

**Name of Committee**: Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee [EPCAC]

**General Meeting**: Thursday, April 18, 2019

A general meeting of the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee convened on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 6:50 pm to 8:15 pm in the Boardroom, with Community Co-Chair Sue Winton presiding.

| **Members in Attendance**:  **Trustees Present:**  **Resource Staff Present:** | Sharon Beason(Parent); Andre Harriott (LAEN-Latinx, Afro-Latin-America, Abya Yala Education Network); Catherine Maloney (Parent Co-Chair-Currently On Leave); Sharma Queiser (Social Planning Toronto); Marjolein Winterink (Parent); Sue Winton (Interim Parent Co-Chair);  Trustee Harpreet Gill (on the phone); Trustee Yalini Rajakulasingam (on the phone);  Ken Jeffers – Manager, Equity & Inclusive System Culture  Sonia French – Administrative Assistant |
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| **Regrets**:  **Absent:** | Vicky Branco – Superintendent of Education; Rachel Lawrence ( Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre); Kristel Guthrie (Parent); Michael Kerr (Colour of Poverty-Colour of Change);  Dennis Keshinro (Belka Enrichment Center); Tesfai Mengesha (Success Beyond Limits); Aleem Punja (Parent); Sophia Ruddock (Parent); Arlene Wallace (Parent); |

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| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS /**  **RECOMMENDATION/MOTION** |
| **Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands, Reading of Meeting Norms,**  **Approval of Agenda, Conflict of Interest Declaration,**  **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes** | Meeting delayed 20 minutes to achieve quorum. Call to order and quorum was declared at 6:50 pm when Trustee Rajakulasingam agreed to temporarily step into Trustee Gill’s role as Trustee Co-Chair. Trustee Gill called in at 7:05 pm.  Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and the reading of Meeting Norms were read. The current agenda was approved. Minutes from the March general meeting were reviewed and passed unanimously. No possible conflict of interest was declared. |
| **Co-Chair Report** | Sharon Beason agreed to be the Equity Policy CAC representative for the Parent and Student Engagement Committee on April 26, May 9 and May 21.  Members discussed what they would like to see added to the Annual Report. The report will include all training/orientation held for members over the past school year including workshop presentations and answers on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, Fundraising in Schools, Dress Code, Equity Employment, Caring and Safe School draft and How policy is reviewed, drafted and updated.  Ken Jeffers will investigate (and advise the Co-Chairs) of the possibility of having the All-Web-Team create the Annual Self-Assessment survey as a portal link. The survey will be posted online as a document to be completed online. The Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee forms will then be sent as a file to the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee Co-Chairs.  May 16, 2019 is the last Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee general meeting of the 2018-2019 school year. The Annual Report and the Self-Assessment Report will be completed after the survey results from members are submitted.  Discussion on the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee response to be given to the parent who expressed concern over the effect on students in school when Mother and Father day celebrations are promoted. The concerned parent pointed out how negative an impact the celebration can have on children in historically defined non-traditional families.  Parents to be advised that the Parent Protocol is the path to follow whenever there is an issue.  Ken Jeffers reported that Associate Director Colleen Russel-Rawlins forwarded the email from concerned parent RE: Mothers/Fathers Day to Jeewan Chanika (Superintendent of Education) for awareness raising/training amongst staff.  Concerned Parents requesting to make deputations to the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee need to be informed that the committee is not empowered to take direct action, make decisions and direct staff and should be encouraged to use the Concerned Parent Protocol and/or to make deputations to relevant Standing Committees of the Board.  Parents can also be directed to the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC). PIAC is one of the two legislated committees. [Latha.John@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Latha.John@tdsb.on.ca) is the contact person for PIAC.  <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Community-Advisory-Committees/Parent-Involvement-Advisory-Committee> |
| **Parent as Partner’s Conference Report** | Marjolein Winterink reported that the morning saw very little attendee interest in the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee booth.  Sue Winton had an above average attendance of 12 to 14 people at her workshop on Fundraising for Schools. The workshop discussed problematic issues with the process and possible resolutions. Sue reported the workshop as very low pressure, with engaged parents and trustees present.  Sue suggested that the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee present more than one workshop going forward and that we start by December of the new school year to organize workshop presentations.  Sharon B. sat on the organizing committee and as was asked to provide information for the May general meeting of the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee which clarifies the process for Community Advisory Committees who wished to participate in the PIAC and the Parent as Partners conferences.  Co-Chairs asked to be included on the email list for both organizing committees.  Kristel Guthrie helped manage the booth in the afternoon and submitted a written report.  Kristel reported that she engaged with 7 visitors to the booth. Kristel made suggestions for the next Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee attendance, at any conference, as follows:   * The Toronto District School Board should create resources about equity issues in education and/or approve external organization resources * The Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee should approach community organizations (City of Toronto, Ministry for Children's Services, Centre for Newcomers, LGBTQ Parent Network etc.) in early 2020 with request to procure and disseminate resources, as decided through committee approval. We should not have business cards for external organizations as these confused parents. * The Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee should design an interactive sign with infographics about equity, the equity-lens, the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee’s work etc. * For display we should include ‘simple swag’ such as buttons, bookmarks, treats, name tags/lanyards for Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee representatives and a tablecloth.   Kristel reported that concerns were raised by parents included: equity challenges presented by alternative, French, and French immersion schools access, inaccessible/inadequate ADHD support, insufficient developmental and social work service.  Kristel reported that she made recommendations to parents to contact the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee Co-Chairs and TDSB staff to have issue brought forward at future meetings; attend the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee general meetings and to contact other advisory committees as appropriate.  Michael Kerr was absent and his report on the Parent as Partners Conference was not available. |
| **BSACAC Report** | Dennis Keshinro, the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee representative for the Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee, was absent and his report was not available. |
| **Open Discussion** | Members will continue the discussion within email regarding whether we should have less meeting dates or shuffle the current dates.  Ideas included:   * Cancel February and meet earlier in June. * Make a June date but cancel if no business to be tabled * Cancel February altogether as weather is often a factor * Meet in early December and cancel February with no June date   Future goals will be better known after the Self-Assessment survey.  Acting - Co-Chair Winton advised that Michelle Munroe discussed a site dedicated to sharing CAC documents; may have the site in place by the coming school year, but would likely require TDSB login credentials. Ken advised that committee working groups can share contact information, documents, etc. via an external service like google docs. Best possible situation is a site where the whole committee may access documents in a “Drop-Box” and a notification be sent whenever documents are added. |
| **Staff Report** | Ken Jeffers spoke of the funding and budget issues, advising members to view the April 10 FBEC video for the latest information. Ontario Education Ministry funding grants are due out by the end of the month and the Board will have a clearer idea of the full impact after that announcement. Ken advised members that the alternative schools policy was up for review and final approval of student dress policy on the Governance and Policy agenda for April 24. |
| **Other Business** | None |
| **Adjournment 8:15 pm** | Next Meeting: May 16, 2019 – Boardroom |

**Minutes Submitted by: Sonia French**