2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Date:	Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
Chaired by:	Roy Fernandes, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Equity & Community Relations
Minutes by:	Lorraine Howard, Toronto Minutes Inc.
In Attendance:	Brenda Culbert Bruno Pileggio Nicole Richard Ruben De Silveira Sarah Luongo Aileen Santiago
Regrets:	Jamie Lugtu-Pe Rob Bauer Dr. ABC
Guests:	Rachael Markovsky Najma Kahiye
Notes:	**Meeting Link: https://tcdsb.zoom.us/j/99750002862**

Agenda Item	Presenter	Discussion Summary	Action
Prayer	Roy Fernandes	Roy read prayer to commence the meeting at 6:03 p.m.	
Land Acknowledgment	Roy Fernandes	Roy read the land acknowledgment at 6:04 p.m.	
Approval of Agenda	All	*On a **MOTION** moved by Brenda Culbert and seconded by Ruben Da Silveira, the Agenda was approved as presented.* ***All voted in favour and motion was carried***	
Approval of Minutes	All	*On a **MOTION** moved by Ruben Da Silveira and seconded Brenda Culbert, the Minutes of the October 2025 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Meeting was approved, as presented.* ***All voted in favour and motion was carried.***	
Introductions	All	Roy Fernandes, Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Equity & Community Relations, chaired the meeting and invited introductions from the parties present. The following advisory committee members introduced themselves: Aileen Santiago, Teacher in the Equity department Ruben De Silveira, Co-Chair of the Student Senate at TCDSB Brenda Culbert, Human Rights and Equity Advisor for TCDSB Bruno Pileggio, the Resource Teacher for Kindergarten to Grade 12 for Science, Social Studies, and Environmental Studies Nicole Richard, Community Member Sarah Luongo, Grade 7 Teacher	
Guest Speakers – Toronto Public Health	Rachel Markovsky and Najma Kahiye	Rachel Markovsky and Najma Kahiye, both registered nurses representing Toronto Public Health (TPH), were introduced. Rachel advised that she is a School Health Manager leading the School Health Team with TPH and began by sharing a presentation on the *Toronto Healthy Schools Strategy*, a four-year strategy that began in 2022. It was noted that this is an agreement with four	

		school boards, including the Toronto Catholic District School Board, to create a healthy environment for students. TPH has seven (7) school health teams to promote *Proportionate Universalism* to achieve health equity. It was noted that these teams are comprised of sixty-six (66) school liaison public health nurses and seven (7) registered dieticians that are able to work with the schools. It was advised that all publicly funded schools have access to resources and consultation through TPH school health services. With prioritized schools, nurses are assigned specifically, whereby these schools are identified as high-needs based on school-based data. Their services include health promotion initiatives, staff capacity building, comprehensive assessment, and actions, as well as offering a range of intensive and specialized support. It was shared that the School Liaison Public Health Nurse can support schools by referring them to other programs with TPH, including the Immunization program, the Dental or Oral Health program, Student Nutrition program, the Communicable Disease program, and the Sexual Health Promotion program. It was mentioned that one of the larger initiatives is the *Youth Leadership Initiative* for Grades 7 to 12 for students to gain leadership skills working with a nurse to develop an action plan to impact their community. It was added that initiative also encompasses mental health promotion. Najma Kahiye, the Manager of Sexual Health Promotion Team, then continued to explain that a School Liaison Nurse may connect the school to a Sexual Health Promoter. Their programs can help both parents and community members, as well as educators, in addition to students; in that, there is a range of awareness and education to training and capacity building. It was explained that, based on the age and needs, developmentally appropriate workshops and education sessions are provided. It was noted that *General Hygiene* workshops are offered, which has had positive feedback from educators. It was noted that they do not provide a full curriculum delivery nor presentations in place of teachers; thus, their main role would be to support. It was also noted that they do not do one-to-one engagements with students and are never in the classrooms alone, only in group settings. The *Bodies, Boundaries and Safety* program to support families and educators was explained to focus on common body language, developing self-esteem, making information accessible to all learners, and identifying	

		approachable adults with values and communication. A challenge that was highlighted was that, currently, there is no data-sharing networks in place; in that, data is gathered by TPH, but they are not able to share, as per confidentiality. They are, however, able to identify schools in need, which tend to be schools with immunization challenges amongst the student population. It was also shared that educators do not have to rely on administrators to access these programs and resources. **Action:** It was agreed that a one-page document would be drafted by the TPH representatives for Roy to share with other administrators, with regards to the services and resources offered through TPH for schools. In addition, it was agreed that the slide presentation could also be shared with the committee members.	
Sharing Circle	All	Roy, on behalf of Nicole, shared the *Terms of Reference*, which frames the objectives of the Advisory Committee. It was mentioned that this is useful for reflection, in terms of which aspects they are doing well, and which can be improved, with respect to advocacy and support.	
EAP Townhall	Roy	Livestream recording Sizzle Reel	
Fantastic Forever PD	Aileen	Aileen provided an update on the outcome of the two sessions of the Fantastic Forever PD that was aimed for Grade 5 to 8 educators teaching sexual health and development, for which TPH also supported. It was noted that elder Wendy Phillip spoke about Two Spirit. The Fantastic Forever stories were written to teach the curriculum and promote health equity, which were well received. It was noted that NCC was present to provide clarity on exemptions and the connection between the family love education and sexual development from an equity perspective. It was explained that the Family Life program was revised in 2023 . It was advised that some teachers experience a discomfort in this realm of teaching, as they are caught between educating awareness versus a 'how to' guide that might inadvertently encourage behavior that negates the teaching of	

		abstinence. Therefore, it was noted that this PD really supports educators in teaching sexual health, as per the curriculum. It was also noted that post-session surveys have been circulated to educators to gather data. Overall, it was noted that several attendees mentioned the need for more inclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ teachings in the health and physical education (HPE) curriculum and a greater outreach of these types of PDs to more schools, as it is not mandatory. Roy mentioned that although there is slow change, there is still change nonetheless in the updated HPE curriculum. The “Fully Alive” text was discussed as problematic, as many teachers believe this text is mandatory. It was collectively discussed that there is a challenge in instructional leadership, in terms of building professional and instructional capacity on these topics, particularly where time is not available. Roy summarized that a system PD would thus be vital to address this, as it would help to understand Ministry mandated topics.	
Roseneath Update	Roy	Roy advised that the Student one has been doing well, but with the educators, the numbers are not there. It was mentioned that several different attempts have been made to improve this, such as sending Notices to the system and in the newsletter several times, as well as to mentioned this at Gay Student Alliances (GSAs) meetings and Forever PDs. The current strategy is to reach out to schools directly to bring the play in. It was noted that Sarah’s school is on board, and they have also reached out to St. Joseph’s where a former committee member works.	
SMHO - Affinity Group Field Test	Aileen	Aileen shared that this item would be deferred for discussion, as there were two schools involved in participating that have not reported back yet. It was explained that moderators from two different high schools will participate in a field test that uses materials developed by *School Mental Health Ontario* to support student GSAs.	
EAP Report Back Year 3	Roy	Roy advised that this went back to the Supervisor in December, and it was in the February newsletter. Board report Appendix	

GSA Facilitators PD	Aileen	Aileen reported that this occurred in December, and that TPH was also invited, where their support was welcomed. It was noted that there was a mix of some seasoned facilitators, but there were many that were new, wanting to learn about how to support these students. It was noted that there was especial context that emerged, with respect to single-gender schools.	
LOYOL PD Offering re: Masculinity	Aileen	Aileen explained that LOYOL is a PD that allows Secondary Teachers can choose their PD on February 13, 2026. It was noted that there was one that entailed a discussion around re-writing the script on toxic masculinity. It was noted that *White Willow* was invited to speak with colleagues in an open discussion. Again, there were insights on what is currently happening in single-gender schools.	
Belonging & Inclusion Retreat	Aileen	Aileen informed the committee that the Belonging and Inclusion Retreat for Secondary was set for April 24, 2026, but planning has not commenced as yet. It was also noted that for Elementary, a picnic would be held on June 3, 2026.	
Parent-Facing Sessions	ALL	Aileen informed the committee that they are always trying to create parent-facing sessions to provide the parent education piece with regards to 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion from the Catholic perspective. Aileen opened the floor for suggestions or ideas. Aileen suggested leveraging TPH, such as the *Belonging and Boundaries* session. The committee discussed the extreme need for this, especially with coming out and helping parents with how to have these conversations. Sara suggested a data-based approach with the goal of supporting parents with resources. It was noted that many parent council members tend to be more conservative and may not be open to these types of sessions. Roy suggested perhaps raising the topic at the Belonging and Inclusion retreat, as this may be an opportunity to create a safe space. Bruno added that sometimes a parent may have a sense that child has not disclosed. He suggested including a communication in the weekly wrap-up or utilizing PFLAG as a support to these families. The “Pathways to Care” slides was references as a helpful guide for student	

		resources, including a youth line. Bruno raised the point that, at times, a student may approach the conversation with their local priest/parish versus parents, which may redirect the conversation. **Action**: Bruno will draft communication to parents to be reviewed by Roy that can be included in the weekly wrap-up. Roy also then encouraged planning a parent-facing session thereafter.	
New Business	ALL	Roy informed the committee that this year *Pride Launch* would be student-facing. It was advised that this has been scheduled for May 29, 2026 and will be securing a speaker, such as Dr. ABC. Aileen shared a research arts project, called the BIYUTI project, which can be viewed at biyutiproject.ca, where emerging artists that identified as queer or trans were invited to create art pieces, exposing their experiences and feelings, where they are working on bringing these pieces to the TCDSB atrium for display. It was noted that the Board has blocked this site. **Action:** Aileen will create an IT request to ensure the BIYUTI project is accessible.	
Next Meeting		The next meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2026.	
Close		The meeting was concluded at 7:59 p.m.	