

Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

A Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meeting convened on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, from 7:11 p.m. to 9:51 p.m. With PIAC Co-Chair Sarah Ali, Zena Shereck & Katrina Matheson

Attendance:	Nabil Hasbun(W1), Tamasha Grant (W4), Aaron Kucharczuk (W5), Emily Abrahams(W7), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), (Gili) Frida Zemer (W9), Sarah Brager (W9) Mark Unger (W10), Susan Lee (W12), Nicole Wu(W12), Kristen Boyd (W15), Rahat Farheen Mahmood(W15) Tanya Ono. (W17), Moosa Alloo (W19), Chris Levien (W20), Sarah Ali (PIAC Co-Chair) Zena Shereck (Co-Chair) Katrina Matheson (PIAC Co-Chair), Andrew Waters (Secretary), Mercy Charles (Treasurer), Prasanna Jagannathan (Officer at Large)
Ministry of Education	Rohit Gupta Supervisor Ministry of Education
Staff:	Elizabeth Addo, Exec Superintendent, Latha John (PCCEO), Patrick Mohammed, Senior Manager, Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, PCCEO, Jack Nigro, Diana Panagiotopoulos Executive Superintendent, Audley Salmon, Associate Director, Craig Snider, Executive Officer
Guests	
Regrets	Crystal Stewart(W6)
Absent:	Carley Cohen(W05), Anshu Grover(W8), M Saleem Khan (W14), Thanuja Sanker(W17)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	MOTION	RECOMMENDATION
<p>Welcome &amp; Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Quorum</li> <li>Land Acknowledgment</li> </ul> <p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>Meeting Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict of Interest</li> <li>Change in Membership Status.</li> <li>Approval of Consent Agenda &amp; Minutes of PIAC General Meeting June 17, 2025.</li> </ul>	<p>Quorum was confirmed by PIAC Membership WG.</p> <p>The meeting began with welcome by Co-Chair Sarah Ali, Land acknowledgment was done by Co-Chair Zena S.</p> <p>Members were reminded of code of conduct; respectful communication following Robert's Rules of Order</p> <p>No conflict of Interest declared or change in membership status noted.</p> <p>Approval of consent agenda &amp; minutes</p>	<p>Motion to approve the consent agenda &amp; minutes by Aaron K(W05) seconded by Moosa A (W19). Motion was carried.</p>	
<p>Co-Chairs Update</p> <p>Appreciation to Co-Chair Zena Shereck</p>	<p>Outgoing Co-Chair Zena Shereck was sincerely thanked and acknowledged for her dedication and years of service since 2016 by PIAC Members &amp; PCCEO staff.</p> <p>PIAC Co-Chair &amp; Committee Elections</p> <p>Katrina M was welcomed as a newly elected Co-Chair.</p> <p>New coordinator officers were introduced:</p>		

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	<p>Prasanna Jagannathan (Officer at large), Mercy Charles (Treasurer), and Andrew (Secretary)</p> <p>PIAC members were reminded that all members are required to sign up and participate in at least one working group.</p>		
Community Updates	<p><b>Live Streaming Ban:</b> Ministry directive to prohibit live streaming of PIAC and SEAC meetings. Concerns were raised on accessibility and barriers to parent engagement. Parents who feel that the ban on livestreaming has impacted their access to PIAC meetings should make a complaint with the Ontario Ombudsman. PIAC had previously approved virtual-only (Dec–Feb).</p> <p><b>Virtual Access to PIAC Meetings:</b> staff will provide clarity in future.</p> <p>The motion to distribute the School Councils Matter Guide systemwide was denied by staff in favour of the suggestion that PIAC send the messages to school council chairs and ask for them to send it to their schools using School Messenger. PIAC denies that this is a viable replacement due to the delay in receiving the school council chair email addresses, and the incomplete nature of the lists provided by the TDSB.</p> <p>Our reps are hearing feedback that the School Innovation Grant application is confusing and staff responses are unhelpful reportedly stating</p>		

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	<p>that they don't wish to "give the answers to the test." The School Council WG has a forthcoming motion that speaks to improving parent access to this important grant, and we respectfully request that PCCEO reorient around making such grants more accessible to School Councils.</p> <p>Wards 1 &amp; 17 hosted the two <b>Parents as Partners events</b>, respectively, and while the events were informative they were not well attended. For future events, we would like to see better communication to parents about what they can expect at the event, and also more coordination with PIAC to ensure our involvement is impactful. Planning for the next event is underway and co-reps are invited to join that committee.</p> <p>Parents from <b>Ward 9</b> have raised concerns about phone calls from TDSB staff being made to parents with temporary or missing status regarding the need to submit documentation. Policy 061 seems to convey that these phone calls should not be made if the child is otherwise eligible, however there is some ambiguity in how the office staff can interpret it. Policy 061 is up for review next year. Parents concerned about these phone calls should contact their Settlement Support Workers.</p> <p><b>Special Interest program</b> admissions timeline was extended. PIAC asks the supervisor to review PIAC's past motions on Special Interest program admissions; namely the need for evidence-based strategies and long-term development of pathways. We expect that Diana Panagiotopoulos</p>		

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	<p>will be responding to the questions submitted by Consultations WG in October.</p> <p><b>Classroom reorgs</b> were a major concern among families across the TDSB, with changes feeling much more dramatic and impactful than in past years. Questions we have: When did the board know that shifts were necessary? Could the majority of the shifts have happened prior to school start?</p> <p><b>Exit Survey Data</b> (PowerSchool) can be shared publicly, exploring options for “reasons for leaving” data.</p>		
<p>Staff Updates</p> <p>Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) &amp; Student Achievement Plan</p>	<p>Staff presented the Key Priorities:</p> <p>Literacy and Math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy is prioritized in the early years (K to Grade 2).</li> <li>• The strategy involves using screening processes followed by explicit and systematic instruction.</li> <li>• The approach is based on evidence-based teaching and research, including the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read report.</li> <li>• The Ministry has provided increased funding for Math Learning Partners and Early Years Reading Intervention teachers to deliver Tier 2 and Tier 3 intensive daily support in schools.</li> <li>• Belonging and Thrive: Efforts focus on supporting student graduation and future pathways, including post-</li> </ul>		

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	<p>secondary options, skilled trades, and apprenticeships.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of action timelines</li> <li>• School Improvement Plan connections</li> <li>• Funding for math/literacy initiatives</li> <li>• Mental-health staffing levels (data pending)</li> <li>• Evidence-based instruction details</li> <li>• Tier 1–3 reading supports and school-level implementation</li> <li>• Support levels for model schools</li> <li>• Lack of EQAO results and report-card concerns (especially high school math)</li> <li>• Food security (not included in MYSP)</li> </ul>		
<b>Food-handling Certification and Procedures</b>	<p>The requirements for food handler certification for staff and volunteers participating in school-based and school council programs.</p> <p><b>TDSB-Driven Programs</b> (e.g., Student Nutrition Program, Snack Program)</p> <p>One individual (staff or volunteer) "directly handling food" must have the certification.</p> <p>This is a requirement under the Public Health Food Premises Regulation.</p> <p>School Council Activities (e.g., Pizza Lunches, Fundraising BBQs)</p> <p>Not required by regulation (due to a potential Service Club/fundraiser exemption), but it is strongly encouraged.</p>		

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	<p>Encouraged, Not Required. if the activity involves handling or cooking raw food (like hot dogs or hamburgers), certification is strongly recommended.</p> <p><b>Free Certification Course Details</b></p> <p>The free course is available through Toronto Public Health or the Ministry of Health ("Safe Food for Ontario" program).</p> <p>Staff to work with Parent Connect and staff to distribute a reference card with the link to the free online course to all school councils and parents.</p> <p>Confusion at Schools: Significant confusion between parents and principals, stating that some Pizza Lunches had been temporarily stopped due to this uncertainty.</p>		
<b>Staff Updates</b>	<p><b>School Council Chair Contacts</b></p> <p>PIAC reps requested access to the updating Google document of SC contacts.</p> <p><b>School Messenger Communication:</b></p> <p>Access to School Messenger system to send general PIAC communications to all parents across the system was denied by staff.</p> <p>PIAC Co-chairs requested to reconsider the system-wide distribution.</p> <p>Automation exists but delays remain.</p> <p>Multiple parents reported long delays, unclear instructions, and two-factor authentication issues.</p> <p>Staff committed to reviewing and improving the process.</p>		

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	<p><b>PIAC Election Process and Communication</b></p> <p>The PIAC election process (nomination and registration period) for 9 wards is currently underway.</p>		
Working Group (WG) Reports			
Consultation Working Group	<p>A written report was distributed.</p> <p>The WG noted that they had been hearing a lot of feedback from parents and guardians regarding the ambiguity of the changes made to the TDSB Specialist Programs.</p> <p>The WG had formally asked Central TDSB staff to provide an update before the formal application process.</p> <p>Parents who attended the open houses for the specialist programs reported that the Q&amp;A sessions were not sufficient, no answers were provided.</p>		
Operational Effectiveness Working Group.	<p><b>2025–26 PIAC Budget Allocation – \$51,000.35</b></p> <p>Budget includes operating needs, communications, events, strategic planning, ward engagement, onboarding.</p> <p>\$25, 000--Events / annual conference  \$5,000--Strategic Planning initiatives  \$5,000--Communications (recurring costs and promotional materials purchases)  \$2,000--Membership and elections logistics  \$5,500--Ward Engagement funding  \$4,000--General Meeting (8 hybrid meetings)  \$4,000--PIAC Member Orientation and Onboarding  (\$535) remaining</p>	<p>Motion to approve PIAC budget as amended by Mercy C (Treasurer),</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Andrew W (Secretary)</p> <p>Budget was approved unanimously</p>	



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	<p>Amendment introduced by Mercy: Request for additional \$1,000 for January orientation.</p> <p>Adjusted through \$500 from remaining funds + \$500 from Membership allocation.</p>		
Strategic Planning WG	<p><b>Class Reorganizations &amp; Staffing</b></p> <p>1. The TDSB publish on each school's website, in both the spring (projected) and fall (finalized), the approved class model for that school, identifying the grade configuration and number of students in each class. TDSB shall also implement a practice of principals emailing such information to parents.</p> <p>2. The TDSB prepare and publish on its website an information guide outlining, in clear and accessible language, the process by which teacher allocations to schools are determined, including the role of projected enrolment, special program needs, and staffing formulas. The level of detail provided must be sufficient for parents to understand the rationale and process dictating the number of teachers allocated to their school, which will assist their understanding of both the projected class model and reorganizations when they occur.</p> <p>3. The TDSB publish the student projection data set contained within its Long-Term Planning and Accommodation Strategy annually on its open data webpage in time for</p>		<p>Transparency Regarding Class Sizes, Teacher Allocations and Reorganizations Motion by Aaron K(W05) with co-sponsors Mercy, Susan, Andrew. Motion was seconded by Moosa A(W19)</p>

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	spring projections, to enable more meaningful consultation by parents and school councils during spring planning.		
Membership Working Group	<p>PIAC Elections Status: Elections are currently underway in 9 wards for the PIAC representative positions. The WG to hold an information session the following day for prospective candidates and voters to answer questions and gather feedback.</p> <p>Vacancies and Future Appointments In January/February, there will be some wards with two vacancies. Motion for Appointment (Ward 6) To ensure continuity in Ward 6 and for a working group co-lead position: Ward 6 Crystal Stewart is to be appointed necessary to ensure continued representation in Ward 6 and a co-lead for the School Council Support Working Group,</p>	<p>PIAC appoint Crystal Stewart, as per bylaw 12.2.2, to the position of co-representative for Ward 6 for up to one year (September 2026), or until an election is held, whichever happens first."</p> <p>Outcome: The motion was moved by Andrew Waters and seconded by Tamasha from Ward 4. The motion was carried</p>	
School Council Support WG	<p><b>School Innovation Grants</b> Concerns about unclear process, low success rate, declining applications. A motion was planned by PIAC's School Council Support WG to improve parent access to the School Innovation Grant.</p>	<p>Motion by Andrew W (Secretary) The School Council Support Working Group</p>	

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	<p>School Council Fundraising and Tax Receipts Motion</p> <p>Issuing tax receipts for eligible donation components within fundraising activities (like pizza lunches).</p> <p>The school board requires school councils to use the School Cash Online module (for purchases) and the Donation Module (for receipts).</p>	<p>holds one meeting where PAC members and other school council leaders share their experience with completing School Council Innovation Grants to support other school councils in the completion of their own grant applications. Secorder: Aaron (W0 5). The motion passed by consensus.</p>	

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	<p>When a school council sells an item (e.g., a slice of pizza for \$3.00 with an actual cost of \$1.50), the \$1.50 difference is a donation component.</p> <p>After much discussion the motion was withdrawn and to be revisited for the next meeting.</p>		
Communication Working Group	<p>Susan L(W12) Communication WG lead reported the following</p> <p>PIAC website-Redesigned PIAC website is up and running and as AODA compliant as possible.</p> <p>Nicole Herbert has stepped down from her current role as a community member. Nicole was appreciated for her work with PIAC's Communications WG.</p> <p>All reps are encouraged to attend the next meeting to share recommendations or get information regarding communications.</p> <p>Co-Lead Search-The group is currently seeking a new Co-Lead for Communications.</p> <p>The WG is looking at strategies to improve outreach regarding elections and PIAC activities. PIAC is using MailChimp for communications, the list has just under 3,700 parents and does not represent the entire parent community.</p>		
Special Events WG	<p>A written report was distributed.</p> <p>The annual PIACs event date is scheduled for February 7th.</p>		

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	<p>The event is scheduled to run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>All PIAC representatives to actively advertise the event to their school council members and parents, stressing the importance of high parent turnout.</p> <p>Bussing- The plan is for one bus from the East to transport registrants, noting that busing numbers have decreased over the years.</p> <p>Workshops-PIAC representatives to run workshops, which are expected to include training topics like fundraising and banking.</p>		
Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kristen B (W15) was passed, and the meeting concluded at 9:51PM.</p>		