

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	School Council Support WG
Meeting Dates	November 5 and 25, 2025
Description/Objective	<p>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).</p> <p>The areas of focus include but are not limited to Regulation 612, inactive SCs, effective SCs, and issues surrounding SCs.</p> <p>This working group coordinates with all other PIAC working groups on relevant matters.</p>
Strategic Work Plan and Working Group Goals	<p>Completed 2022-23 Work Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 <p>2025/26 Work Plan Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TBD <p>Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 - co-leads to request another meeting with Sr. Staff to discuss further ● P023 - work with PCCEO, Consultations WG for PIAC involvement in Board development of new SC Operations Guide, other procedures
Updates	<p>School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Followed up with PCCEO in November re PIAC's request from last spring to have a representative on the SCIG grant review team: PCCEO advised of their decision that PIAC would be welcome to participate in the planning process for the SCIG (in October and May) but that a team of TDSB staff would be on the review panel for the grant applications. ● In fulfilment of the SCIG Help Session motion, the SC WG met on November 25, 2025 to provide assistance to Council members applying for the grant

PIAC Working Group REPORT

	<p>School Council Suspension Court Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of <i>Zemer et al. v. Toronto District School Board</i>, 2025 ONSC 4551 - TDSB had argued that they had the “authority and obligation to oversee and ensure the effective operation of school councils, including the election of parent members to a school council. However, neither the Education Act, O. Reg 612/00, nor any other regulation gives the TDSB control over a school council’s activities other than in respect of fundraising.” - TDSB’s decision that it had authority to disband the School Council was found to be unreasonable by the Court <p>PIAC Feedback on Provincial Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC WG also invited parents and caregivers to attend the Nov. 25 Working Group meeting to give their feedback on the Ontario Budget - Valuable feedback was given regarding the need for a review of the funding formula for school boards <p>School Council Chairs Contact Lists by Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ward specific information was provided to co-reps via email on November 27, 2025 - Co-reps are encouraged to reach out to Council chairs directly to provide information about PIAC and to solicit feedback on school and Ward issues
Motion(s)	<p>Motion 1: School Council Innovation Grant Help Session School Council Support WG will hold a virtual session inviting School Council members to join and seek support with their SCIG grant applications. This is in response to concerns that the application process is unclear and applications declined significantly last year <i>*Motion passed by consensus at PIAC General meeting on Nov. 18/25</i></p> <p>Motion 2: School Council Fundraising and Tax Receipts Items for purchase as part of fundraising have a value and a higher cost in order to deem profits of sales as fundraising dollars. Motion to request the TDSB to issue tax receipts for the donation components of fundraising purchases by families. <i>*Motion will be tabled at PIAC General Meeting on Dec. 16/25</i></p>
Next Steps and Action items	<p>Ward Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funds will be available for Ward Outreach again this year. Co-reps may submit an Expression of Interest
Co-lead(s)	Crystal Stewart (W6)

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group Members	<p>Nov. 5/25 Present: Kristen Boyd (W15), Sarah Brager (W9), Saleem Khan (W14), Aaron Kucharczuk (W5), Andrew Waters (W3), Mercy Charles (Ward 6), Gili Zemer (W9), Sarah Ali (PIAC Co-Chair), Latha John</p> <p>Parent Participants: none</p> <p>Regrets: Katrina Matheson (PIAC Co-Chair), Eden Hagos, Nicole Di Wu (Ward 12)</p> <p>Nov. 25/25 Present: Kristen Boyd (W15), Sarah Brager (W9), Andrew Waters (W3), Mercy Charles (Ward 6), Gili Zemer (W9), Katrina Matheson (PIAC Co-Chair), Nicole Di Wu (Ward 12)</p> <p>Parent Participants: Alana Dickie, Key Kasravi, Omar Khan, D Williams, Jordan Glass, Joanne Newman,</p>
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