

To: TDSB Planning and Priorities Committee

From: TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016, 5 p.m.

Location: Committee Room A, Main Floor, 5050 Yonge Street

Subject: **DELEGATION REGARDING REPORT NO. 03-16-2764
REVISIONS TO P068 ACCOMMODATION AND PROGRAM REVIEW POLICY**

Dear Trustees:

Thank you for inviting PIAC delegates to provide comments, suggestions and recommendations regarding the revisions of Policy 068 at the focus group on Monday, November 30, 2015. It is a very important piece of parent engagement and we appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the process.

We are aware that the TDSB French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC) submitted several recommended changes to the policy and procedures and PIAC would like to reaffirm our agreement and support of the FSLAC with their recommendations.

AUTHORITY PIAC makes the following recommendations to the Trustees of the Toronto District School Board, Planning and Priorities Committee, pursuant to the authority of the *Education Act, Ontario Regulation 612/00 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees, last amendment: O. Reg. 330/10.*

RECOMMENDATIONS **IT IS RECOMMENDED that the revisions to policy P068 Accommodation and Program Review, as shown in Appendix A of Report No. 03-16-2764, incorporate the following:**

1. Involving Community Advisory Committees (CACs) and the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) to assist in bringing an informed perspective to the accommodation and program review process.
2. Ensuring that communication with the community is clearly defined in the policy with respect to plain language, availability of translations and looking for other information channels besides the TDSB website to allow for greater accessibility.
3. Gathering feedback from parent participants (including ARC members, school council participants, and delegations) who have been involved in recent Accommodation and Program Reviews (ARCs), with regard to process,

communication, meetings and timelines. This will help to ensure consistent process and identify best practices.

4. Given PIAC's mandate to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board level, recommend a formalized role PIAC in P068. As such, it is recommended that PIAC members are more involved in the process and be included in the "Summary Chart" as a resource for comment under "Process to be Followed" section (beginning on Page 12 of 36 of Appendix A of Report No. 03-16-2764). Currently, PIAC Representatives and Alternates of TDSB wards are not informed when an ARC is taking place in their ward.
5. It is recommended that P068 be approached in a more open, positive, and inclusive manner that uses effective and accessible communication methods so that all TDSB parents/guardians can be a part of and have access to the process.

RATIONALE

On 26 March 2015, the Ministry of Education revised an important guideline that impacts all Ontario school boards including TDSB. The new guideline, the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline, was effective upon release and replaced the previous version dated 26 June 2009.

RESOURCES

- Education Act, Ontario Regulation 612/00 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees, last amendment: O. Reg. 330/10.

PIAC remains committed to its role at TDSB and is open to further discussion of its involvement in this process.

We look forward to the TDSB Trustees' support of PIAC in effectively pursuing its mandate of supporting, encouraging and enhancing parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

Sincerely,



D. Williams,
TDSB PIAC Co-Chair

cc: All PIAC Members
John Malloy, TDSB Director of Education