



## 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes reviewed and motion carried to approve April 29, 2021 minutes.

Minutes have been posted online and available to the public under [AODA Advisory Committee web page](#).

## 3. Review of Terms of Reference

### Member Responsibilities

- To champion accessibility at YRDSB in effort to strengthen a culture of inclusion for people with and without disabilities;
- To provide ethical leadership and guidance on all matters related to the implementation of [Accessibility Policy #407](#) and its related procedures as aligned with the AODA;
- To identify, remove and prevent barriers in the service, working and learning environments of the Board;
- To promote opportunities for collaboration and professional development among members with regard to ongoing accessibility concerns, planning and implementation;
- To communicate the accessibility plans and achievements of the Board through the [Multi-Year Accessibility Plan](#) and Annual Accessibility Reports.

### Member Expectations

- Four meetings will be held each school year (September to June);
- Member in good standing requires regular attendance at AODA Advisory Committee meetings;
- Member who cannot attend a meeting must inform a co-chair and select a designate to attend on their behalf; and
- Member who is absent for three consecutive meetings will be contacted to discuss and determine future membership on the AODA Advisory Committee.

All members are encouraged and expected to:

- Actively engage in committee meetings and participate in the activities and work of AODA Advisory Committee;
- Review and/or approve documents and materials shared prior to each meeting;
- Participate in specialized subcommittees and working groups where it aligns with their area of work and subject matter expertise;
- Provide input on the Annual Accessibility Reports through regular status reporting; and
- Act as an accessibility champion for YRDSB.

### **Action Item**

Committee members asked to review the entire Terms of Reference 2021-22.

## **4. New member Introduction**

Brief self-introductions by new AODA Advisory Committee members:

- Selena Tandon (replacing Rizwana Kaderdina)
- Amanda Halley (replacing Tina Wieringa)
- Cynthia Cordova (replacing Bob McRoberts)
- Stephen Hopkins (replacing Laura Leesti)

## **5. Accessibility News Items and Member Q & A**

### **Feedback Report on the Proposed K-12 Education Standards**

Brandon provided summary presentation of the [YRDSB Feedback Report on the Proposed K-12 Education Standards](#) submitted to the Education Standards Development Committee on September 22, 2021.

Presentation included overview of the internal YRDSB review and feedback process led by the HRCO, followed by summary of key feedback themes for each barrier area. How the Board is currently complying with various initial recommendations (e.g., renewed Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, Accessibility Resource Hub, and accessible web conferencing) was also presented.

## Action Item

Committee members are asked to review the proposed K-12 Education standards and send feedback directly to the Education Standards Development Committee by extended deadline of November 1, 2021.

## Student Services Subcommittee Update

### Alternative mask update (ClearMask → Humask):

- [ClearMasks](#) that have been used to support staff and students with lip reading have been put on “pause” for use due to concerns with the ASTM designation; awaiting system communication as to the discontinuation of these masks
- [Humask](#) is a new mask supported by Ministry of Government and Community Services (MGCS) was recently introduced to Educational Audiologist; combination of opaque medical mask with ASTM Level 2 rating that also has anti-fog clear window for lip-reading; Humasks will be received by schools in 4-6 weeks; in interim, has created communication barriers for students and staff who require lip reading as part of a total communication context.

Additional updates from Student Services subcommittee were shared in writing:

**Blind/Low Vision Services** – Most of our students are back in schools for side-by-side/hand over hand supports

- Early elementary students who require braille are back to learning braille literacy skills and meaningful tactile learning;
- Deafblind Intervenors are supporting students at school or online with the hybrid model;
- Using the Community and Home Guidelines, Deafblind Intervenors are making home visits with tactile materials and programming that compliment and extend the learning within hybrid model;
- Central Brailist, Nancy Norris, has retired and we are revising the role and responsibilities of our Central Brailist position to include a greater focus on electronica/refreshable braille keyboards and tablets

**Deaf/Hard of Hearing** – Students with hearing loss or who are profoundly

deaf are largely back in schools for greater auditory access

- **DHH Pilot Transition Program** launched for a cohort of grade nine students who are receiving the secondary programming largely in ASL. This program is also being supported by Deaf Culture Consultants from EC Drury in order for an accessible and culturally rich program provided in an integrated setting instead of having to commute to our provincial school
- **Interdepartmental collaboration** - Educational Audiologist, Aaron Feldman, has been working with ITS and Disability Management to provide strategies and support for our students in class, student online and staff who are still experiencing communication barriers due to masking and virtual learning; technologies being explored to reduce the online barriers include the use of a Roger Neckloop device for students online; Phonak MyLink devices, Soundfield systems, desk mics and standing mics for peer communication.
- **[Streamer](#)** - new virtual web-based application/site created by the deaf community for accessibility supports for people with hearing loss; just communicated to Student Services and includes the capability for: notetaking, translation, captioning, and speech generation for non-verbal people.

## 7. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Adjournment

- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 25, 2021.

Meeting adjourned.