



Committee of the Whole
Report No. 19

CW:020A
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Electronic Meeting

Members Present Robin Pilkey (Chair), Michelle Aarts, Alexander Brown, Rachel Chernos Lin, Stephanie Donaldson, Trixie Doyle, Harpreet Gill, Parthi Kandavel, Shelley Laskin, James Li, Alexandra Lulka, Dan MacLean, Christopher Mammoliti, Chris Moise, Patrick Nunziata, Zakir Patel, Yalini Rajakulasingam, David Smith, Anu Sriskandarajah, Jennifer Story, Chris Tonks, Manna Wong and Student Trustee Ivy Deng.

Trustees participated by electronic means in accordance with [amendments to Section 7 of Ontario Regulations 463/97, Electronic Meetings](#)

Part A: Committee Recommendations

1. French-as-a-Second Language Recommendations: Interim Report [3901]

The Committee considered a report from staff (CW:020A, page 1) presenting an interim report on French-as-a-Second-Language recommendations.

Moved By: Trustee MacLean

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS** that the report be received for information.

Carried

2. The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement [3899]

The Committee considered a report from staff (CW:020A, page 163) presenting information on the establishment of a centre of excellence for black student achievement.

Moved By: Trustee Rajakulasingam

Seconded By: Trustee Donaldson

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

- (a) That the establishment of a centre for the success of Black students, as presented in the report, be approved;**
- (b) That costs for implementing the initiative at Part (a) be incorporated in the 2020-2021 budget development process;**
- (c) Whereas the importance and significance of data-driven research in education is a central component of the TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan; and**

Whereas, anti-black racism is pervasive and systemic; and

Whereas, anti-black racism is experienced in a variety of ways by students and staff who identify as black; and

Whereas, Toronto Public Health recently noted that anti-black racism is a public health crisis in the City of Toronto;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement be staffed with a total complement of 20.5 FTEs, including one full-time researcher.

Carried

At the Committee meeting, Part (c) was added on amendment of Trustee Kandavel, seconded by Trustee Chernos Lin.

3. Sale of Vaping Products to Teenagers

Moved By: Trustee Donaldson

Seconded By: Trustee Doyle

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, as of October 11, 2019, there were 1,299 confirmed cases of vape-related lung injuries in the United States; and

Whereas, after Finland raised the minimum smoking age and implemented a policy requiring tobacco retailers to develop and execute a plan to prevent sales to under-aged consumers, smoking decreased drastically in people aged 14 to 16; and

Whereas vaping among 16-19 year olds increased by 79% from 2017 to 2018 due to major tobacco companies heavily advertising e-cigarettes after Bill S-5, which legalized nicotine e-cigarettes; and

Whereas, teenagers who use e-cigarettes with nicotine may become addicted and are more likely to become smokers; and

Whereas, the Canadian Cancer Society urges the province to increase the minimum age to purchase both tobacco and vaping products to 21; and

Whereas, 16 US states have already raised the minimum age to purchase vape products to 21; and

Whereas, the nicotine in vape products can significantly alter youth brain development, memory, and concentration in youth; and

Whereas, in Canada, as of February 18, 2020, 18 cases of vaping-associated lung illness have been reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada from Alberta (1), British Columbia (4), New Brunswick (2), Newfoundland and Labrador (1), Ontario (4), and Quebec (6), and fourteen of these people required admission to a hospital; and

Whereas, vape advertisements purposefully target teenagers and hide its harmful effects;

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Chair write to the Minister of Health to:

- i. advocate for raising the minimum age to buy vape products containing nicotine from 19 to 21 years;**

- ii. **urge vape companies to restrict advertising campaigns that are targeted towards teenagers;**
- (b) That the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association be copied on the letter at Part (a) above.**

Carried

4. Incorporating Genocide Education as Compulsory Learning

Moved By: Trustee Laskin

Seconded By: Trustee Moise

The Committee of the Whole **RECOMMENDS:**

Whereas, procedure PR728, *Reporting and Responding to Racism and Hate Incidents Involving or Impacting Students in Schools* was developed in response to a Board decision on June 19, 2019, which directed staff to set clear expectations about the processes to be followed and the Board's responsibilities in situations where there are acts of racism and hate; and

Whereas, in the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan*, providing mandatory training for principals/ vice-principals in anti-oppression and anti-Black racism connected to school improvement has been completed and building capacity among groups of educators who possess the facilitation skills and understanding to effectively co-lead learning in human rights, equity and anti-oppression is ongoing as is combatting various forms of discrimination (e.g., anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, Antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Asian racism, homophobia, transphobia, and the discrimination faced by those with physical and intellectual disabilities) through human rights training and more effective procedures is ongoing for staff; and

Whereas, the Toronto District School Board is committed to continuing the important work of *Holocaust and Genocide Education* in honour of Liberation75¹ and created a website "Encouraging Students to Investigate

¹ Liberation75 marks the 75th anniversary of liberation from the Holocaust. Liberation75 was originally planned for May 31-June 2, 2020 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Due to COVID-19, new dates and venue(s) for 2021 will be announced soon <https://www.liberation75.org/>

and Understand the Past to Think Critically about the Present and Future”;
and

Whereas, in recent years, according to B’Nai Brith² there has been an unprecedented increase in antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and violence; and

Whereas, a recent study by the Azrieli Foundation³ found that 22% of Canadians under the age of 34 either have not heard of the Holocaust or were unsure of whether they had; and

Whereas, hatred in all forms is on the rise and as a public education system we have the responsibility to educate against hate; and

Whereas, Genocide education is critical in fighting against intolerance, racism and hate;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the Chair write to the Minister of Education with the following recommendations:

- a. That the *Genocide: Historical and Contemporary Implications* (CHG381)⁴, Grade 11, Locally Developed Course, be accredited as part of the Ontario Curriculum as a “university” or “mixed” course;**

² [Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/bnaibrithcanada/pages/394/attachments/original/1588351819/B'nai_Brith_Canada_Audit_2019_ENG.pdf?1588351819) © 2020 B’nai Brith of Canada League for Human Rights
https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/bnaibrithcanada/pages/394/attachments/original/1588351819/B'nai_Brith_Canada_Audit_2019_ENG.pdf?1588351819

³ [Canadian Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Study](https://azrielifoundation.org/canadian-holocaust-knowledge-and-awareness-study/) - The Azrieli Foundation in partnership with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) commissioned Schoen Consulting to conduct a comprehensive national study of Holocaust knowledge and awareness in Canada
<https://azrielifoundation.org/canadian-holocaust-knowledge-and-awareness-study/>

⁴ Course Description
https://www.tdsb.on.ca/DesktopModules/Tdsb.Webteam.Modules.SPC/CourseDescriptionPopup.aspx?courseID=1124_20132014_CHG381

- b. That, as Genocide education is critical in fighting intolerance, racism and hate, the provincial government look for ways to ensure that Canada's role in genocide examples are a comprehensive study as part of the mandatory *Canadian History since World War I*, Grade 10 Academic and Applied course;
- c. That the province convene a working group of experts to look critically at the Ontario curriculum to:
 - i. develop a policy framework which will enable students to graduate with a better understanding of human rights, peace, war, critical thinking, historical thinking, racism, etc;
 - ii. ensure students know their human rights and responsibilities, how to protect those rights, the consequences of indifference and how to take effective action when they or other members of the community experience, hate, racism, and other forms of discrimination and violence, now and in the future;
 - iii. include Genocide education⁵ as mandatory curriculum in order to accomplish (i) and (ii) above.

Carried

Part B: For Information Only

11. Call to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

12. Approval of the Agenda

On motion of Trustee Doyle, seconded by Trustee Rajakulasingam, the agenda was approved.

⁵ The study of Genocide Education include but not limited to those officially recognized by the House of Commons including the Holocaust, the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Ukrainian Holodomor, the Armenian Genocide, the Srebrenica massacre, the genocide of Yazidis and the Rohingya Genocide and those under investigation including the Genocide against Indigenous Peoples in Canada, and the Tamil Genocide in order to teach students the consequences of unchecked hate, racism and intolerance.

13. Declarations of Possible Conflict of Interest

No matters to report

14. Delegations

The following oral delegations were heard in accordance with the Board's delegation procedure:

re French-as-a-Second Language Recommendations: Interim Report [3901]

1. Mandy Moore, Parent Co-Chair, FSLAC

re The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement [3899]

2. Alexis Dawson, TDSB Black Student Achievement Community Advisory Committee
3. Warren Salmon, The Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators (ONABSE)
4. Sachin Maharaj, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto
5. Dr. Kofi Hope, Senior Policy Advisor, Wellesley Institute

re Incorporating Genocide Education as Compulsory Learning

6. Paulette Volgyesi, Project Abraham
7. Jason Grossman, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)
8. Raffi Sarkissian, Sara Corning Centre for Genocide Education

The delegations on the following were also shared with trustees :

re Incorporating Genocide Education as Compulsory Learning

1. Hrag Tarakdjian and Shahen Mirakian, Co-Presidents of Armenian National Committee
2. Tasha Manoranjan, Executive Director, People for Equality and Relief in Lanka
3. Bob Rae, Senior Counsel at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP
4. Pascal Kanyemera, Humura Association
5. Marilyn Sinclair, Founder of Liberation75

re The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement [3899]

6. Nicole West-Burns, Executive Director, Operations of Success Beyond Limits
7. Tesfai Mengesha, Ph.D., Coordinator, Centre for Urban Schooling

15. OPSBA Directors' Report

The Committee heard an oral update from Trustee Laskin, on behalf of the Directors of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association on activities of OPSBA.

Trustee Laskin reported that as a representative from Central East on the Policy Development Work Team she attended a joint workgroup teleconference along with Trustee Donaldson who represents Central East on the Education Program Work Team.

The purpose of the meeting was to review OPSBA's response to EDU's Framework for Continued Learning, specifically "Transitioning Back to School". Prior to the meeting, OPSBA had surveyed Work Team members – additional comments were made to the draft suggestions for a framework and operational details to be considered for return to school.

A revised draft will be distributed to Work Team members by the end of the week, and all will be copied on the final letter from OPSBA to the Ministry. Overarching messaging – set parameters so that there can be regional differences as required; go slow to go fast regarding returning students to school settings with a phased in approach; ensure clear communication with reasonable timelines for effective planning; provide appropriate funding; and ensure provincial plan for increased testing and training.

16. Adjournment

At 9:35 p.m., on motion of Trustee Aarts, seconded by Trustee Story, the meeting adjourned.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

17. Postponed Matters

The Committee decided that consideration of the following matter be postponed to the next meeting:

- Profiles of Administrative Sites [3900]

Submitted by: Robin Pilkey, Committee Chair

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