

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

February – May 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - SCHOOL CLOSURES

We wish everyone well during this unprecedented COVID-19 Pandemic. Schools have been closed since March 13 and today (May 19) the Ontario government announced schools will remain closed for the rest of this school year. This decision was made after consulting with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, health experts on the COVID-19 Command Table, and medical experts at The Hospital for Sick Children. Learn at Home with continue and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 will receive a June report card.

We encourage everyone to continue to focus on the mental health and well-being of their children, as families stay safe and healthy based on current reliable public health information.

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

- PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams attended the PSSC meeting on February 19, 2020 at 5050 Yonge Street (Committee Room A) and spoke to the PIAC Reports of December 17, 2019 and January 21, 2020.
- PIAC Co-Chairs Zena Shereck and D. Williams attended the PSSC meeting on May 6, 2020 via WebEx and spoke to the PIAC Reports of February 18, 2020 and March 10, 2020.
- On behalf of PIAC, the Co-Chairs also acknowledged and expressed thanks for the excellent work and support to PIAC by Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin; Associate Director, Colleen Russel-Rawlins; Michell Munroe, Central Coordinator, Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO); and Latha John, Committee Assistant.

The next PSSC meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 4:30pm.

NOTE: The agenda and the full reports received at all PSSC meetings are available on the TDSB website > <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes>

PIAC CO-CHAIRS TELECONFERENCE WITH TRUSTEE/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR/PCEO

The PIAC Co-Chairs continue to have check-in teleconference calls with Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin; the Director's delegate (Associate Director, Colleen Russel-Rawlins); and Michell Munroe (Central Coordinator, Parent and Community Engagement Office – PCEO).

TDSB POLICY CONSULTATIONS

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) is committed to open and inclusive policy decision-making and values community input and participation through consultation.

NOTE: Our PIAC Consultations Working Group makes recommendations to PIAC to enable PIAC to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level.

<p>Specialized Schools and Programs Policy</p>	<p>Draft New Policy [pdf]</p> <p>Objective:</p> <p>To affirm the Board's commitment to providing focused specialized programming in both local schools and in district-wide specialized schools or programs, and to improving access for all students to these programs.</p> <p>Learn more: https://www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Secondary-Program-Review</p> <p>Email: secondaryreview@tdsb.on.ca</p>	<p>Video: https://youtu.be/r2mTJHUTIoA</p> <p>Survey: https://bit.ly/3cvDsBS</p>
<p>Parent and Community Involvement Policy</p>	<p>Objective:</p> <p>To establish a framework for building and supporting parent and community involvement in the Toronto District School Board.</p> <p>We are currently reviewing P023 – Parent and Community Involvement Policy and are inviting feedback from our community as we develop the first draft of the policy. Learn more, and share your voice, at www.tdsbengage.ca</p>	<p>Draft Revised Policy</p> <p>Email: businessdevelopment@tdsb.on.ca</p>
<p>Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy</p>	<p>Objective:</p> <p>The Advertising and Distribution of Materials Policy supports the implementation of the legislative requirement under Ontario Regulation 298, section 24 of the Education Act which governs advertisements and announcements in a school, on school property, or to pupils of these schools.</p> <p>The Policy's objective is to establish parameters related to advertising on Board property, including distribution of advertising materials to students, parents/guardians and staff.</p>	

SCHOOL COUNCILS

The following is a link to “Recent Communication to School Councils”

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils>

The letter dated April 28, 2020 to school Councils from the Director of Education provides an update on school council meetings as we move forward. See the link below to the letter.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/School%20Council%20Letter%20-%20April%2028%2C%202020.pdf>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PIC CHAIR TELECONFERENCE

PIAC Co-chairs Zena Shereck and D. Williams participated in the Ministry of Education PIC Chair Teleconference on April 23, 2020 (2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. via Adobe Connect). There were over 105 participants, including school board staff.

AGENDA: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A8Q5RlwdxolI4NK43VKiRZc0gkETFJrh/view?usp=sharing>

PRESENTATION: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gXiu49AbZ7ZWPArkgSfhJ269W-ThBss-/view?usp=sharing>

ONTARIO PIC CONNECTION

May 13, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom | hosted by John Del Grande (TCDSB CPIC Chair)

PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams participated in this conversation with about 24 PIC Chairs. Some common challenges and concerns were expressed by the participants.

There were a few takeaways from this conversation:

1. We should arrange for another virtual session (next PIC co-host - TDSB or Peel Board).
2. Resources to be made available for each other to utilize (bylaws, newsletters, policies, other documents).
3. To make a joint statement/letter to the Minister of Education covering:
 - a) PICs are meeting with each other to share successes, challenges, and support.
 - b) Requesting PRO-Grant allocations be deferred to next school year and that all yearly PIC funding allocations remain in place.
 - c) Request that the Minister restart the Ontario Parent Council and potentially appoint members from existing Board PICs to advise on additional best practices/legislative changes to support PICs and School Councils.
 - d) Request a province-wide PIC symposium be held (virtually and then again physically).

John Del Grande (TCDSB CPIC Chair) offered to draft a letter to circulate to then add names to the signatory. This group would like to then utilize our channels to the Minister & media.

PIAC WEBINAR - SUPPORTING SCHOOL COUNCILS

Supporting School Councils: Best Practices for Holding an Online Meeting or Event

hosted by PIAC | May 21, 2020 | 5:30pm-6:30pm | via Zoom

Registration Link > <https://bit.ly/TDSB-PIAC-Webinar21May2020>

MODERATORS:

D. Williams (Co-Chair, TDSB PIAC)

Felicia Seto-Lau (PIAC Ward 3 Representative)

PANELISTS:

Trustee Rachel Chernos Lin (Ward 11, Don Valley West)

Colleen Russell-Rawlins (Associate Director, Equity, Well-Being and School Improvement)

Alexis Dawson (Chair, Rawlinson Community School Council)

Erin Altosaar (Principal, Rawlinson Community School)

Lorna Chung (Co-Chair, H.A. Halbert Junior Public School Council)

Karlo Cabrera (Principal, H.A. Halbert Junior Public School)

PARENTS AS PARTNERS CONFERENCE

The Parents as Partners Conference has been postponed to the fall 2020. See the conference website for updates <https://www.parentsaspartners.ca>

PIAC WORKING GROUPS

Our PIAC Working Groups continue to meet and work online. A reminder to all PIAC members that our bylaws state that all members must participate on at least one working group. If you have not yet signed up for a working group, please fill out the online form. If you have any questions about the working groups, please contact the PIAC Co-Chairs at info@torontopiac.com

PIAC POST

Our PIAC Communications and Outreach Working Group continues to share information within our school councils and ward communities highlighting PIAC and TDSB initiatives and consultations that come forward from month to month. The PIAC POST is emailed monthly to all PIAC members. There may be instances where a request from the Board, or from PIAC, to consult with families within a short amount of time may require a quick POST update to be sent out, in order to gather that feedback or participation needed.

Please, look out for this monthly newsletter in your email and share it with those in your communities (ensure your email accounts are updated with our Committee Assistant, Latha John (Latha.John@tdsb.on.ca), to receive your copy of the PIAC POST.

UPCOMING PIAC MEETING DATES FOR 2020

(online meetings start at 7 pm, PIAC Members are asked to join at 6:45 pm)

- May 19, 2020
- June 16, 2020

As a reminder, if you are unable to attend a meeting, please send your regrets by contacting info@torontopiac.com. As per PIAC bylaws, members who miss either (a) three (3) or more consecutive Committee Meetings without advising apologies for absence, or (b) a total of four (4) Committee Meetings in any fiscal year, may be removed from their seat.