

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

June 2019

FINANCE, BUDGET AND ENROLMENT COMMITTEE (FBEC)

On Monday June 3, 2019 the Co-Chairs (Zena Shereck and D. Williams) of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) made a delegation to a special meeting of the Finance, Budget and Enrolment Committee (FBEC) regarding the TDSB 2019-20 Proposed Balanced Budget Plan, we

- stated the purpose of PIAC and how PIAC achieves its purpose;
- acknowledged that our Trustees are now faced with difficult decisions to balance a budget shortfall of \$67.8 million and their responsibility to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education
- echoed the recommendations and concerns of the TDSB French As A Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC)
- provided information regarding the June 6 Walk-in(s) organized by parent groups in communities across the 22 wards
- provided the contact information of the Minister of Education for anyone with concerns or questions regarding the provincial cuts to education funding

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

On Tuesday June 4, 2019, the Co-Chairs of Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) attended the last PSSC meeting for the 2018/2019 school year.

The following are PIAC relevant highlights from the PSSC meeting on June 4th:

Please note that the agenda and the full reports received at the PSSC meeting are available on the TDSB website on the Leadership Boardroom page found here

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes>

The PIAC Co-Chairs presented the recommendations (Supporting Principals In Strengthening School Council Awareness) to PSSC, as approved by PIAC at its May 21, 2019 meeting.

The Program and Schools Services Committee recommends that the following recommendation from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee be referred to staff to work with the PIAC on the details of implementation:

(a) The TDSB distributes PIAC's Quick Guide "Fall Tips for Principals" to principals via their Superintendents at the beginning of each school year beginning 2019/2020. This guide is a convenient fact sheet on how principals can support their school council.

(b) That PIAC's School Council Outreach Plan is used in schools identified as having no school councils. Superintendents can assist their principals in building school councils where they do not exist, by sharing and working through PIAC's School Council Building Quick Guides for principals and parents. PIAC suggests principal outreach occurs at year-end (June) to start identifying potential parents for school council for the following school year. We further recommend Superintendents attend a school council meeting in these schools by January of that school year.

(c) The TDSB be held accountable to this process by providing PIAC and the PCEO with annual follow-up including an updated list of schools without school councils each November to allow for timely support of schools struggling with building their school council.

Part B: For Information Only (PIAC Statutory Committee Report, dated May 21, 2019)

- Staff presented a report on Nutrition Programs in schools.
- Staff presented the Revised School Cash Online Quick Reference Guide.
- Staff shared information regarding a request from Toronto Public Health (TPH) that the Toronto District School Board allow students, 14 years of age and older, to provide consent to receive immunizations at TPH clinics in schools.

On June 4, 2019 at the PSSC meeting, staff presented the **Toronto Public Health: Student Consent for Immunization report** to the PSSC and heard an oral update from Dr. Vinita Dubey, Associate Medical Officer of Health, presenting information on Toronto Public Health policy changes regarding the age of consent for immunization.

PSSC MOTIONS CARRIED:

The Program and School Services Committee recommends that the report be received.

NOTE: The TPH report will be on the consent agenda of the June 19, 2019 Board meeting.

CONCERNS RAISED BY PIAC CO-CHAIRS:

The Co-chairs informed the PSSC that the Toronto Public Health: Student Consent for Immunization information on Toronto Public Health policy changes regarding the age of consent for immunization was provided as verbal information only by staff at the PIAC meeting on May 21, 2019. There has been no opportunity to inform and consult or get feedback from parents/guardians.

SCHOOL COUNCILS EMAIL ACCESS REPORT NO.: 06-19-3671:

On June 4, 2019 staff provided a report in response to the PIAC recommendations (made in the PIAC Statutory Committee Report dated 16 April 2019) which went to PSSC on May 1, 2019 and which then went to the Board on May 22, 2019.

Program and School Services Committee Report No. 75 (May 1, 2019):

The Program and School Services Committee recommends that the Director present a report on the feasibility and legal implications of the following recommendation from the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee at the June 4, 2019 Program and School Services Committee or June 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, and that every best effort be made to allow for a September 2019 implementation:

That school registration forms include a checkbox to allow parents to consent to the sharing of their email with the school's school council to facilitate communication and increased engagement by the school councils with the school community. PIAC requests that this be completed to be included in the 2019 Fall welcome packages to parents.

June 19, 2019 on the Board agenda the Program and School Services Committee recommends:

- a. That the Director provide parent/guardians' email addresses to school council chairs through an appropriate communication tool;
- b. That a procedure be developed, in consultation with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, to oversee the implementation of the process;
- c. That every best effort be made to complete the process by November 1, 2019.

SCHOOL COUNCIL SUPPORTS NEEDED

On Wednesday June 5, 2019 Co-Chairs had a meeting at 5050 Yonge Street (Zena Shereck in in-person and D. Williams by phone) with Chair & Trustee Ward 7, Robin Pilkey; Associate Director, Colleen Russell-Rawlins; and Executive Superintendent, Sandy Spyropoulos. The PIAC Co-Chairs were informed of senior staff's unsuccessful efforts to facilitate mediation of conflict at Swansea Public School. A letter was sent from the Principal and Superintendent of Education informing parents/guardians that effective May 6, 2019 Swansea School Council (in Ward 7) was dissolved. Dissolution of a TDSB school council is unprecedented and the Board is to work with PIAC to develop supports and best practices to avoid such situations in the future and processes for school councils.

PIAC ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

On Saturday June 15, 2019 held its annual strategy planning meeting at 5050 Yonge Street. Seventeen PIAC members attended including both co-chairs. Also in attendance were Superintendent John Chasty, PECO Michelle Munroe and Committee Assistant Lath John. The full day of planning for the 2019-2010 school year was very productive.

TDSB POLICY REVIEWS

A large number of policies will be reviewed starting as early as September 11, 2019. Please refer to the link below on the TDSB website for the complete list.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>

OTHER UPDATES

WORKING GROUPS

A few PIAC members have not yet signed up online for any working groups. 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 at <https://goo.gl/forms/iwijkxOsLMIVC5qP2> asap. If you have any questions about the working groups, please contact the co-chairs at info@torontopiac.com

PIAC POST

Our PIAC Communications and Outreach Working Group continues to share information within our 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, to receive your copy of the PIAC POST).