

Minutes from EPAN, Equity and Accessibility Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 8th, 7 – 8:15pm (online)

Minutes Taken By: Ali Canning

In attendance: Gus Gikas, Joe Fiorante, Jennifer Di Francesco, John Wujak, Alison Canning

1. **Agenda Approved** – 1st Jennifer, 2nd Gus (agenda item #4)
 - a. Group agree to rotate minute taking responsibility
2. **Declaration of Interest** – Alison Canning, Executive Director of Let's Get Together (agenda item #5)
3. **Presentation & Reports from Committee Officers** (agenda item #7)
 - a. **Chair report** –
 - i. brief overview of EPAN school assessment process. In 2019/20 school year, there were 50 elementary, 11 secondary EPAN schools. Extra funding from reserves is distributed amongst EPAN schools in Feb/March to provide additional support to schools for student programs. (Update on Apr 18th) 2020/21 school year report 48 elementary, 10 secondary EPAN schools.
 - ii. City of Toronto Community Development Officers (CDO) report that TCDSB representation at Cluster Tables is “scant” across the city over the last year. Cluster tables were formed in response to the pandemic to help coordinate resources needed to support marginalized, vulnerable communities through community organizations and school boards. To introduce Derek Chen and CDO Team.
 - iii. EEA committee to assist the board and Derek Chen by:
 1. Increase awareness of budget consultation
 2. Encourage parents to attend info session and consultations regarding de-streaming grade 9 math program 2021/22 school year.
 3. Increase awareness of race-base data collection survey for Grade 9 students (pilot) this spring as mandated by Ministry of Education (2017 anti-racism law). Grade 3– 12 survey to happen next year.
 - b. **Terms of Reference**
 - i. Approved 1st Jennifer, 2nd Gus
 - ii. request diversity and inclusive education is also considered where possible . Approved

- c. **Recommended equity-related resources for EEA committee.** To put together a welcome letter for new EEA members with the below list of resources.
 - i. TCDSB Equity Action Plan (to be updated this year)
 - ii. TCDSB Multi-year Strategic Plan
 - iii. Follow Patrick Case – he is the Assistant Deputy Minister, Educational Equity Secretariat in the Ontario Ministry of Education.
 - iv. Ontario Education Equity Action Plan
 - v. People – TCDSB Staff/Consultants - John Wujak, Manuela Sequiera; Lavinia Tatham (Human Rights & Equity Advisor); Derek Chen (Super Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Education & Community Relations); Community Relations Officer, Communications Officer; Trustees Garry Tanuan & Norm di Pasquale
 - vi. Committees/Organizations- External Community partners (must be vet by Derek), TCDSB Race Relations Committee, SEAC Committee, 2SLGBTQ Group, TCDSB Heritage Ethnic Committees, Angel Foundation. To confirm with Derek if board committees can be considered a resource.
- d. It's important the voices of parents from marginalized communities and groups are heard/represented at the committee; suggest speak to CSPC's (focus group/survey) & ask 4 questions - where their school use to be, where it's at now, where it needs to go, how we can help? To explore late date. Discuss using CPIC/PIC funds to help build community & foster connections. Ask what is CPIC's position on Equity? Visit other committee meetings to learn & gain different perspective.
- e. Voices that need to be represented: EPAN schools, Black Families, Indigenous Families, Asian Families, 2SLGBTQ community, Special Education, Girls/Women, Low-income, families from current covid-19 hotspots communities
- f. Learn how the Race Relations Committee recruited members, create press release to send out on behalf of CPIC introducing formation of committee and invite parents to join (no timeline set)

4. **Meeting Adjourned** - 1st Gus, 2nd Joe (Agenda item #13)

Action Plan:

Action	By Whom	Status
Introduce Derek to City of Toronto CDO	Ali	Before next EEA meeting
Rotate minute taking at meetings between members	All	Ongoing
Draft a welcome letter with list of resources for new EEA members for onboarding	Ali	Before next EEA meeting
Ask Derek if Board Committees like SEAC, Race Relations, etc. can be a resource for EEA, CPIC Committee and beyond	Ali	Completed
Draft press release to share with CPIC introducing EEA committee – invitation for new community members	Ali	Before next EEA meeting
Visit other board committees to gain better understanding	Not assigned	Not assigned
Encourage parents to complete budget consultation survey & attend town hall	All	Up until Apr 30th
Host CSPC focus groups/survey – 4 questions	Not assigned	On hold – future planning
Find out what CPIC's position is on equity?	Ali	Next CPIC meeting