Toronto District School Board

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
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DEATH OF HAMID AMINZADA
SCHOOL SAFETY AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF A STEERING TEAM
TERMS OF REFERENCE
20 October 2014

WHEREAS Hamid Aminzada, a grade 12 student, was fatally stabbed in North Albion Collegiate Institute on September 23, 2014;

AND WHEREAS the safety of all persons within schools of the Toronto District School Board is of paramount concern;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to conduct an independent review in order to ascertain the facts surrounding the events leading to and following the death of Hamid Aminzada and, secondly, to ascertain ways in which our schools (and other agencies) can improve how they support and engage students and families in the school community;

NOW THEREFORE, a Steering Team is established and authorized to conduct such an independent review and to make a report on its findings and recommendations;

AND THAT the Steering Team shall be comprised of Karen Forbes, Sharifa Khan and Kim Derry;

AND THAT the mandate of the Steering Team shall be as follows:

A. Mandate

Scope of Review:

(i) The Steering Team shall review the facts surrounding the events leading to and following the fatal stabbing of Hamid Aminzada, a student at North Albion Collegiate Institute, including:

(a) The circumstances pertaining to the occurrence of this tragic event in the school, and the system response following the occurrence.

(b) Whether effective crisis response procedures were already in place to assist staff in their response.

(c) Whether, in responding to this tragic event, there was effective cooperation and communication by TDSB staff with: other TDSB staff, with parents and students, and with agencies such as the Toronto Police Service, Paramedic Emergency Services, the media and other agencies.

(ii) The Steering Team shall examine whether there was effective and supportive engagement between the school community, the broader community, and community agencies.

Recommendations:

The Steering Team shall make recommendations in respect of the following:

(a) How the procedures used by the TDSB and all of its schools could be improved in the future in dealing with tragic occurrences. The recommendations may include (but are not limited to) recommendations for improving crisis-related and safety-related protocols, policies and procedures, and for training and information sharing with staff and students.

(b) With a view to improving school safety and school-community engagement, ways in which schools can successfully reach out to their communities to foster mutual respect and understanding and to ensure that all students and their families receive the support they need to be able to participate fully in public education and in the life of their school.

(c) Any other matter that the Steering Team considers relevant to school safety or community engagement that arises in the course of the Review.

B. In order to carry out its mandate, the Steering Team,

(a) may request such private meetings with any person or organization as the Steering Team considers advisable in order to obtain information or perspectives relevant to the mandate;

(b) may request of any person or organization such information, documents or records that the Steering Team reasonably believes may be in the custody or control of the person or organization;

(c) may consult in private with the Advisory Team established by the Director of Education;

(d) may conduct public meetings and focus groups to obtain school or community input.

C. Within a budget established by the Director of Education, the Steering Team shall be provided with appropriate resources and services, and may engage researchers and experts subject to normal procurement and remuneration practices of the Board.

D. The Steering Team shall perform its mandate without expressing any finding of fact, conclusion or recommendation regarding the civil or criminal responsibility of any person or organization, and without interfering in any ongoing criminal, civil or other legal proceedings. The Steering Team may rely on any relevant transcripts or records of legal proceedings before any court or tribunal that is relevant to the mandate of the Steering Team.

E. The Report of the Steering Team shall be prepared in a form appropriate for release to the public under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

F. The Steering Team shall endeavour to provide an Interim Report to the Board by no later than November 26, 2014, and a Final Report by no later than March 2015.