

Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

A Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meeting convened via Zoom on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, from 7:03p.m. to 9: 49 p.m. With PIAC Co-Chair Zena Shereck & Co-Chair Sarah Ali

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| Attendance: | Erin C (W01), Andrew W (W03), Gordon H (W03),Tamasha G (W04), Johnson J(W04), Crystal S (W06), Mercy C (W06), Alice R(W07), Kaydeen B (W08), Melanie M-S (W09), Janice B (W11),Susan L (W12),Nicole W(W12), Jun J. Z (W13), M. Saleem K(W14), Eden H(W16), Tanya O (W17),Seema M (W18), Moosa A A (W19), Prasanna J (W19), Chris L (W20), A Azeem M(W21), Nadia J (W22), Zena S, (Co-Chair) ,Sarah A(Co-Chair), |
| Trustee: | Trustee Matias de DoVitiis, |
| Staff: | Elizabeth Addo Exec Superintendent, Lisa Dilworth, System Superintendent, Latha John Committee Assistant, Jack Nigro, Exec Superintendent, Michelle Munroe, |
| Guests | Central Coordinator, PCCEO Trustee D.Williams, Nicole Herbert |
| Regrets | Nabil H (W01), Frances S (W02), Bruce O(W10), Jenny Gannon (W14) |
| Absent: | Karin T(W09), Manna B(W10), Charles Z(W11), Jianfen (Jenny) Z(W13), Anshu G (W08), Jennifer V(W15), Shelley K (W16), Nicole W(W17), Hasiba Anna E(W18), Geetika B (W20), Nicole M(W22), Towhid N (CLG) |

| ITEM | DISCUSSION | MOTION | RECOMMENDATION |
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| Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Quorum • Land Acknowledgment Code of Conduct | <p>Quorum was confirmed by PIAC Membership WG. The meeting began with the land acknowledgment and welcome from PIAC Co-Chair Zena S.</p> <p>No conflict of interest or change in membership status was declared.</p> | | |
| Meeting Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict of interest • Change in Membership status. • Approval of Consent Agenda & Minutes - November 14 Special meeting & PIAC General Meeting November 19, 2024 | <p>The consent agenda were presented for approval. The following amendment to the minutes of the November 14 special meeting.</p> <p>The minutes to include the disagreement on the special meeting being non-public from W02 Co-representative Andrew W.</p> | <p>Motion by Janice B(W11) to approve the Consent agenda and Minutes (November 14 Special meeting minutes as amended & PIAC General Meeting November 19, 2024, seconded by Chris L (W20). Motion was carried.</p> | |
| Co-Chairs Update | <p>A written report was distributed, and the following was highlighted.</p> <p>PIAC Co-chair Elections</p> <p>Sarah Ali has been acclaimed as newest PIAC Co-Chair and was welcomed by Co-Chair Zena.</p> <p>Board Meetings</p> <p>PIAC Members were encouraged to attend January board and committee meetings, open to the public. PIAC's letter to the Board, Co-Chair Zena</p> | | |
| Trustee Report Trustee Matias deDovitiis | <p>Advocacy Process for PIAC</p> <p>Trustee Matias emphasized the need for adherence to formal PIAC processes for PIAC committee recommendations and correspondence.</p> | | |

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| | <p>A written report was distributed, and the following was highlighted.</p> <p>Federal Nutrition Funding The Federal Government has initiated a new funding structure aimed at improving nutrition programs across Canada. Part of this funding will flow through the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) via provincial partnerships. The funding is insufficient given the growing demand and rising food costs. This presents an ongoing challenge for ensuring all students have access to nutritious meals.</p> <p>Website Renovations: Significant renovations are underway for the TDSB's website, with a focus on improving navigation for parents and caregivers. PIAC members were encouraged to provide feedback on how the "Parents and Caregivers" section could be more accessible and useful.</p> <p>Learn for Life Program: Following community advocacy, the Learn for Life Program has been reinstated. This program offers adult education courses, including technical skills, cooking, and dance lessons. Classes will resume on January 11, 2025. Registration is currently open, and PIAC members were encouraged to promote this program within their communities.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Audit Recommendation: Highlighted that improved transparency and accessibility for parents, caregivers, and the public were recommendations from a recent audit. Emphasized the importance of making TDSB decisions easily understandable and demonstrating transparency, given its \$3.6 billion operating budget.</p> <p>Trustee Matias acknowledged the need for continuous improvement and shared additional</p> | | |

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| | insights into capital funding gaps and their impact on school infrastructure. | | |
| By-Laws | <p>Erin C (W01) and Kaydeen B(W08) presented key articles and governance principles of PIAC bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership requirements and responsibilities. • Decision-making processes and working group structures. • Conflict resolution and accountability mechanisms. • Amendments can occur once per school year unless otherwise voted. • Call for Participation: Members encouraged to engage in the ongoing bylaw review process. | | |
| Working Group (WG) Reports Operational Effectiveness Working Group | <p>The WG focuses on Budget management and bylaws review is open to PIAC Members and meets on second Mondays of the month.</p> <p>Next Meeting: January 13, 2025.</p> | | |
| Strategic Planning WG | <p>Strategic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Session: Scheduled for January 18, 2025, at Novotel Hotel. • RSVP Deadline: December 20, 2024. | | |
| Membership WG | <p>The mandate of the WG is to support representatives and parent-caregiver members by encouraging active participation to enhance parent engagement at the board level.</p> <p>A written report was distributed by the WG the following were highlighted.</p> <p>PIAC Co-chair election process & acclamation</p> <p>Four new elections held, reducing vacancies to eight.</p> <p>The committee discussed the motion as presented .</p> <p>Motion</p> | | |

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| | <p>PIAC declare the following PIAC Co-representative seats vacant due lack of meeting attendance at PIAC General Meetings by PIAC Co-representatives as per PIAC Bylaws 4.9.4 “member who misses either (a) three (3) or more consecutive PIAC general meetings without advising apologies for absence, or (b) total of four (4) PIAC general meetings in any school year, may be removed from his/her seat.” and/or PIAC Bylaw 4.9.5 “member must attend 60% of PIAC meeting in a School Year”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ward 9 Co-Representative (Karin Trajcevski) b. Ward 10 Co-Representative (Manna Begum) c. Ward 15 Co-Representative (Jennifer Volk) d. Ward 22 Co-Representative (Nicole Marshall) | <p>Motion was moved by: Andrew W (W03). Seconded by: Gordon H (W03). Motion carried.</p> | |
| School Council Support WG | <p>School Council Email Transition: Transitioning individual school council accounts to joint accounts caused initial difficulties, including email losses. However, the process has improved, and many councils have successfully adapted.</p> <p>Accountability for Principals: Efforts are ongoing to introduce accountability measures for principals, dashboard to track key activities such as school council creation, Safe Schools Committee formation, budget consultations, and financial transparency.</p> <p>Support for School Councils: A checklist is being developed to guide PIAC members on how to best support school councils</p> <p>Communication with the Ministry: A letter was sent to the new Minister of Education requesting updates to the School Council Handbook.</p> <p>Financial Transparency: A motion on financial transparency is planned for January.</p> <p>Suggestions and Issues:</p> | | |

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| | Members were encouraged to share suggestions and raise unresolved school council issues with the designated leads. | | |
| Special Events WG | <p>The WG lead reported the following update on PIAC lead event.</p> <p>Title: "School Council and Principal: Stronger Together"</p> <p>Date: February 1, 2025</p> <p>Time: 1 PM to 5 PM</p> <p>Location: Woburn Collegiate</p> <p>Invitations will be sent to all school councils and principals. Each school can send up to three parent representatives. Schools without a council may send three parent volunteers. Superintendents and trustees are also invited.</p> <p>The invitation process will use the Punchbowl platform, allowing for efficient tracking and follow-ups.</p> <p>Event Structure:</p> <p>Two workshop sessions with three options each. Topics include building effective partnerships, financial transparency, and governance best practices.</p> <p>A networking opportunity will precede the final panel discussion, where experts and community leaders will address key questions.</p> <p>Logistics:</p> <p>Accessibility: Transportation options under consideration include TTC Presto cards, gas cards, and school buses.</p> <p>Childcare: Dagmar will provide child-minding services as a qualified TDSB vendor.</p> <p>Catering: The event will serve vegetarian finger foods to accommodate diverse dietary needs.</p> <p>Discussions continue about expanding vendor options to reflect cultural diversity.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Members emphasized the need for culturally appropriate food options, raised concerns about the lack of representation for non-European cuisines among approved TDSB vendors.</p> <p>Staff explained the current vendor vetting process of the board and encouraged members to recommend local businesses interested in becoming vendors.</p> <p>The conference date coincides with Lunar New Year celebrations and the need to incorporate diverse cultural and ethnic holidays into event planning calendars to avoid scheduling conflicts and to promote inclusivity.</p> <p>Next WG Meeting: January 6, 2025.</p> | | |
| Communication WG | <p>A written report was distributed to the committee. There was no further discussion.</p> | | |
| Consultations Working Group | <p>The Consultations Working Group prioritizes, summarizes, and disseminates information about TDSB policies and procedures under review to PIAC and, where applicable, to the broader parent community. The group collaborates with Ward Representatives and the Communications Working Group to coordinate feedback and recommendations.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <p>Deadline for feedback on the "Personal Mobile Device Use in Schools" policy extended to December 20, 2024. Members were encouraged to review the draft policy and provide feedback. Upcoming policies scheduled for review will be detailed in a forthcoming written report.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>WG lead Susan (W12) inquired whether a community member of a non-governance working group could serve as a co-lead if no PIAC representatives are willing to take on the role. It was noted that while current bylaws do not permit</p> | | |

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| | <p>this, it is worth exploring through future amendments.</p> <p>Request to TDSB The need for proactive communication about upcoming policy consultations to avoid last-minute notifications. She suggested establishing a direct contact within the TDSB for consultation updates.</p> <p>Private Motion Passed: An MPP introduced and passed a private motion in Ontario legislation encouraging school boards to reinstate police officers in schools. The TDSB removed police officers from schools in 2017 after a comprehensive review, and the trustees voted against their presence in schools. The motion has raised significant concerns among parents and community members, particularly those previously involved in advocating against police presence in schools. The private motion is not legally binding, and there is uncertainty about its actual impact on school board decisions and how it may affect existing policies.</p> | | |
| Staff Report Mobile Device Policy Consultation | <p>A detailed overview of the Mobile Device Use in Schools policy was shared. The policy aims to balance educational and safety considerations with modern device usage.</p> <p>Students in Grades 6 and below are restricted from using mobile devices during the instructional day, while students in Grades 7-12 may use them during non-instructional times.</p> <p>Exceptions are allowed for educational purposes, medical needs, or special education requirements. Progressive discipline will apply to violations, starting with warnings and escalating to suspensions if needed.</p> | | |

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| | <p>A dynamic system is in place to block social media sites on the TDSB network.</p> <p>Positive impacts noted at schools like Portage Trail include improved student attention, increased outdoor activity, and fewer online conflicts.</p> <p>PIAC Members were guided on accessing the policy consultation page on the TDSB website and encouraged to provide feedback by December 20, 2024.</p> <p>Motion to extend the meeting by 15 mins.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>A request to provide an update on the status of the lawsuits being pursued by the TDSB and several other school boards against major social media companies.</p> <p>System-wide informational sessions for educating parents and students about the harmful effects of social media and excessive cell phone use.</p> <p>Clarification was sought on confiscation of phones whether the decision to allow or disallow cell phone use rests with the teacher conducting the class or the principal of the school.</p> <p>Rawlinson Community School Council:</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about whether board staff have the authority to disband a council that has already held several meetings.</p> <p>Why the measures to resolve conflict as provided in Regulation 612 and existing bylaws were not utilized instead by staff?</p> <p>Staff clarified that Rawlinson School Council was not disbanded and it is a sensitive issue that should be handled appropriately and with the consent of parents and caregivers, avoiding public disclosure without consent.</p> | <p>Motion by Co-Chair Sarah seconded by Gordan H(W03)</p> | |

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| | It was recommended that school council-related concerns be discussed in smaller, private working group meetings rather than in public forums. It was suggested that the School Support Working Group investigate the matter further. | | |
| PCCEO Update PR 505 (Parent Concern Protocol) | A written report was distributed as update and PIAC members who have questions can reach out to Michelle Munroe | | |
| Ward Updates | The school board organized a holiday hamper program, helping 167 families in need as identified through school administration and staff. PIAC be informed of similar initiatives earlier in the process, allowing PIAC ward representatives to involve their school communities and enhance the impact of such programs. | | |
| New Business | Ward 16 Advocacy: Suggestions from PIAC members for capital project prioritization discussions with local MPPs. | | |
| Adjournment | Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 pm. | | |