# Name of Committee: Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee (EPCAC)

**Meeting Date**: **May 28, 2024**

A meeting of the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 from 6:42 p.m. to 8:37 p.m. with acting Co-Chair Jean-Paul Ngana presiding. Co-Chair Dennis Keshinro later joined and presided. This meeting was held via Zoom.

## Attendance (via Zoom):

Rachel Mansell (Community Co-Chair, The Mosaic Institute), Jean-Paul Ngana (Co-Chair, Parent), Michelle Aarts (TDSB Trustee), Bryon Weinberg (Parent), Charlene Dunstan (Parent), Feven Haddish (Parent), Janina Cherkewich (Parent), Joella Connaught (Parent), Sophia Ruddock (Parent), Sharon Beason (Canadian Parents for French)

Staff Resource Persons: Elizabeth Addo (System Superintendent, Leadership, Employee Engagement, Continuous Improvement), Ryan Eaton (Human Rights Assistant)

Guest: Karlo Cabrera (Centrally Assigned Principal, Equity, Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression), Cynthia Lam (Observer)

## Regrets:

Neethan Shan (Co-Chair, TDSB Trustee), Mahejabeen Ebrahim (Human Rights System Lead), Alicia Khargie (Jane/Finch Community and Family Centre), Eleanor Yang (Chinese Canadian National Council of Toronto), michael kerr (Colour of Poverty-Colour of Change), Shahinaz Abbas Osman (Parent), Sukhpreet Sangha (Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund)

| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION** | **RECOMMENDATIONS / MOTIONS** |
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| Call to Order / Quorum / Reading of Meeting Norms | * Meeting called to order at 6:42 p.m.
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| Lank Acknowledgment | * The meeting began with a Land Acknowledgment
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| Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interests | * No declarations made
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| Approval of Agenda | * Agenda approved, without comments
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| Approval of March 25, 2024 Minutes | * Minutes approved, without comments
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| Matters Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes | * No matters discussed
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| Trustee Board Update | * Trustee Michelle Aarts provided the following update:
* Student Interest program update:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca//Leadership//Boardroom//AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20240525&Filename=6.2.pdf> In May 2022 the TDSB adopted a new policy (P100, Student Interest Programs) to standardize and ensure equity of access to specialized programs in secondary schools (e.g. arts, STEM) and address historic lack of access by marginalized students. This update comes at the end of the first grade 9 year under the new policy.* Political Activities motion:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca//Leadership//Boardroom//AgendaMinutes.aspx?Type=A&Folder=Agenda%2f20240525&Filename=7.1.pdf> Content of motion has concerning language. It was replace by a new motion that includes similar language to political indoctrination, targets particular communities, and targets particular literature. * There is a special Finance Budget and Enrollment committee meeting this week on Thursday where we are expecting an update on the new Provincial education funding model now called “Core Education Funding”.
* Please also note that an update on TDSB’s Special Education Plan and the Combatting Racism and Hate Strategy are expected at the Program and School Services Committee on June 5, 2024.
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| Equity in the TDSB | * EPCAC Member spoke on their personal stories of navigating the system for her children and advocating on behalf of herself and her children.
* TDSB Equity Department representative Karlo Cabrera – Spoke of the overview of the Equity Department - staff, pedagogy, system support. Building capacity of the equity team to notice and name of inequity. System wide professional learning - delivering, community partners, delivering training themselves. Addresses a variety of issues. Affinity rooms. Indicated that the Combatting Hate and Racism report will soon be going to Board.
* Discussed Affinity spaces at the TDSB – over 2000 students engaged in these spaces which include wellness and well-being
* <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Equity-Anti-Racism-and-Anti-Oppression>
* Karlo was requested to provide information that was shared during the meeting. EPCAC members asked questions and it was decided that Equity will be invited to a future meeting to speak with additional information.
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| Co-Chairs Message and Looking Ahead | * Co-Chairs spoke of new pieces of Agenda items, taking suggestions from members, finding where the Equity Policy Community Advisory Community can be needed. Looking forward to the new school year and what can be discussed for future meetings.
* CAC assistant or senior staff to provide future information on the assessment of CACs and what can be provided to the members ahead of time.
* CAC member requests more information about the email they sent and would like follow-up.
* CAC member shared their frustration with the lack of policy consultations not being brought to EPCAC.
* CAC member requests to hear more student voice - special support meetings, pieces for family units, students who hit the middle school years, navigating, has not seen a lot of change since being in school. Parent/caregiver advocates
* Staff Resource Person Elizabeth Addo – suggested to invite Vitaliy (Policy Dept) to the upcoming meeting for ideas of outreach and community.
	+ Pending items list from Governance - upcoming reports for review - this way EPCAC can support
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| Additional Notes from Meeting | * Co-Chair Jean-Paul Ngana – in follow-up to the Trustee Update regarding the Political Activities motion, suggested that Trustees should understand more about what they are bringing forward to Board meetings as motions to prevent confusion from the public.
* Trustee Aarts clarified that when terminology is not defined it can be misinterpreted by public and media. Also noted the Consent Agenda, which is circulated to Trustees days prior to the scheduled meeting.
* CAC Member concerned that removal of politics from classroom could be a detriment as students should continue to learn of politics in a classroom.
* Concerns were voiced that drafting a motion to address an issue is important, however, it may have implications of harming communities if language is not clarified or if the intent is not clear
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| Other business | * No other business
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| Next Meeting Date | * June 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
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| **Adjournment** | * May 28, 2024 at 8:37 p.m.
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