

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	School Council Support WG
Meeting Dates	March 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No School Council Support WG initiatives assigned <p>PIAC Work Plan - School Council Support Group</p>

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<p>Meeting recap</p>	<p>Members reviewed the School Council Working Group strategic goals and work plan, focusing on foundational activities such as training, establishing reliable communication channels, and developing a school council welcome package. The group also addressed challenges with School Improvement Planning (SIP), including inconsistent implementation and limited parent involvement, and identified a role for the working group in helping school councils better understand and engage with the SIP process. A reference document outlining a principal's responsibilities when engaging with communities, including school councils and PIAC, was also shared.</p>
<p>Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Council Contacts: Members discussed the challenge of contacting school council chairs and the importance of obtaining updated school council contact information when attending local school council meetings. • Ward Outreach Funding: Each ward has \$500 available to support outreach activities; however, vendors must be board-approved in order for expenses to be reimbursed. • PIAC Mentorship: Members were encouraged to sign up as PIAC mentors or mentees to support learning and collaboration among representatives. • Meeting Time Adjustment: Working group meeting times were adjusted to 7:30 p.m. to accommodate Ramadan, though it was noted that the timing still falls very close to iftaar. • Strategic Goals and Work Plan: The School Council Working Group strategic goals and work plan were presented, including a three-phase implementation approach. The remainder of the school year will focus on foundation-building activities, such as helping members understand their roles through PIAC training, establishing clear communication channels, and developing a school council welcome package for the next school year. • Reference Document: A reference document outlining a principal's responsibilities when engaging with communities, including school councils and PIAC, was shared: https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/97/995.pdf • School Council Engagement: A document with recommendations for improving school council engagement, with an emphasis on family participation and newcomer engagement, was shared with the group. • School Improvement Planning (SIP): Members discussed inconsistent implementation of School Improvement Planning, including limited parent involvement, lack of understanding of the process, and the removal of the equity pillar from measurable metrics. It was suggested that SIP become a standing item on school council agendas, and that the working group help educate school councils about the SIP process.
<p>Next Steps and Action items</p>	<p>Strategic work plan execution for the next 3 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Share mentorship plan (Mercy) <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up to become a mentor or mentee <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up for PIAC training (everyone) <input type="checkbox"/> Build email contact list; share regular updates with school councils (everyone) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend school council meetings and introduce PIAC's role (everyone) <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a school council welcome/package for new school councils, which includes SIP information (TBD, a sub-committee of SC WG members) <input type="checkbox"/> Consider organizing a ward event (\$500 per year, per ward is available) <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Form a subcommittee (2-3 SC WG members) to create a School Council welcome package which would include SIP information. <input type="checkbox"/> Distill key points/recommendations from the draft school council governance proposal into a problem/solution table for sharing with TDSB.(Vim)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with ward event organizers (Mark Unger, Rahel Gettu) about their ward outreach event on March 25. What worked, lessons learned, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> For those interested in organizing ward events: Latha can share the board-approved vendor list or assist in identifying approved vendors. <input type="checkbox"/> Tell school councils that principals have received staffing numbers and they should ask to be involved in class model conversations. <input type="checkbox"/> Create a folder with useful Q&As (e.g. Mercy's recent school council finance related response). <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Request timeline for publication of SC motions to PIAC website <input type="checkbox"/> Get TDSB response about the School Council Innovation Grant report <input type="checkbox"/> Get TDSB response about reestablishing the School Council Survey.
<p>Co-lead(s)</p>	<p>Crystal Stewart (W6), Farheen Mahmood (W15)</p>
<p>Working Group Members</p>	<p><u>March 11, 2026</u> Present: Maira Riaz (W3), Rehab Aly (W3), Tamasha Grant (W4), Mercy Charles (W06), Sarah Ali (Co-Chair), Majda Eltayan (W13), Vimuththan Nantheeswarar (W22), Neerajah Ponnampalam (W21), Sundus Meer (W21), Reem Al Jabi (W11), Sarah Brager (W9), Noel Morgan (W2), Olivia Hetherman (W18), Crystal Stewart (W06), Katrina Matheson (Co-Chair), Kristen Boyd (W16), Gili Zemer (W9), Rahel Gettu (CLG), Farheen Mahmood (W16), Emily Abrahams (W07)</p> <p>Parent Participants: D. Williams</p> <p>Regrets: None</p>