

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	School Council Support WG
Meeting Dates	February 11, 2026
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>Goal 1: Become a trusted source of information for families and caregivers Focus: Equip PIAC reps to support and engage school councils effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Train PIAC reps in advocacy, engagement, and communications ● Build relationships with school councils, trustees, and communities ● Establish peer mentorship and learning circles <p>Goal 2: Increase awareness of PIAC across the system Focus: Strengthen visibility and connections with families and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host trustee-supported roundtables and parent forums ● Co-host community events with schools ● Support regular PIAC engagement with school councils <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Maintain consistent communication with councils and administrators</p> <p>Goal 3: Support school councils in their engagement and advocacy Focus: Reduce barriers and strengthen council capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide training on engagement, advocacy, and policy ● Distribute Welcome Packages and advocacy toolkits ● Offer childcare, translation, and accessibility supports ● Provide mentorship for councils facing challenges ● Facilitate ward-level networking and peer support ● Support flexible and virtual engagement options <p>Goal 4: Ensuring Clear Operational Effectiveness and Communication Among PIAC Representatives</p> <p>No School Council Support WG initiatives assigned</p> <p>PIAC Work Plan - School Council Support Group</p>
Meeting recap	

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	<p>The School Council Working Group meeting focused on several key topics, including the need to revive the school council survey with TDSB and approaches to creating online content for school councils. Members discussed concerns about transparency and accountability at specific schools, particularly Bowmore, Eastdale, and Heydon Park, and discussed how PIAC should respond to these issues. The group also evaluated the recent Feb 7th conference, with participants suggesting improvements such as shorter duration, a hybrid format, and better networking opportunities between PIAC members and school council chairs.</p>
Updates	<p>School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The working group discussed the need to formally submit the School Council Innovation Grant report to TDSB and to request a written response and/or a meeting with the Parent and Community Care and Engagement Office (PCCEO).• The report was informally introduced at the PIAC General Meeting on January 27, 2026.• PCCEO has expressed interest in further discussion of the report. <p>School Council Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members discussed advancing stalled work on the required system-wide School Council Survey, in alignment with PR558 – Parent and Community Involvement, which requires periodic surveys to assess school council effectiveness and identify areas where system-level support is needed.• Background context reviewed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The survey was intended as a collaborative initiative between TDSB and PIAC.○ Survey design work was underway but stalled in 2025.○ At the January 27, 2026 meeting, PCCEO indicated there were “no plans” to launch the survey.○ The last system-wide school council survey was conducted approximately 10 years ago.• Given the importance of the survey to understanding the health and functioning of school councils, PIAC will formally request that PCCEO either revive the work or allow PIAC to pursue the survey independently.• Members noted the need to modernize the survey, including questions related to technology and Chromebook-related pressures experienced by school councils. <p>Communication Concerns</p>

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- The group discussed creating timely, practical online content in response to recurring school council questions raised through social media and other channels, such as:
 - What technology is required to support hybrid school council meetings?
 - Can school councils continue to collaborate with principals on School Improvement Plans (SIP) while the board is under supervision?
- Members discussed posting short, accessible content (e.g., explainers on SIPs, hybrid meetings, or council roles) on the PIAC website and social media, and tracking engagement and impact.
- Interested members may:
 - Be added as PIAC Facebook administrators, or
 - Share drafted web or email content with the Communications Working Group.
- Internal communication challenges within the working group were noted, including inconsistent platform usage. To improve coordination, members suggested:
 - Using TDSB email for formal communications, and
 - Using the WhatsApp group for time-sensitive or in-the-moment updates.

Supporting Local Needs for Transparency and Accountability

- Members discussed concerns at Bowmore, Eastdale, and Heydon Park, including:
 - Situations where school councils are ignored by school administration, and
 - Schools where there is no active school council.
- The group discussed the broader question of how and when PIAC should intervene when local school community needs are not being addressed.
- A draft letter outlining concerns and recommendations to TDSB and the Supervisor was proposed.
 - The draft includes a background section to support members who may be unfamiliar with the issues.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A link to the draft was shared, and members were invited to review and provide comments ahead of potential PIAC endorsement. <p>Ready, Set, Engage – February 7, 2026 Event Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feedback was shared regarding the format and structure of the February 7 event. ● Suggested improvements for future events included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shortening the overall duration, ○ Offering a hybrid participation option, ○ Creating opportunities for ward-based networking, and ○ Incorporating more interactive, roundtable, and problem-solving sessions.
<p>Motion(s)</p>	<p>Motion 1: To formally submit the School Council Innovation Grant report to TDSB and request a written response and/or a meeting to discuss the report and its recommendations.</p> <p>Motion 2: To request a formal response on the status of the School Council Survey, including a commitment to resume work on the survey in collaboration with PIAC and to establish a clear timeline for completion.</p> <p>Motion 3: To address decisions imposed on school communities without local consultation, including issues at Bowmore, by sending a letter from PIAC regarding transparency and accountability concerns. (Note: The draft motion remains open for comment until February 17, 2026.)</p>
<p>Next Steps and Action items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare a clear summary/cover note for the proposed letter regarding Bowmore, Eastdale, and Heydon Park, outlining key issues to support informed discussion and potential PIAC endorsement. ● Review the School Council Working Group draft letter to the Board/Ministry and provide comments and feedback. ● Share feedback from the February 7 Ready, Set, Engage event with the Special Events Working Group. ● Finalize motions related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The School Council Innovation Grant,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The School Council Survey, and ○ The proposed letter to TDSB and the Supervisor. ● Refer the proposed motion to improve ward member email communications to the Communications Working Group, as it falls within their mandate. ● Create a subcommittee to review the new School Council Strategic Work Plan and Working Group goals.
Co-lead(s)	Crystal Stewart (W6), Farheen Mahmood (W15)
Working Group Members	<p><u>Feb 11, 2026</u> Present: Tamasha Grant (W4), Vimuththan Nantheeswarar (W 22), Mercedes Lee, Kaydeen, Katrina Matheson (PIAC Co-Chair), Rehab Aly (W3), Neerajah Ponnampalam (W21), Sundus Meer (W21), Reem Al Jabi (W11)i, Majda Eltayan (W13), Noel Morgan (W2), Maira Riaz (W3), Marycarmen Lara Villanueva (W16), Sarah Brager (W9), Andrew Waters (PIAC Secretary)</p> <p>Parent Participants: Dee</p> <p>Regrets: Mark Unger (W10), Olivia Hetherman (W18)</p>