

**Name of Committee**: Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date**: 12 December 2022

A meeting of the Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee convened on December 12, 2022, from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm via Virtual Meeting (Zoom) with Jacob Leibovitch and Laurie McAllister (Co-Chairs) presiding.

| **Membership**  **Attendance**: | Sarah Bogatie (Student, Avondale Alternative Secondary School; Secondary School Student Representative); Diana Grimaldos (Parent, Mountview Alternative Junior School, ASCAC Member); Serge Guschin (Parent, Beaches alternative School, ASCAC Member); Joanne Huber (Parent, High Park Alternative JS, ASCAC Member), Olga Ingrahm (Parent, Alternative Scarborough Education 1, ASCAC Member), Shelley Laskin (Trustee Ward 8, ASCAC Trustee Member); Jacob Leibovitch (Parent, ALPHA Alternative Junior School, ASCAC Co-Chair); Laurie McAllister (Parent, Avondale Secondary Alternative School, ASCAC Co-Chair) |
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| **Staff Lead:** | Peter Chang (System Superintendent, Interim) |
| **Recorder:** | Anna Catalano, ASCAC Committee Assistant |
| **Regrets**: |  |

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** |
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| 1. **Land Acknowledgement, Welcome/ Introductions** | Laurie McAllister, Secondary Alternative School Parent Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. |
| 1. **Approval of Agenda** | The agenda was approved. |
| 1. **Declarations of Possible Conflicts** | No conflicts were declared. |
| 1. **New Board of Trustees**   Overview of new Board & Trustees  Form working group for ASCAC outreach to Trustees | Laurie McAllister, ASCAC Co-Chair, reviewed the process of ASCAC making recommendations to a Board Committee. Laurie provided examples of previous recommendations ASCAC made (refer to the October 17, 2022, minutes for additional information of these recommendations).  Laurie provided a list of Trustees by Ward and the alternative schools in each Ward, noting that 11 of the 22 Trustees are newly elected members. She also mentioned that CAC minutes and reports will no longer be presented to PSSC (Program and School Services Committee) following each CAC meeting, instead if there is a recommendation to make, the Committee Standing report will go to the appropriate Board Committee.  It was also noted that an FBEC meeting is being held on the same day of the next ASCAC meeting. Trustee Laskin will speak to Board Services and request an alternate or ASCAC may need to change their meeting date. **Update:** ASCAC’s meeting on January 23 has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 2 from 7pm to 9pm.  FBEC will have a Special Meeting in mid-March to discuss staffing and the budget is presented in June. Please view the [Developing the 2023-2024 Budget webpage](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Business-Services/Budgets-and-Financial-Statements/Developing-the-2023-2024-Budget) for additional information.  Peter reminded the Members that when making recommendations, time needs to be factored in for preparing the documents, and that Board Services has timelines for when the Standing Committee Report needs to be submitted (usually two weeks prior to the Board Committee meeting). |
| 1. **Co-Chair Updates**  * Working group for Terms of Reference * Communication Platforms * Reconvene Secondary Subcommittee * Secondary Alternative Review Status * Student Rep/Member Updates | **Working Group for Terms of Reference**  Laurie mentioned that a committee would need to be established for ASCAC’s Term of Reference. The Terms of Reference are the guidelines ASCAC follows and includes information about who can be a member, roles of the members, etc. She also mentioned that during the 2021-22 school year the Board approved new policy for CACs and ASCAC needs to ensure these changes are captured in the revised Terms of Reference (e.g., how can barriers to participation be removed, anti-oppression training for CAC members, etc.).  **Timeframe:** revised Terms of Reference to be presented to a Board Committee Spring 2023  **Communication Platforms**  ASCAC Members met to discuss alternative ways for them to communicate, to facilitate more engagement. They talked about different apps and social media platforms that they could use. Some of the rules have changed for CACs and School Councils regarding using social media. Laurie and Jacob Leibovitch, ASCAC Co-Chair, have a CAC Co-Chairs meeting the week of December 12 and they will ask for clarification on what CACs can and cannot do regarding social media.  Laurie mentioned that when ASCAC receives clarification, Serge Guschin, ASCAC Member, volunteered to setup ASCAC’s social media accounts. Laurie said that the start-up will begin with a small test group. Additional information will be presented at a future ASCAC meeting.  **Reconvene Secondary Subcommittee**  Laurie would like to reconvene the Secondary Subcommittee with a potential first meeting date on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. The Secondary Subcommittee is for interested secondary school parents to discuss, in a smaller informal meeting, matters that are important at the secondary alternative schools.  **Secondary Alternative School Review Status**  Peter provided an update on the Secondary Alternative School Review status. Peter met with central staff to discuss next steps as this is a very comprehensive and labour intensive project. Peter still needs to meet with the Executive Team and the Associate Directors.  Laurie asked Peter to provide an explanation regarding what the Secondary Alternative School Review is as there may be people joining the ASCAC meeting for the first time. At ASCAC’s meeting on April 26, 2021, ASCAC made a recommendation to PSSC for the TDSB to conduct a separate review of all secondary alternative schools. The exact recommendation was:  *The Alternative Schools Community Advisory Committee recommends that the TDSB conducts a separate review of all secondary alternative schools to unearth their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as enrolment and staffing numbers continue to decline. Furthermore, to determine what additional systems, processes and changes may be necessary to improve and better support secondary alternative schools and their students.*  This recommendation is connected to the overall Secondary School Program Review. It should be noted that these reviews do take time and additional time is needed for the recommendations (about 3-5 years).  A participant asked if Laurie could send out the PPT.  **Action:** Laurie to share the PPT once she updates some of the information - COMPLETED  **Action:** at the next ASCAC meeting, Peter will provide a status update regarding the Secondary Alternative School Review, if available  **Student Rep/Member Updates**  N/A |
| 1. **Centralized Applications for Alternative Schools**  * New procedure and application form | Peter provided an overview and status update regarding the Elementary Alternative Schools Central Application Process.  On April 26, 2021, ASCAC made a recommendation to PSSC that the 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.  Staff were tasked to work on a central online application form so that all 19 elementary alternative schools could be accessed through this one application. As seen in the recommendations, staff needed to ensure that potential barriers are removed for students who are underserved, ensuring consistency and equity.  Unfortunately, the Elementary Alternative Schools Central Application and Admissions Procedure was not approved/received by GPC and therefore it can’t be enacted as a procedure for this upcoming school year. Staff will enact the components of the work that has been done and it will be released as a *pilot* online central application process. The online application form will be available from Monday, January 9, 2023, to 4pm on Friday, February 9, 2023.  **Update:** The online application form will be available from 4:00 pm Monday, January 16, 2023, to 4pm on Thursday, February 16, 2023.  Diana Grimaldos, ASCAC Member, mentioned that before and after school childcare should be a priority on the application form as many parents need it. Elementary alternative schools, that have before and afterschool childcare, should be noted on the application form so applicants can select 2 schools that have this program. The mandate for this application was to create 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.  **Action:** Peter to schedule a meeting with Diana to continue the discussions around before and after school childcare - COMPLETED |
| 1. **Recording of Meetings – Vote Required** | At the October 17, 2022, ASCAC meeting, questions were asked about the purpose of recording meetings, storage, and security of the recordings, etc. Jacob presented the answers received to the questions.  Trustee Laskin mentioned that she would support the recording of meetings if used strictly for the use of writing the minutes.  Jacob read the following ASCAC motion:  *In the interest of promoting open discussions, ASCAC will rely on written minutes as the official records of these meetings in 2022-23. Exceptions will be considered for the sole purpose of documenting presentations subject to the agreement of the presenter and a vote by the Members. If a recording is permitted by vote, it will be clearly stated during the meeting when the recording is started and when it is stopped. Discussions and open floor sessions will not be recorded.*  Jacob moved the motion and Diana seconded it. Following discussion, seven ASCAC Members voted to pass the motion and one opposed. The motion passed. |
| 1. **School Safety**   Update on school safety concerns; status of Board actions and consultations to address the reported increase in violence. | Trustee Laskin welcomed and introduced Executive Superintendent Jim Spyropoulos. Jim was one of the writers of the [School Safety](https://pub-tdsb.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=14876) report that was brought to a Board meeting on December 5 and December 7.  Executive Superintendent Spyropoulos provided an overview of the impact that the recent acts had on our schools and communities. Jim also provided a brief overview of the action plan that can be found in the School Safety report. The recent incidents have required the TDSB to re-examine, refocus, and make adjustments with great urgency and intensity to enhance our existing practices in order to address the incidents and circumstances we have been experiencing lately.  Executive Superintendent Spyropoulos recommended that the [School Safety](https://pub-tdsb.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=14876) report be read in its entirety. The *TDSB Action Plan* starts on page 10 of the report.  Trustee Laskin mentioned that TDSB has a new [Addressing School Safety web page](https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Caring-Safe-Schools/Addressing-School-Safety). Information about the TDSB Staff Supporting Safe Schools, Community Partnership, Current Steps to Address School Safety, and more can be found on this web page. There is also information about how the TDSB is supporting York Memorial CI. |
| 1. **TDSB - Board Updates** | Due to time, Trustee Laskin and Peter deferred their updates to allow for more time for the open floor discussions. |
| 1. **Open Floor** | Meeting participants were welcomed to ask questions, provide feedback and or let the Committee know of any concerns they may have.  Parents from Avondale Elementary Alternative raised concerns regarding the relocation of the school. The steps of the PART process were discussed, and Trustee Laskin committed to follow up and provide additional information directly to the parents. |
| 1. **Adjournment and Next Meeting** | Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm  Next meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2023, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm via Zoom |
| 1. **Future Meeting Dates** | Monday, March 27, 2023; Monday, May 29, 2023 |