

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

**General Meeting**: Monday, January 27, 2020

A meeting of the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee convened on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 6:37 pm to 8:30 pm in Committee Room B, with Parent Co-Chair Catherine Maloney presiding.

| **Members in Attendance**:  **Staff Present:** | Sharon Beason (Parent), michael kerr (Colour of Poverty-Colour of Change), Dennis Keshinro (Belka Enrichment Center); Catherine Maloney (Parent Co-Chair), Sharma Queiser (Social Planning Toronto), Sophia Ruddock (Parent) (on the phone), Sue Winton (Parent)  Remi Warner (Senior Manager, Human Rights Office), Precious Sidambe (Administrative Assistant), Christopher Williams (Senior Human Rights Policy, Education and Organizational Change Specialist) |
| --- | --- |
| **Regrets**: | Alexander Brown (Trustee), Harpreet Gill (Trustee), Yalini Rajakulasingam (Trustee), Kristal Guthri (Parent), Tesfai Mengesha (Success Beyond Limits), Aleem Punja (Parent) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS /**  **RECOMMENDATION/MOTION** |
| **Call to Order, Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands, Reading of the Meeting Norms and Approval of Minutes** | The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.  Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands and Meeting Norms were read.  The agenda and minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting were approved. |
| **Community Co-Chair Election** | Dennis Keshniro from Belka Enrichment Centre was acclaimed community co-chair of the Equity Policy Community Advisory Committee. |
| **Consultation: The Collection of POI Data in Context of PR728, Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools Procedure** | Staff presented on the collection of POI data in the context of Procedure, PR728 (Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools Procedure). PR728 stemmed from a Trustee motion that was approved at Board on June 19, 2019. The procedure seeks to formalize steps that need to be taken when dealing with incidents of racism and hate while also taking preventive action through the tracking of incidents. An annual report to Trustees will be presented to Trustees.  In keeping with *Ontario’s Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism* and Regulatory (O.Reg.267/18) provisions, staff consulted with EPCAC on the collection of participant observer information (“POI”) race data in the context of the new procedure, PR728. It was proposed that POI race data be collected in the new Racism and Hate Portal to help monitor equitable and fair treatment of the parties to an incident and to better understand potential racial dynamics at play in the incident itself.  Understanding that the Principal would be responsible for reporting these incidents, concerns regarding the abuse of discretionary authority were raised by the committee. Staff advised that when incident data is put in the aggregate, you would be able to see patterns to see if discretionary authority is being exercised in an equitable and fair manner.  A discussion was held around the annual report that would be presented to Trustees. Staff advised that the precise content of the report has not been identified, however, the Trustee motion sets out some parameters. The committee discussed that it would be useful to group the data by geographic boundaries, wards or regions that way we can work with City officials or other members in that region.  Staff also clarified that the new procedure is set to replace section 6 of Procedure PR515 (Workplace Harassment Prevention and Human Rights). |
| **Report Back: Secondary Program Review and Optional Attendance** | Two EPCAC representatives attended the secondary program review and optional attendance policy consultation meeting that was held for community advisory committees. One of the representatives shared a verbal update with the committee including some concerns around the process. Some of the concerns raised were that it was too heavy to consult on both policies. It was shared that there was a lot of personal feedback from attendees and that it would have been beneficial to have young people participate in the process. |
| **Information: Development of a Specialized Schools and Programs Policy Review** | Staff briefly presented on the Specialized Schools and Program Policy Review and advised the committee that they would look into bringing someone to present on the item at one of the upcoming meetings. A committee member shared some information on specialized schools and how problematic they are. Member wants to encourage and follow through with our committee to engage on this critical subject. |
| **Information: P023, Parent and Community Involvement Policy Review** | Staff informed the committee that P023, Parent and Community Involvement Policy is currently under review and that they will be soliciting input/feedback from community advisory committees. The committee was advised that staff will be attending our EPCAC meeting to consult on the policy. |
| **Other Business** | Deputations  The committee had a discussion around the deputation process as prescribed in the terms of reference. This topic was initially raised at the April 2019 meeting where one of the members was receiving a lot of requests from the community to make deputations to EPCAC. One of the members stated that EPCAC’s mandate is identifying issues of broad community interest as opposed to just reviewing policies. It was discussed that it is relevant to hear people’s experiences to better inform the committee’s decisions and enables the members to be more effective in their roles; as they are able to gather intelligence which helps generate good advice and guidance to the Board.  The committee discussed the expectation that is given out to people with the word “deputation”. Need to ensure that everyone does not have any false expectations with regards to the power the committee has.  The committee decided that they would continue to allow deputations and the co-chairs would bring community concerns forward.  Departure  Social Planning Toronto announced that they are withdrawing their membership from EPCAC due to a shift in organizational strategic planning priorities.  Agenda  A few members raised they are experiencing issues opening the reports. Staff will look into possibly linking the reports as opposed to embedding them.  COVID-19  A committee member raised that parent groups in York Region started a petition calling on their school Board to expose families that have recently visited anywhere in China and to suggest their children be prevented from attending school. In response to this, the member’s organization released a joint statement to denounce discrimination and xenophobia in response to the coronavirus outbreak. This was shared in hopes that these kind of matters are being raised and addressed. |
| **Adjournment** | The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. |