Minutes of the Meeting

Filipino Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday February 10, 2026, 4:30PM

Date:	Tuesday February 10, 2026 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Chaired by:	Jodelyn (Jody) Huang, Community Relations Officer - Indigenous Education, Equity & Community Relations
Minutes by:	Joelle dela Paz
In attendance:	Ryan Peterson (Supt of Area 8, Parent Engagement, CPIC Superintendent) Jodelyn Huang (Community Relations Officer, TCDSB) Aileen Santiago (pronouns: they/them; Equity Resource Teacher, TCDSB) Joelle dela Paz (PATH Program Teacher, Care & Treatment Education Programs) Lily Ann Adams (Vice Principal, Loretto Abbey) Lili Serapio (Filipino Centre Toronto) Judith Gonzales (Filipino Centre Toronto) Veronica Javier (Filipino Civic Actions at Work) Lalaine Lacuesta Maneres (Parent Representative) Gretchen Mangahas (ICT Services, TCDSB) Mayrose Salvador (Pueblo Science, STEM outreach, U of T) Monica de Vera (Filipino Civic Action at Work) Lori Tayag (Teacher, Father Henry Carr) Philip Andrada (ESL Teacher, Adult Education Program, TCDSB)

	Cielito Drapeza (Supply teacher, TCDSB; President of Filipino Teacher's Association of Canada) Richard Llanera (Music Teacher, TCDSB)

Agenda Items	Lead	Timeline	Notes
Prayer/Land Acknowledgment	**Ryan Peterson** **Jody Huang (video)**	**5 min**	The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.
Welcome and Introductions	**Jody**	**5 min**	Each Committee members and Invitees were given a few minutes to introduce themselves, provide background on what they do and their contribution to the Committee.
Review of Agenda and Approval of Minutes	**Jody**	**5 min**	**Agenda:** • **Added Biyuti Project updates** **Minutes:** Approved by Joelle and seconded by everyone
Update from Parent Engagement Department	**Ryan**	**5 min**	Ryan: - schools dealing with a lot of snow issues and this department is working hard to keep schools safe. - Schools are preparing for parent/teacher interviews and report cards are going out this week.

			- we are one of 8 boards under supervision; our Trustees' roles are on hold until we are out of supervision. Mandates include: **- Student and Family Support Services Office** implemented mid-January. - button found on TCDSB landing page - how to contact school board for support - 2d for response, 5d for follow up from the board - faster way to contact is: Teacher - Principal - Superintendent is the chain of communication.
Plenary & Advisory **Committee Meeting** **Update & Survey**	Aileen		Plenary advisory meetings (7 advisory committees come together to discuss areas of concern and advocacy) happening 3x a year. Advisory committee survey here in order to guide our work. What happened to the plenary report? It has been received; waiting for actions from the board. Many committees are interested in data; some data will be coming out soon - report will be sent to each school. Date TBA. Some discussions about human trafficking and intimate partner violence, and resources available to TCDSB community.
Update from Equity & **CRO**	**Jody**	**5 min**	Aileen: FSA Advisories: - officially 13 FSAs across elementary and secondary

Membership Application **and Renewal**			- there are 5 schools who plan to start one - hoping that we can create a space where there are code days devoted to support FSA moderators - Aileen needs support to grow network and connect moderators; any ideas welcome Jody: - Is this something where we can get all FSAs and other cultural SAs have a summit to build a network Aileen: - added the summit to to-do list Summer camp - uses Focus On Youth funding - University students return to fulfill organizational roles - will operate out of Blessed Mother Theresa CHS, once a week every Friday (in July) - A direction setting meeting on Thursday February 12, 2026 @ 4:30P - for anyone connected to Filipino-Canadian educators and education - network is growing - PhD students

			Biyuti Project - in partnership with Dr. Marcella - arts creation project - queer or trans Filipinx created art to represent their experiences **April 17 - Indigenous Art Exhibition** Jody: - celebrate women: sisterhood, healing, etc. - bring in experience of indigenous women, including Filipina indigenous women (e.g. Gretchen) Retreats: - BSA (Black Students Association) May 21 - GSA (Gender and Sexuality Aligned groups) April 24 - Two Spirit Gathering (elem) June 3 - fyi: there is a GSA space for staff (currently low numbers, but hoping to grow) Special Education - Filipino parents with children with special needs and exceptionalities need support - how can we deliver information to these families - connect with Joelle

Proudly Pinoy Scholarship **Family Bowling Fundraising @** **Markham Bowl on Saturday, March 28** **Pancit Festival** **(June 25)** **Philippine Heritage Festival** **May 15** **Woodbine Mall**	**Jody**	**10 min**	Jody: - The award has already funded 4 students, $5000 each Seeking more teams to sign up ($250) - seeking sponsors for food or lanes or simply donate to the award Pancit Festival (June 25) - Seeking support for this event (organization, finding sponsors) - St. Margaret to host again, after successful Adobo Fest Philippine Heritage Festival May 15
Update from Community	**Gretchen**	**5 min**	**Filipino Martial Arts (Combat Science) pilot project** - introduce into schools - JB Ramos and his team have brought in experts for some time now - so how can we integrate this into Physical Education curriculum - 4 elementary schools, 30-40 min across different levels after the March Break - non contact martial arts - curriculum already built by the team, will be sent to FAC, based on recommendations by Phys Ed department

	Veronica **Monica**		- provides historical background FCCAN - Filipino Canadian Civic Action Network (Monica and Veronica) https://www.filcancivicaction.ca/ - in response to the Lapu-lapu Day tragedy in BC. - Conducted a survey at community events from May - Dec 2025; shared their report from the survey: https://www.filcancivicaction.ca/communityreport - data on Community Safety, Mental Health, Policy, etc. Feedback Questions: (1) What do you feel are the priorities of the Filipino community within TCDSB? (2) What issues are you looking to engage policy on that reflect these priorities? (3) How familiar do you and your communities feel with political and policy-making processes? Gretchen: - Does our community have access to Filipino mental health practitioners? Lalaine: - for us to meaningfully engage: recognize there are different layers to these questions

	Mayrose		i.e. at summit last year: one of the main topics was mental health for students in the community through student, staff, and parent lens - need more resources - connecting mental health and community safety - is this the right table to discuss this? This may be a grander topic Veronica: - Will meet with officials at all governmental levels (municipal, provincial and federal) - reach out via email for more information (info@filcancivicaction.ca) Monica: - several schools already have a mental health support group; hope to have similar support in other schools? Aileen: - change initial question to: What do they see as a priority? - include within Civics courses - collaborate with FCCAN Mayrose (Pueblo Science) - training 600 teachers in Indonesia and Philippines - need students to help assemble robotics kits for the teachers

	Cielito		- could count for community hours - could also provide opportunity for students to create with UofT students Cielito (Filipino Teachers Association) - 20th Anniversary is June 27 - Everyone is invited - will send details to Jody Lili (Filipino Centre Toronto) - Programs For Youth: Google form to be sent out to TCDSB to gather information from students - only organization that has a physical building available for students to visit Jody to connect more with Lili Judith: meets every Tuesday for youth programs - many parents are from the caregiver organizations - have seen many youth who need help - want to collaborate with TCDSB - Judith reports that FCT can support the bowling event again this year ($1000 donation); will follow up with Jody via email
Future Meeting Dates:	**All**	**5 min**	

• **April 14, 2026**			
Adjournment	**All**		Adjourned at 5:59 PM

References/Resources:

Filipino Canadian Advisory Committee Website
https://www.tcdsb.org/o/communityrelations/page/filipino-canadian

Filipino Heritage Month Website
https://www.tcdsb.org/o/communityrelations/page/filipino-canadian-heritage

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