PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	School Council Support WG
Meeting Dates	**March 18, 2025 & April 22, 2025**
Description/Objective	The School Council Support Working Group is a non-governance working group with the purpose of communicating and supporting SCs of schools of the board. The School Council Support Working Group will develop and engage in outreach strategies to support School Councils; work with TDSB staff to promote parent involvement in the Principal/Vice Principal hiring/selection process (previous P/VP WG); and provide recommendations on Parent/Caregiver Engagement in the Virtual School (previous Virtual Engagement WG). The areas of focus include but are not limited to Regulation 612, inactive SCs, effective SCs, and issues surrounding SCs. This working group coordinates with all other PIAC working groups on relevant matters.
Co-lead(s)	Gordon Harvey (W3) & Eden Hagos (W16) - acclaimed as new Co-Lead
Working Group Members	**PIAC members:** *Zena Shereck (PIAC Co-chair), *Sarah Ali (PIAC Co-chair), Erin Clarke (W1), Andrew Waters (W3), Gordon Harvey (W3), Tamasha Grant (W4), Crystal Stewart (W6), Mercy Charles (W6), Anshu Grover (W8), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), Saleem Khan (W14), Eden Hagos (W16), Tanya Ono (W 17) **Parent Participants:** Yousuf Mohammad (W15), Aamir Barlas (W14) **Community Participants:** Nicole Herbert (W15) **March 18/25** **Present:** Melanie Medeiros-Sims (Co-Lead), Gordon Harvey (Co-Lead), Andrew Waters, Catherine Martins (W12 parent), Eden Hagos, Erin Clarke, Michelle Munroe (PCCEO), Nicole Di Wu, Nicole Herbert, Sarah Ali (Co-Chair), Tamasha Grant, Zena Shereck (Co-Chair). **Regrets**: None **April 22/25** **Present:** Gordon Harvey (Co-Lead), Aaron Kucharczuk, Andrew Waters, Ayan Noor (parent), Crystal Stewart, Eden Hagos, Gili Zemer, Joan Aliobe (W6 parent), Mercy Charles, Nabil Hasbun, Nicole Herbert, Nicole Wu, Sajid Mahida (parent), Sarah Brager, Tamasha Grant, Tanya Ono, Zena Shereck **Regrets:** None
Strategic Work Plan and Working Group Goals	**Current Strategic Work Plan Goals** ***Goal 1: Becoming a Trusted Source of Information for Families and Caregivers*** ● collaborate with other WGs re: Advocacy and Community Engagement, and Peer Mentorship and Support

	Goal 2: Increasing Awareness of PIAC Across the System ● Work with trustees to facilitate roundtables and parent engagement forums ● Co-host events with schools to address specific community needs ● Encourage PIAC representatives to engage with school councils and build trust at the local level ● Ensure regular communication between PIAC, school councils, and administrators ● Establish clear communication channels with school administrators and staff ***Goal 3: Supporting School Councils in their Engagement and Advocacy*** ● Provide training on parent engagement, advocacy, and policy analysis ● Offer advocacy toolkits, including structured funnels for effective advocacy ● Ensure councils receive a comprehensive "Welcome Package" ● Provide access to childcare, translation, and other support services for events ● Act as a supportive resource for councils, offering guidance and helping with organizational challenges ● Facilitate ward-level connections and create opportunities for PIAC reps and school councils to interact regularly ● Organize mentorship programs where experienced council members can support newer councils ● Address participation challenges by offering flexible meeting options and building a digital parent community **Ongoing** ● SC email IT support - new process was released November 2024, survey SC's to see if this has helped solve issues with accessing email accounts and school messenger ● Accountability of Principals ● P023 - work with PCCEO, Consultations WG for PIAC involvement in Board development of new SC Operations Guide, other procedures **Completed** ● Checklist for applying an equity lens to the work of school councils ● Compile a short document outlining ways in which School Councils can engage families to support student learning and well-being through online events (with Communications WG) ● Supporting schools with no School Council ● Empowering School Councils - positive relationship with Principal ● SC Basics Slide deck update ● SC Survey ● School Improvement Process - new engagement tools
Updates	**Virtual School PIAC rep** ● PIAC needs a rep to volunteer to support Virtual School Council ● Until PIAC rep volunteers or other process is established the School Council WG co-Leads (Eden & Gordon) will fill this role **Ward Outreach Sessions** ● Events must be held by May 15, 2025 ● Please use the Event FAQs and Event Planning Guide to develop your event

	SC Outreach ● $300 Budget request submitted to for printing costs for Fall promo mailer
Motion(s)	NONE

Next Steps and Action items	**Ward Outreach**
	● For those who submitted a statement of interest, events must be held by May 15 to access the funds that were set aside
	● Please let SC WG co-leads and/or Operations WG co-leads now asap if you will not be using the funds this year so that the budget can be updated
	● Any unused funds will be reallocated by Operational Effectiveness WG
	
	Virtual School PIAC rep
	● reps are asked to consider taking on this role
	● interested reps should do this through the WG Sign-up form
	
	Accountability of Principals
	● SC WG co-Leads to meet with Sr. Staff for updates and next steps re:
	   ○ School Generated Funds Balance report
	   ○ Principal Accountability:
	      ■ Institutional Accountability/SC checklist
	      ■ checklist tracking mechanism
	
	School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG)
	● PCCEO to provide update into possible inclusion of PIAC Rep on grant review team