

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>School Council Support WG</b>
<b>Meeting Dates</b>	<b>April 21, 2026</b>
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>
<b>Strategic Work Plan and Working Group Goals</b>	<p><b>Goal 1: Become a trusted source of information for families and caregivers</b>  <b>Focus:</b> Equip PIAC reps to support and engage school councils effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Train PIAC reps in advocacy, engagement, and communications</li> <li>● Build relationships with school councils, trustees, and communities</li> <li>● Establish peer mentorship and learning circles</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal 2: Increase awareness of PIAC across the system</b>  <b>Focus:</b> Strengthen visibility and connections with families and schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Host trustee-supported roundtables and parent forums</li> <li>● Co-host community events with schools</li> <li>● Support regular PIAC engagement with school councils  Maintain consistent communication with councils and administrators</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal 3: Support school councils in their engagement and advocacy</b>  <b>Focus:</b> Reduce barriers and strengthen council capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide training on engagement, advocacy, and policy</li> <li>● Distribute Welcome Packages and advocacy toolkits</li> <li>● Offer childcare, translation, and accessibility supports</li> <li>● Provide mentorship for councils facing challenges</li> <li>● Facilitate ward-level networking and peer support</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support flexible and virtual engagement options</li> </ul> <p><b>Goal 4: Ensuring Clear Operational Effectiveness and Communication Among PIAC Representatives</b></p> <p>No School Council Support WG initiatives assigned</p> <p><a href="#">PIAC Work Plan - School Council Support Group</a></p>
<b>Meeting recap</b>	<p>The School Council Support Working Group meeting focused on updates related to school council advocacy, outreach, and parent engagement initiatives across the TDSB. Members discussed progress on the School Council Survey motion and the School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG), including ongoing engagement with TDSB staff regarding implementation and planning for the next grant cycle.</p> <p>The group reviewed a recent ward outreach event and ways to improve parent engagement and communication with school councils. Members also discussed upcoming TDSB budget consultations, the impact of recent legislative changes proposed through Bill 101, including concerns regarding funding and transparency for Model Schools.</p> <p>Additional discussions focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthening communication and accessibility supports for families, particularly multilingual communities;</li> <li>• creating a welcoming school council toolkit/resource package for new and existing councils;</li> <li>• concerns regarding the elimination of mandatory school climate surveys;</li> <li>• principal accountability, transparency - using PIAC in principal interviews or to help create accountability mechanisms;</li> <li>• Clarifying the role of superintendents in school council as mediator not decision maker - following a recent legal ruling; and</li> <li>• concerns regarding alternative schools and possible closures.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting concluded with discussion on improving communication between PIAC representatives, school councils, and parent communities, and encouraging broader participation in the working group.</p>
<b>Updates</b>	<p>Update provided on the School Council Survey motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TDSB is now considering the survey after previously indicating there were no plans to conduct one since 2016.</li> <li>• Ongoing discussions continue regarding implementation and feedback opportunities.</li> </ul>

Update provided on the School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG):

- TDSB staff agreed to meet with the working group regarding feedback on the grant program.

Ward outreach and parent engagement activities discussed:

- Members shared experiences organizing outreach events in wards.
- Outreach events focused on parent concerns, PIAC awareness, and gathering feedback to inform recommendations.
- Mercy noted that PIAC funds must be utilized by June, and discussed how unspent funds from the previous year were redistributed through a PIAC grant program that provided \$500 grants to 10 schools.

Concerns raised regarding reduced transparency at some schools:

- Members discussed the elimination of access to enrollment and staffing information needed for meaningful school council consultation.

Bill 101 and 2026-2027 budget concerns:

- A 50% reduction in trustee representation and compensation.
- Submitting comments through the provincial regulatory registry process.
- Concerns regarding the elimination of mandatory school climate surveys
- Removal of the Learning Opportunities Grant funding to model schools
- Upcoming budget presentation by the TDSB as an opportunity to get further insight

Parent and school council engagement discussed:

- Members identified language barriers and the need for simplified, accessible, and translated school council resources.
- Members discussed improving awareness and accessibility of PIAC resources, including the website, newsletter, and Facebook page.
- Finding new ways to improve engagement such as a discussion board on PIAC's website.
- Need identified for stronger communication within wards, including regular PIAC ward updates and information sharing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Importance emphasized of PIAC representatives building connections with school councils and serving as points of contact for guidance and support.</li> <li>● Developing a toolkit to build PIAC awareness and support school council engagement.</li> </ul> <p>Equity committee discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members discussed approaches to establishing school-level equity committees.</li> </ul> <p>Principal accountability concerns discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members discussed concerns about principal responsiveness, improving principal transparency, and the possibility of leveraging PIAC for principal interviews or creating accountability mechanisms.</li> </ul> <p>Clarification provided regarding superintendent roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion focused on the role of superintendents as mediators rather than decision-makers in school council disputes following a recent legal ruling.</li> </ul> <p>Alternative school concerns raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members requested further discussion regarding possible alternative school closures at a future meeting.</li> </ul>
<p>Motion(s)</p>	<p><b>NA</b></p>
<p><b>Next Steps and Action items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All interested members provide feedback to Crystal regarding the School Council Innovation Grant before the meeting with TDSB.</li> <li>● Mark to share outreach event resources and materials with members interested in organizing ward outreach events.</li> <li>● Majda and Victoria to connect regarding outreach and engagement efforts in Ward 13.</li> <li>● Reem and Maira to begin development of a school council welcome package for next school year and consult WG members for feedback.</li> <li>● Add “possible closure of alternative schools” to the agenda for the next meeting.</li> <li>● Members were encouraged to submit comments regarding Bill 101 through the provincial regulatory registry before the May 13 deadline.</li> <li>● Gili and interested members to explore implications of recent rulings related to superintendent and parent council roles and provide updates to the group.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members interested in principal accountability and transparency initiatives to connect with Mark regarding potential next steps and approaches.</li> <li>● Jody to follow up with Mark regarding establishing a school council equity committee.</li> <li>● Mercy to follow up regarding the previous working group document related to principal concerns/issues.</li> <li>● Join School Council WG using the <a href="#">PIAC website google form</a></li> </ul>
<b>Co-lead(s)</b>	Crystal Stewart (W6), Farheen Mahmood (W15)
<b>Working Group Members</b>	<p><b>Present:</b> Maira Riaz (W3), Mercy Charles (W6), Crystal Stewart (W6), Reem Jabi (W11), Majda Eltayan (W13), Chantal Gayle (W19), Mark Unger (W10), Gili Zemer (W9), Sarah Ali (PIAC co-chair), Mercy Charles (PIAC treasurer)</p> <p><b>Parent Participants:</b> Laura, Jody</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b></p>