



Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

A Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meeting convened on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 7:09 p.m. to 9:35 p.m. With PIAC Co-Chair Sarah Ali & Katrina Matheson

Attendance: Nabil Hasbun(W1), Noel Morgan (W2), Uthman Quick(W2), Maira Riaz (W3), Rehab Aly(W3), Tamasha Grant (W4), Crystal Stewart(W6), Emily Abrahams(W7), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), Anshu Grover(W8), (Gili) Frida Zemer (W9), Sarah Brager (W9), Mark Unger (W10), Reem Al Jabi(W11), Susan Lee (W12), Nicole Wu(W12), Colleen Harper(W13), Majda Eltayan(W13), Rahat Farheen Mahmood(W15), Kristen Boyd (W15), Mercedes Lee (W16), Marycarmen Lara Villanueva (W16), Tanya Ono. (W17), Marissa Hill (W18), Olivia Hetherman (W18), Moosa Alloo (W19), Chantal Gayle (W19), Chris Levien (W20), Sundus Meer(W21), Neerajah Ponnampalam (W21), Jennifer Sparks (W22), Vimuththan Nantheeswarar (W22), Sarah Ali (PIAC Co-Chair) Katrina Matheson (PIAC Co-Chair), Andrew Waters (Secretary), Prasanna Jagannathan (Officer at Large),

Ministry of Education Rohit Gupta Supervisor Ministry of Education, Laura Elliot Ministry Supervisor Assistant

Staff: Elizabeth Addo, Exec Superintendent, Latha John (PCCEO), Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, PCCEO, Jack Nigro, Executive Superintendent, Audley Salmon, Associate Director

Guests

Regrets Mercy Charles(Treasurer)

Absent: Aaron Kucharczuk (W5), Carley Cohen(W05), M Saleem Khan (W14), Thanuja Sanker(W17), Rahel Gettu (CLG MoTiVate)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	MOTION	RECOMMENDATION
<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Quorum Land Acknowledgment <p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>Meeting Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict of Interest Change in Membership Status. Approval of Consent Agenda & Minutes of PIAC General Meeting November 18, 2025. 	<p>Quorum was confirmed by PIAC Membership WG.</p> <p>The meeting began with welcome and Land Acknowledgment.</p> <p>Co-Chairs reminded members to use respectful language and behavior to ensure a safe space for discussion.</p> <p>Noel Morgan (W2) – TDSB Employee (Self-declared).</p> <p>Request to amend the following to the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor update after WG reports Procedural motion to the consultations working group report Consultations Working Group report to be moved before the Membership report. <p>The consent agenda as amended and the minutes from the December 16, 2025, meeting were approved.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the agenda as amended and December 16 minutes as amended by Andrew W (PIAC Secretary) 2nd by (Gili) Frida Z (W9), Motion carried.</p>	
<p>Co-Chairs Update</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>18 new members were welcomed at the meeting, PIAC has doubled in size and, for the first time, has every ward is represented, the group has a shared desire to elevate public education. PIAC is one of only two formal channels for board communication due to the dismissal of trustees, but PIAC lacks the same capacity or mandate as trustees.</p>		

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	<p>Ministry Update Co-Chairs attended a provincial meeting for Parent Involvement Committees. Key highlights included: Supplemental info for parents is available at https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-childs-education-parent-guide-our-school-system</p> <p>Bill 33: This bill allows the Ministry to take full control of a board temporarily for public interest matters like governance or financials.</p> <p>Police in Schools: New amendments require boards to give police (plainclothes or uniformed) access to schools and implement School Resource Officer (SRO) programs. Consultations on this are open until February 2nd.</p> <p>Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC): A new police record check is now required for employees and volunteers every five years.</p>		
Community Updates	<p>Parent engagement Tool To increase parent engagement a simple, app-like feature was presented for school council website homepage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Parents can select their child’s teacher to instantly see if it is a Gym, Library, or Health Day. <p>2026 Heritage Month Celebrations January Tamil Heritage February -Chinese Heritage & Black History Month</p>		

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	<p>Bowmore Road Public School Families and staff have raised alarms regarding school safety and administration to a large and complex school. These events have created a climate of fear, uncertainty, and a significant breakdown in trust between the community and the Board.</p>		
Working Group (WG) Reports			
Special Events WG	<p>PIAC Annual conference The upcoming PIAC conference will be held in the West End- West Humber Collegiate Institute, Etobicoke on February 7,2026. Currently 200+ registrants, with expectations to reach 300+ by the Saturday deadline. Services Transportation services two buses are scheduled to run from the East End with three stops: Scarborough Town Centre, Fairview Mall, and Yorkdale Mall. Childminding Services will be available on-site. All PIAC Co-Reps are encouraged to attend and to reach out to their local School Council members. The event is a vital opportunity for new and existing council members to network and for Co-Reps to meet parents and caregivers from their specific Wards.</p>		
Membership WG	<p>Ward Elections The committee will proceed in February to fill any remaining minor vacancies (1-2 seats in specific wards) to maintain a full complement. TDSB Email Access: There is an ongoing effort to get all members using official TDSB email addresses. Members</p>	Motion by Emily A (W7),2 nd by Andrew W (PIAC secretary) That the PIAC Co-representative elections being conducted in	

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	<p>were encouraged to use the TDSB tech support scheduling tool, which has proven effective for those who have used it.</p> <p>Communication & Orientation Following the new member orientation, the committee discussed creating smaller, dedicated WhatsApp groups for specific working groups to supplement the main peer-to-peer support group.</p> <p>Advocacy Working Group. This group will focus on broader advocacy efforts, into PIAC and expanding the umbrella to include other community groups. of parents/caregivers focused around specific area of interest in support student achievement and well being. An amendment was introduced to the Motion that every subcommittee must be led by a PIAC member and roll-call vote was done specifically on the amendment and it was carried. The amen</p>	<p>February fill all available vacancies, whether the Ward has one vacancy or two vacancies.</p> <p>Motion to approve the motion as amended by Emily A (W7), 2nd by Andrew W (PIAC secretary) PIAC strike the Advocacy Working Group, and that this working group support advocacy of new policy and system level issues, as well as provide an opportunity to have sub-working groups led by a PIAC member to represent different community groups. Aroll call vote was done the motion was carried.</p>	

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School Council Support WG	<p>The Innovation Grant Feedback Many councils did not understand why applications were refused or how the appeals process worked. The application process is time-consuming. Newly formed councils or those in lower-resource areas struggle to compete with experienced councils. Restrictions on allowable expenses (e.g., food) are problematic in food-insecure neighborhoods. Grant reviewers may not understand the specific local context of a school.</p> <p>Proposed Solutions: Creating predefined program packages that councils can choose to implement easily. Automatically distributing funds to selected schools on a rotating annual basis to ensure equity. Allowing councils to revise and resubmit applications based on clear, constructive feedback.</p> <p>School Council Conflict Resolution The WG is forming a new subgroup to develop recommendations for the Ministry of Education regarding school council conflicts. The goal is to establish formal mechanisms for mediation and resolution.</p>		
Consultation WG	<p>The group drafted a public letter to the Ministries of Education and Finance regarding the provincial pre-budget consultation.</p> <p>Public Letter to the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education RE: Ontario Budget Consultation - from TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Motion by Nicole W (12) to approve the letter, 2nd by Andre w (PIAC secretary) The motion was passed by consensus</p>	

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	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HsjZRAM1GGIV-t0GG2nzJucmgglxh1EhbQ_NPeJ37Lo/edit?usp=sharing		
Communication WG	<p>System-Wide Communication</p> <p>The WG reported a successful first step in utilizing TDSB Connects, the board’s official communication platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PIAC sent a system-wide communication—an infographic on the importance of school councils. •The group plans to continue working with TDSB staff to formalize this access, ensuring PIAC information reaches the broader parent population. <p>Meeting Structure Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members emphasized that working groups must be work-based and focused on outcomes. Advance review of agendas and for individual parent concerns to more appropriate platforms, such as the newly created Advocacy Working Group or the Student and Family Support Office. <p>Community Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over janitorial/caretaking staffing levels, especially during winter weather. • Requests for updates on the Anti-Palestinian Racism motion previously introduced by trustees. • Vendor registration fee of \$500–\$600 for small businesses. Members noted this fee creates a shortage of local vendors for school fundraisers and events for the community. <p>Protocol for Formal Responses</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIAC formal motions are required to receive official board responses. • PIAC Co-Chairs are considering to lists multiple community concerns at once to ensure they are addressed systematically. <p>Branding and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIAC members can request PIAC business cards to assist with community outreach. • New members requested a training working group or specific sessions regarding board protocols and Robert’s Rules of Order. 		
Strategic Planning WG	<p>January 11th Training:</p> <p>A full-day session was held for 30 members, focusing on team building and for connecting with parents in their respective wards.</p> <p>The group reviewed four strategic goals, focusing on three specific phases: Alignment, Delivery, and Review. Each working group is responsible for prioritizing its own actions based on volunteer capacity.</p> <p>Governance and Mentorship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members were encouraged to spend time understanding current structures so that their community engagement ideas can be properly aligned with the right group. • New members are encouraged to choose a mentor a seasoned PIAC member within the specific working group they wish to join to help them navigate PIAC and TDSB processes. <p>Training for new members</p>		

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	<p>In addition to training provided by staff a training session is being developed to focus on the "minute details" of interacting within working groups and during formal board meetings to ensure all members can participate effectively.</p>		
<p>Operational Effectiveness WG</p>	<p>Standardizing "Rules of Order"</p> <p>A motion was brought forward to adopt a 3-month pilot period for a standardized "Rules of Order" document based on the 12th edition of Robert's Rules of Order.</p> <p>IT and Email Access</p> <p>Members were urged to check their personal accounts for links from the IT office to book appointments for Shared ward email access.</p> <p>Enhancing PIAC's Profile</p> <p>Discussions regarding the use of photos for ward representatives and other branding efforts to help the community recognize their local reps.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to use budget allocations to support ward-level engagement activities once administrative processes are finalized by the Membership WG.</p> <p>Orientation, Training, and Mentorship</p> <p>Basic Training on Robert's Rules for members. The group is exploring a structured mentorship model to help new members absorb committee culture and operations.</p>	<p>Motion by Kaydeen B (W8) and 2nd by Andrew W (PIAC Secretary)Adopt the proposed Rules of Order for a 3-month pilot period (February – April 2026).</p>	

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	<p>The OEWG will work on standardized templates for agendas and minutes to allow for more collaborative meeting planning.</p> <p>Budget Update</p> <p>A comprehensive budget report will be presented at next month's meeting, allowing time for expenses from the annual conference to be finalized.</p> <p>The next OEWG meeting will focus on launching new working groups and finalizing administrative documentation for ward engagement.</p>		
<p>Supervisor Update</p>	<p>Student and Family Support Office</p> <p>The new office officially launched on January 19th with a mandate to act as a problem-solving hub for families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The office saw a high volume of inquiries, starting with 70 on the first day and stabilizing to 30–40 daily. • The primary focus is resolving school-level issues. A ticket-number system, though specific outcomes will depend on the unique merits of each case. • Reporting & Transparency: Board to work with the Ministry to publish general statistics on call volumes, response times, and satisfaction levels. <p>Budget Consultations</p> <p>The consultation framework is being finalized and will be shared with the broader community shortly.</p>		

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	<p>The consultation process will be made as accessible as possible to all families.</p> <p>Specialized Programs Application Results</p> <p>The new application process data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Eligible: 5,372 applicants. • Ineligible: 537 (primarily due to not meeting grade benchmarks). <p>Offers were determined by a mix of previous report card results (30%) and a demonstration of knowledge and skills (70%).</p> <p>Offer Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1: February 11th (aligned with out-of-area admission offers). • Round 2: February 18th. • Round 3: February 25th. <p>Board Policy notes that families cannot stack offers; if they receive both an out-of-area spot and a specialized program spot, they must choose one.</p> <p>Discussion: Equity and Access Concerns</p> <p>Members raised concerns that the new system might exclude students who aren't where they need to be between grades 8 and 9, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Board to provide a formal response to a list of questions previously submitted by PIAC.</p>		

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Staff Update	<p>The staff report focused on actionable responses to PIAC recommendations,</p> <p>1. Exit Survey for Departing Families A new process to track and understand why families leave the TDSB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new field has been added to the PowerSchool Student Management System to flag departing students and their destinations monthly. • Departing families will receive a voluntary two-question survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Question 1: Options include school climate, academic programming, safety/well-being, experiences of bias/discrimination, Special Education/IEP support, or choosing private/homeschooling. o Question 2: An open-ended box for additional experiences the TDSB could learn from. <p>Data Usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from the exit survey will be generated every June for the Executive Council (TDSB senior leadership). <p>2. Food Handling and Student Nutrition Programs (SNPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per regulation: SNPs are legally classified as "food premises" and must comply with the Ontario Food Premises Regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent foodborne illness, every SNP must have at least one volunteer or supervisor on-site who is food handler certified during every hour of operation. • Programs with certified handlers are permitted to offer a wider variety of food and beverages. <p>3. Support for Newcomer and Newly Registered Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TDSB website's "Newcomer Information" pieces will be made more prevalent. 		

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	<p>Automated registration messages will now include direct links to navigation services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are working with schools to provide hard copies of navigation guides for families who may have limited digital access. <p>Discussion: Board coordinating with Immigration Canada to provide these information packages to families before they even arrive in the country to ensure a smoother transition.</p> <p>4. Tax Receipts for Donations Staff are currently exploring the technical feasibility and cost of using School Cash Online to automatically tabulate donation information so that school councils can ensure parents receive tax receipts for eligible donations.</p> <p>Staff Responses to PIAC Staff confirmed that, moving forward, written responses to PIAC motions and questions will be included as an appendix to the agenda and subsequently attached to the official meeting minutes.</p>		
New Business	None		
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn the meeting was passed, and the meeting concluded at 9:35 PM.		