

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

February - March 2021

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

PIAC Co-Chairs D. Williams and Felicia Seto-Lau attended the PSSC meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 and presented the PIAC reports of December 2020 and January 2021.

At this PSSC meeting Trustees accepted the reports and carried motions (1) for the PIAC recommendations to place PIAC Ward Representatives names on each school's TDSB webpage under the PIAC logo with a clickable link to the PIAC website with the current membership list AND (2) the use of ThoughtExchange to solicit virtual school parents' input and opinions on parent engagement.

Minutes and agendas for all Board Committee meetings can be found on the TDSB website on the agenda and minutes page. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes>

Of special note, the [Human Rights Annual Report 2018 – 2020](#) on pages 41 -169 of the agenda was received at PSSC. Part of the TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, this report is available for download at the above-mentioned link. This report is the first of its kind in the TDSB and beyond. It includes data from the recent Student and Parent Census along with the Staff Census and Well-being surveys. The data clearly indicates that the Board continues to have a serious racism problem. Race or race related grounds is the most frequent ground of complaint received by the Human Rights Office making up 54% of all complaints of human rights violation. Disability is the second most frequently cited ground making up 20% of complaints. Specifically, incidents citing Anti-Black racism exceeded all other incidents reported by a wide margin. Incidents of Anti-Semitism have risen at an alarming rate as have incidents of homophobia.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that all PIAC members review this important Human Rights Annual Report 2018 – 2020 to assist in our work and mandate as a PIC and with our engagement with school councils, parents, staff and the Board in our shared goal of improved student achievement and well-being.

ONTARIO PIC CONNECTION

The Co-Chairs of the Ontario PIC Connection group are D. Williams (PIAC Co-Chair, Toronto District School Board) and Crystal Bevens-Leblanc (PIC Co-Chair, Limestone District School Board).

PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams continues to collaborate with fellow Ontario PIC chairs of the Ontario PIC Connection:

- On February 12, 2021, D. Williams hosted and attended the Ontario PIC Connection meeting via Zoom to continue discussion of forming an “Ontario PIC Association” recognised by the Ministry of Education.
- On February 26, 2021, D. Williams attended the Ontario PIC Connection meeting via Zoom to continue sharing best practices (including challenges and successes).
- On March 3, 2021 D. Williams and Crystal Bevens-Leblanc met online with Ministry of Education representatives (Alyssa.Chan and Suzanne Gordon) to discuss possibilities of an “Ontario PIC Association”. We are looking to have follow-up discussions. Appreciation was expressed for the continuation of the Ministry’s sessions with PIC chairs and the request reiterated to resume annual PIC symposiums.

PIAC POST

Our Communications and Outreach Working Group published the February PIAC POST. 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). Please send any updates or ideas for future PIAC POST editions to the PIAC Communications and Outreach WG co-leads (Seema Mitchell and Wilmar Kortleever).

PIAC WORKING GROUPS

This is a gentle 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 <http://bit.ly/WGsignup2020> as soon as possible. Also, for any community members who wish to sign up for non-governance working groups, please also use this link. If you have any questions about the working groups, please contact the PIAC Co-Chairs at info@torontopiac.com.

For PIAC working group co-leads: please remember to include all signed-up working group members in working group communications (including community members). For assistance to find all working group members, please contact the PIAC Membership WG co-leads (Janice Barnett and Nazerah Sheikh).

See the **PIAC Calendar** for links to meetings and events > <http://www.torontopiac.com>