kowser. Michael Kerr decided to step down from the elections, therefore, by default, Omer Kowser was declared the 2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Chair for the committee. Co-Chair Penrose and Co-Chair Kowser were congratulated and welcomed to the committee as Co-Chairs.</p> <p>***Motion to destroy ballots was moved by Abdul, seconded by Margaret Blair-Grant, all approved.</p> |   |
| 6. Amendments to Terms of Reference(T.O.R)   | <p>Members discussed the amended Terms of Reference which staff circulated for discussion and approval. Members expressed some concerns about the voting membership listed in the Terms of Reference. Yolanda Mclean (CUPE, Local 4400) requested that it be noted in the minutes that Union Reps should be part of the voting membership, as the previous Terms of Reference did not exclude Union Reps from voting.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference will be added to the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion. Further discussion regarding the Terms of Reference will resume at the next meeting.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Terms of Reference to be circulated with the minutes and agenda for the next meeting. Further discussion to resume at the next meeting.</li> </ul> |
| 7. Review of the Equity Foundation Statement | <p>Co-Chair Kerr asked members to review the Equity Foundation Statement and to come back with ideas at next meeting to craft statement. The statement needs to reflect what the Board needs to do in order to deliver on its equity foundation statement.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To be discussed at next meeting.</li> </ul>  |

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| 8. Task Group Formation |   |  |
| 9. Other business       | <p>The School Climate Survey Consultation meeting will be held in January. Ken asked members if anyone would be interested in representing EPAC at this meeting? Sheena volunteered to represent EPAC. Need to forward dates/details to Chris.</p> <p>The CAC Review meeting will be held in January. EPAC needs a Rep to attend this meeting. Chris Penrose volunteered to attend. Need to forward dates/details to Chris.</p> <p>Co-Chair Kerr said the committee; since it has 2 new Co-Chairs can do priority setting after they get budget info.</p> |  |
| 10. Adjournment         | ***Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm was moved by Chris, seconded by Saida, all in favor.  |  |
| 11. Next Meeting        | January 24, 2013 @ 6:30 pm, Committee Room A.   |  |