

WORKING GROUP REPORT

Membership

Date: January 27, 2026

Co-leads: Emily Abrahams and Andrew Waters

DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

To support PIAC representatives and parent/caregiver members to encourage active participation in PIAC purpose “to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.”

UPDATE

PIAC Membership Dashboard – January 27, 2026

Item		#	Comments	
A	Committee Seats	50	44 Ward Co-representatives (WCR), 1 Community Group Representative (CLGR), 5 Officers and 0 Ex officio members)	
B	Voting Members	43	37 WCR, 1 CLGR, 5 Officers	
C	Vacancies	7	Reason for Vacancy: 0 Term Ended, 5 Resignation, 2 Declared Vacant	
D	Quorum	17	40% of voting members +1 (round down)	
E	Votes Available per Regular Motion	28	One vote per Ward, one vote per CLGR, one vote per officers, and one vote for ex officio members): 22+1+5+0	
F	Newly Re-/Elected or Appointed Members	19	18 members were seated at the December 16, 2025 meeting following elections in the following 9 Wards (two members per Ward): 2, 3, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22. 1 Community Group Representative for MOTiVAtE was appointed at the December 16, 2025 meeting.	
G	Upcoming Ward Elections	8	Elections will be held in February/March for the following Wards where there are either 1 or 2 vacancies existing: 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14 and 20.	
H	Officers	5	Co-chairs: Sarah Ali and Katrina Matheson; Treasurer: Mercy Charles; Secretary: Andrew Waters; and Officer At-large: Prasanna Jagannathan	
I	Working Groups (WG) [Descriptions] https://torontopiac.com/get-involved/#piac-meetings			
	Type	Name	Co-leads	Next Meeting
	Governance (open to voting members)	Strategic Planning	Mercy Charles & Aaron Kucharczuk	Thursday, Feb 26 @8pm
		Membership	Emily Abrahams & Andrew Waters	Tuesday, Feb 17 @7:30pm
		Operational Effectiveness	Kaydeen Bankasingh & Prasanna Jagannathan	Monday, Feb 16 @7:30pm
	Non-governance (open to all parents/ caregivers of TDSB & community members)	School Council Support	Crystal Steward & Farheen Mahmood	Tuesday, Feb 10 @7:30pm
		Consultations	Susan Lee (Interim) & Nicole Wu	Thursday, Feb 12 @7:30pm
		Events	Tanya Ono & Moosa Alloo	Wednesday, Jan 28 @7:30pm
		Communications	Susan Lee & VACANT	Thursday, Feb 19 @7:30pm

Sign Ups:

- PIAC WG Sign-up for 2025-2026: All current PIAC and parent/caregivers of the TDSB and community members can register their interest in joining specific Working Groups using the PIAC WG Sign-up Google Form ([2025-26 Working Group Sign-up Form](#)). One must re-register every fall for continuing or new WGs.
- PIAC Whatsapp group chats: email andrew.waters.piac@gmail.com for access.

PIAC Membership WG Meeting – January 13, 2026, at 7:30pm via Zoom

Present (9): Andrew Waters, Emily Abrahams, Katrina Matheson, Moosa Anwar Alloo, Nicole Di Wu, Prasanna Jagannathan, Vimuththan Nantheeswarar, Majda Eltayan, Neerajah Ponnampalam, Noel Morgan, Olivia Hetherman, Rahel Gettu and Latha John (staff); Regrets (0): N/A; Absent (0): N/A

Minutes (Generated by LLM (AI) and edited by Co-leads)

Summary: The meeting discussed the recent election process, noting hiccups with bio submissions and voting timelines. Highlighted was the need for a smoother process and better communication. Concerns raised about the use of personal emails and the lack of TDSB email access. The working group agreed to conduct elections in February to fill all vacancies. The working group also proposed creating an advocacy working group to support policy and system level issues, as well as provide an opportunity to have sub-working groups to represent different community groups of parents/caregivers focused around specific area of interest in support student achievement and well being. The need for targeted WhatsApp groups for working groups was emphasized to improve communication and reduce volunteer workload and time.

- **Co-lead Andrew Waters calls the meeting to order at 7:45pm.**

Election Post-Mortem

- The election process was discussed, noting hiccups with bio submissions and timelines, but overall, the election was successful as there is representation across all wards and no formal complaints have been received.
- New member shared their experience as a candidate, highlighting confusion about the voting process and the discrepancy in voting frequency.
- Concerns about communication issues, noting that some candidates did not receive information from the school board.
- Concern about the deadline being extended for bios submission and to vote extension.
- Co-leads contextualizes the decision to extend the bio submission deadline, explaining the short window given and the potential harm of sticking to the original deadline. The need for flexibility in the election process, considering the context of the current governance structure.
- Member supports the idea of conducting elections to ensure fair representation and avoid the perception of appointments.
- A challenge is the historical context of PIAC and complicated eligibility requirements for candidates: 1) Are a parent/guardian of a student in the TDSB and 2) either: a) having a child who attends a school in the Ward, b) live in the Ward, or c) having a child that lives in the Ward. This makes it administratively difficult to conduct the election including validating candidate eligibility and ensure that appropriate communication reach eligible parents/caregivers for candidacy and voting purposes.
- The working group agrees to move forward with the proposed election process, with a focus on improving communication and adhering to bylaws.
- **Motion: That the PIAC Co-representative elections being conducted in February fill all available vacancies, whether the Ward has one vacancy or two vacancies.** Moved by Andrew Waters. Seconded by Vimuththan Nantheeswarar. Adopted by consensus to move to PIAC general meeting on January 27, 2026.

Challenges with Communication and Governance

- Member raises concerns about the use of personal emails instead of TDSB emails for communication, highlighting issues with accountability and security.
- Member criticizes the governance structure, concerned that PIAC leadership is not responding to emails in a timely manner and not following proper procedures.
- Co-lead responds, explaining the challenges faced by volunteers and the need for regular elections to maintain accountability.
- Members express the importance of maintaining respect and collegiality within the group, emphasizing the need for constructive communication.

New Member Orientation and WhatsApp Group Management

- Co-lead and PCCEO staff discuss the upcoming new member orientation, scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, and the importance of providing necessary documents and training.
- The group considers the need for a separate session to cover practical aspects of volunteering, such as meeting attendance and working group responsibilities.
- Co-leads propose creating targeted WhatsApp groups for each working group to manage communication more effectively. The working group agrees that the new group chats can be created.
- The working group agrees to maintain the existing WhatsApp group for new members to stay informed and add new members to the group chats.

Advocacy Working Group Proposal

- Co-lead proposes creating an advocacy working group to support new policy and system-level issues, with sub-working groups for community advisory committees.
- Member endorses the idea, emphasizing the need for a structured mechanism to bring forward new policy ideas and support community engagement.
- The group discusses the potential inclusion of French Immersion representation in the advocacy working group.
- **Motion: 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 to represent different community groups of parents/caregivers focused around specific area of interest in support student achievement and well being.** Moved by Andrew Waters. Seconded by Moosa Anwar Alloo. Adopted by consensus to move to PIAC general meeting on January 27, 2026.
- **Motion: To adjourn (9:00pm).** Moved by Moosa Anwar Alloo. Seconded by Vimuththan Nantheeswarar. Adopted by consensus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the PIAC Co-representative elections being conducted in February fill all available vacancies, whether the Ward has one vacancy or two vacancies.
2. 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 to represent different community groups of parents/caregivers focused around specific area of interest in support student achievement and well being.

QUESTION(S)

- None

NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS

- Ensure PIAC Parent Co-representative elections start in February for remaining vacancies.
- Develop guidelines for WhatsApp group chats to support effective and respectful discussions

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – PIAC Membership 2025-2026 (January 27, 2026)

Position/Ward	PIAC Member	Term End Date	Email
Officers			
Co-Chair	Sarah Ali	1 st Meeting Fall 2026	info@torontopiac.com PIAC.Chair@tdsb.on.ca
	Katrina Matheson	1 st Meeting Fall 2027	
Treasurer	Mercy Charles	1 st Meeting Fall 2026	
Secretary	Andrew Waters	1 st Meeting Fall 2026	andrew.waters.piac@gmail.com
Officer At-large	Prasanna Jagannathan	1 st Meeting Fall 2026	
Ward Co-Representatives			
1	Nabil Hadbun	November 2026	PIAC.Ward01@tdsb.on.ca
2	Noel Morgan	December 2027	PIAC.Ward02@tdsb.on.ca
	Uthman Quick	December 2027	
3	Maira Riaz	December 2027	PIAC.Ward03@tdsb.on.ca
	Rehab Aly	December 2027	
4	Tamasha Grant	November 2026	PIAC.Ward04@tdsb.on.ca
5	Carly Cohen	April 2027	PIAC.Ward05@tdsb.on.ca
	Aaron Kucharczuk	April 2027	
6	Crystal Stewart	November 2026*	PIAC.Ward06@tdsb.on.ca
7	Emily Abrahams	January 2027	PIAC.Ward07@tdsb.on.ca
8	Kaydeen Bankasingh	February 2026	PIAC.Ward08@tdsb.on.ca
	Anshu Grover	February 2026	
9	Frida (Gili) Zemer	March 2027	PIAC.Ward09@tdsb.on.ca
	Sarah Brager	March 2027	
10	Mark Unger	March 2027	PIAC.Ward10@tdsb.on.ca
11	Reem Al Jabi	December 2027	PIAC.Ward11@tdsb.on.ca
	Hilla Gutman	December 2027	
12	Susan Lee	October 2026	PIAC.Ward12@tdsb.on.ca
	Nicole Di Wu	October 2026	
13	Majda Eltayan	December 2027	PIAC.Ward13@tdsb.on.ca
	Colleen Harper	December 2027	
14	Mohammad Saleem Khan	November 2026	PIAC.Ward14@tdsb.on.ca
15	Kristen Boyd	October 2027	PIAC.Ward15@tdsb.on.ca
	Farheen Mahmood	October 2027	
16	Mercedes Lee and	December 2027	PIAC.Ward16@tdsb.on.ca

	Marycarmen Lara Villanueva	December 2027	
17	Tanya Ono	February 2027	PIAC.Ward17@tdsb.on.ca
	Thanuja Sankar	February 2027	
18	Olivia Hetherman	December 2027	PIAC.Ward18@tdsb.on.ca
	Marissa Hill	December 2027	
19	Moosa Anwar Alloo	December 2027	PIAC.Ward19@tdsb.on.ca
	Chantal Gayle	December 2027	
20	Christopher Levien	January 2026	PIAC.Ward20@tdsb.on.ca
21	Sundus Meer	December 2027	PIAC.Ward21@tdsb.on.ca
	Neerajah Ponnampalam	December 2027	
22	Vimuththan Nantheeswarar	December 2027	PIAC.Ward22@tdsb.on.ca
	Jennifer Sparks	December 2027	
Community Group Representatives			
MOTiVAtE	Rahel Gettu	June 2027	

*Or until an election is held, switch ever occurs first as per 3.1.8(a)(ii) Term of Office for Acting Appointments