

## PIAC Working Group REPORT

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>PIAC Parent Conference 2016</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>December 1, 2016</b>
Description/Objective	<p>PIAC hosts an annual Parents Make a Difference Conference each year in the fall. The goal of the conference is to promote and support parent involvement and engagement in their children’s education.</p> <p>The conference offers workshops, networking, and information from various educational organizations to all parents/guardians with children in the TDSB. The workshops cover elementary, secondary, and school council subjects that are of interest to parents.</p> <p>Childminding, transportation, and translation services are offered.</p> <p>More information is available by contacting <a href="mailto:info@torontopiac.com">info@torontopiac.com</a></p> <p><b>Date:</b> Saturday, November 19, 2016  <b>Time:</b> 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  <b>Location:</b> Earl Haig Secondary School  100 Princess Avenue  <a href="#">Map</a></p>
Update	<p>Working group met on the following dates: July 3, September 8, October 6, October 27, and November 14.</p> <p><b>Theme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities and Parents Partnering for Student Achievement</li> </ul> <p><b>Workshops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per PIAC planning session in June 2018, more school council workshops will be offered this year.</li> <li>• List of planned workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What About Math?</li> <li>○ Secondary &amp; Post-Secondary Pathways and Transitions</li> <li>○ My Blueprint</li> <li>○ French Programs in the TDSB</li> <li>○ Specialized Programs in the TDSB</li> <li>○ Financial Literacy</li> <li>○ Science, Technology, Engineering, And Math (STEM)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special Education - The Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Individual Placement Review Committee (IPRC) Process</li> <li>○ Supporting Literacy at Home With Your Early Learner</li> <li>○ (Kindergarten to Grade 3)</li> <li>○ School Councils 101</li> <li>○ Engaging Parents in School Councils</li> <li>○ School Councils - A Discussion Of Problems and Solutions</li> <li>○ (This Year Will Include One Session Focused On High Schools)</li> <li>○ School Councils – Communications 101</li> <li>○ School Councils - Fundraising</li> <li>○ School Councils – Working With Your Principal</li> <li>○ Community Use of Schools</li> <li>○ Schoolyard Greening Projects/Outdoor Classrooms</li> <li>○ Homework Help – Online Math Tutoring</li> </ul> <p><b>Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Networking session will be run again this year during the lunchtime session.</li> <li>● Keynote speaker: Jennifer Kolari</li> <li>● Minister of Education (via video only) TDSB chair, and Director brought greetings during opening remarks.</li> <li>● Out-going PIAC members were acknowledged during the opening remarks by PIAC co-chairs, Director Malloy, and Board Chair Pilkey.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● \$20,000 approved at the September PIAC general meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Registration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Went live week of October 12 and closed November 11. Link to registration: <a href="http://www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference">www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference</a></li> <li>● Childminding, transportation, and translation services available by online registration only.</li> <li>● Online registration:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Total adult attending all day: 358</li> <li>○ Total kids: 165</li> <li>○ Total special needs kids: 10</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Walk in registration was accepted.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flyers and letter to principals were sent to all TDSB schools in October.</li> <li>• TDSB communication plan included notices to trustees and staff, Directline, website, and social media.</li> <li>• PIAC communications included Facebook pages (PIAC and TDSB School Councils), PIAC website, newsflash, Twitter, and an email to all PIAC reps asking them to forward flyer and information via any channels they use within their wards (e.g. ward forums, SAC meetings, newsletters, etc.).</li> </ul> <p><b>Catering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working group decided to use the same caterers as last year (no other quotes were provided).</li> <li>• TDSB Food Services will cater the adult breakfast and lunch. Original plan: 250 for breakfast, 400 for lunch. Due to high registration numbers, breakfast was increased to 350, while lunch was kept at 400.</li> <li>• Food for Tots catered childminding breakfast. Pizza was ordered for the children’s lunch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rania coordinated student volunteers, with assistance from Heather. All student volunteers were required to register with Rania to receive student hours. An email with instructions and schedule went out to volunteers with information about training and set up on Friday night and duties during the conference. Only student volunteers who participated in both Friday and all-day Saturday received certificates.</li> <li>• All PIAC reps were asked to attend the event, participate in the networking session, and volunteer to help out during the event with registration, workshop note taking, etc. Volunteer sign-up sheet was handed out at the regular October and November PIAC meetings. Follow-up email was sent to all members who did not sign up or RSVP on Thursday, November 17. Number of PIAC members who attended the event was quite low.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Childminding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dagmar coordinated the childminding again this year. Quote for services was sent to PCEO office. Cost increased from \$900 for 2015 event to \$1200 for 2016 event.</li> <li>• PCEO hired childminders based on registration numbers: 185 children, 10 special needs children.</li> <li>• Student volunteers helped out in childminding and Dagmar also brought volunteers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vendors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All vendors were vetted by the PCEO office.</li> <li>• Next year: charge vendors for tables to cover rental costs?</li> </ul> <p><b>Information to put into bags</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bags, notepads, and pens were already in supply for this year's event and did not need to be ordered.</li> <li>• Information included in the bags:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Useful Links for Parents document</li> <li>○ Parent Concern Protocol</li> <li>○ FSLAC newsletter (supplied by FSLAC).</li> <li>○ Learning Centres information document</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program was not available at time of bag stuffing and copies were placed at registration tables instead.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working group created both an online and paper feedback form that covered general conference feedback on one side and workshop feedback on the back.</li> <li>• Feedback was very good for registration, workshops, marketplace, keynote speaker, and childminding. Food had mixed reviews. Bussing had mixed reviews (good feedback for busses that showed up, negative for those that were late/did not show). Feedback summary will be included in the online working group files.</li> <li>• Workshops with highest registration numbers:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What About Math?</li> <li>○ STEM</li> <li>○ Secondary and Post-secondary Pathways</li> <li>○ Specialized programs in the TDSB</li> <li>○ Special Education: IEP's and IPRC's.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small busses (capacity 18) were used this year, but two routes (Scarborough and DVP) were changed to larger busses due to high registration numbers (25 and 21 respectively).</li> <li>• Some busses were late, many parents were not picked up, and numbers actually on the buses were quite low (e.g. large bus that had 25 people registered only had 2 people on the bus when it showed up at the conference).</li> <li>• Working group will track numbers this year (if possible) and try to find a better way to balance costs vs. accessibility next year.</li> <li>• PCEO has contacted the bus company to discuss the bussing problems and find out what went wrong.</li> </ul> <p><b>Working group files</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All meeting files (agendas, meeting notes, reports, flyer, etc.) can be found in a Google folder at <a href="http://bit.ly/2cEIFwf">http://bit.ly/2cEIFwf</a></li> </ul>
Motion(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
Question(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we get more participation from PIAC members?</li> </ul>
Next Steps and Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use registration sign in sheets to determine actual participation rates (online registrants who signed in, walk in registrants, and number of children who signed in).</li> <li>• Follow-up working group meeting to take place on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Notes on this year's event and feedback from working group members and participants will be discussed and added to the online working group files.</li> <li>• Determine whether or not to charge vendors for tables at next year's event. Talk to business services to figure out how much is typically charged.</li> <li>• 2017 Conference working group should begin meeting in the spring of 2017.</li> <li>• Final budget numbers, bussing inquiry results, and any future feedback will be added to the final report, to be completed once this final information has been made available.</li> </ul>

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Co-lead(s) <i>(Name and Email Addresses)</i>	Heather Vickers – <a href="mailto:heatherv.piac@gmmail.com">heatherv.piac@gmmail.com</a> Trixie Doyle – <a href="mailto:trixie.doyle@rogers.com">trixie.doyle@rogers.com</a>
Working Group Members <i>(Name and Email Addresses)</i>	Tina Chan-Kim(Ward 3 Rep) - <a href="mailto:tchankim@graconsult.com">tchankim@graconsult.com</a> Sanaa Homsy (Ward 11 alt) <a href="mailto:sanahomsy_s@yahoo.com">sanahomsy_s@yahoo.com</a> Jess Hungate (Ward 8 rep) <a href="mailto:jhungate@rogers.com">jhungate@rogers.com</a> Michelle Munroe(PECO) <a href="mailto:Michelle.Munroe@tdsb.on.ca">Michelle.Munroe@tdsb.on.ca</a> D WILLIAMS (PIAC co-chair) <a href="mailto:dw_tdot@rogers.com">dw_tdot@rogers.com</a> Gazi Rahman (Ward 13 alt) <a href="mailto:gghrahman8@yahoo.ca">gghrahman8@yahoo.ca</a> Latha John (Committee assistant) <a href="mailto:Latha.John@tdsb.on.ca">Latha.John@tdsb.on.ca</a> Loen Hansford (Ward 7 rep) <a href="mailto:loen.hansford@gmail.com">loen.hansford@gmail.com</a> Mirian Turcios (Ward 6 alt) <a href="mailto:mirian.y.turcios@gmail.com">mirian.y.turcios@gmail.com</a> Nazerah Shaikh (Ward 13 rep) <a href="mailto:nazerah99@hotmail.com">nazerah99@hotmail.com</a> Rania Saleh (Ward 11 rep) <a href="mailto:saleh_rania@hotmail.com">saleh_rania@hotmail.com</a> Towhid Noman Toronto Bangladeshi CLG ) <a href="mailto:torontobpac@gmail.com">torontobpac@gmail.com</a> Wilmar Kortleever (PIAC co-chair) <a href="mailto:wilmar@kortleever.com">wilmar@kortleever.com</a> Mona Rozenblum (parent) <a href="mailto:monarv@rogers.com">monarv@rogers.com</a> Martiza Guzman (parent) <a href="mailto:Mmarti@scottmission.com">Mmarti@scottmission.com</a>