

Working Group	Virtual Engagement (Parent Engagement for families in the Virtual Schools)
Date	Dec.15, 2020
Description/Objective	This ad hoc Working Group aims to provide recommendations on Parent/Family Engagement in the Virtual School. Areas of interest are Responsiveness, Communication, Community, Accountability, and relation with Home School Councils.
Update	<p>Since the last PIAC meeting on November 17, the ad hoc Working Group met once, on November 10.</p> <p>Meeting Dec.15 (attendance: Felicia Lau (W3), Sharon Grant (W4), Patricia Seedial (W4), Dean Gray (W6), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), John Bakous (W8), Cecile Farnum (W9), Wilmar Kortleever (W11), Abdullah Mamun (W19); TDSB: Michelle Munroe (PCEO), Latha John (PCEO, Committee assistance))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Working Group discussed the Recommendations as issued by PIAC on November 17 – both procedurally and which recommendations may already be implemented. The Working Group intended to have the Recommendations track as usual to the Board of Trustees (via the Program and School Services Committee/PSSC), but also as advice directly to the Director of Education. - The Working Group also discussed potentially prioritizing some of the Recommendations, if not all can be implemented at the same time. Mentioned were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitating parent-to-parent communication (class lists, class reps/parents) - a Virtual School-specific Parent Concern Protocol, - more online FAQ/Q&A, and - maximum response times for calls/e-mails/meeting requests. (no formal prioritization was established). - The Working Group discussed organizing PIAC-facilitated Conversations with Virtual School parents/guardians/caregivers*. This would combine both PIAC outreach to VS parents AND facilitate actual Engagement. One way of organizing this would be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reach out to Virtual School parents to inquire about interest to participate - divide these interested parents* up by grade group (e.g. K, 1-3, 4-6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, or another split) - facilitate Conversations with these ‘Representatives’ These Conversations can both guide further PIAC steps, AND provide useful information that can be relayed to Board/Virtual School staff & teachers. - The Working Group also discussed holding a Virtual School Parent/Guardian/Caregiver* ThoughtExchange. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with a Engagement-centred question - confirmed by PIAC in the December 15 meeting - with Virtual School Leadership asked to distribute this before the holiday break, so responses can come in over the holiday The results of the ThoughtExchange would go a long way to establish Parent* Engagement priorities for PIAC, as well as provide TDSB/Virtual School staff with important information about parent*-desired engagement. - The Working Group discussed other specific concerns (Report Cards sent late in Virtual School) and ideas (e.g. parent/guardian/caregiver information provided via the Student’s online platform)

<p>Motion I</p>	<p>Whereas PIAC is eager to learn more about the Engagement priorities that Parents/Guardians/Caregivers in the Virtual School have,</p> <p>We move that PIAC ask TDSB/Virtual School Leadership to distribute a ThoughtExchange among Parents/Guardians/Caregivers in the Virtual School.</p> <p>Its proposed Question would be: <i>“What kind of Parent/Family/Community Engagement activities would you like to see in the Virtual School”</i></p> <p>Its pre-amble could read as follows: <i>““Under exceptional circumstances, and with very short notice for the creation of the Virtual School, much of the focus in TDSB’s Virtual Schools has logically been Operational - including staffing, technology, delivery of curriculum, and organization. As we are 4+ months into the school year, PIAC (TDSB’s Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) has received more and more questions and suggestions about next steps around Parent Engagement, Communication, and Accountability. PIAC strongly supports that Parents/Guardians/Caregivers remain part of their Home School Community, and members of their home School Councils, but with the actual education happening in a separate (virtual) setting, certain aspects of ‘normal’ Parent Engagement are difficult to establish through ‘regular’ School Councils (which also have not been formed (yet) at various schools) and brick-and-mortar school channels. Last month, PIAC adopted a set of (25) Recommendations on Virtual School Engagement [clickable link], under the headers Communication, Responsiveness, and Accountability. You can read those: here [clickable link]. To guide our next steps, and inform Virtual School/TDSB staff/leadership, we now want to hear more from you!”</i></p> <p>[link also to be added to PCEO YouTube channel with Parent Engagement session recordings]</p>
<p>Motion II (if needed)</p>	<p>PIAC moves that the ad hoc Working Group Virtual Engagement, together with the PIAC Co-Chairs and the Parent & Community Engagement Office, explore and organize <i>PIAC-facilitated Conversations with Virtual School parents/guardians/caregivers.</i></p>
<p>Next Steps and Action items</p>	<p>Launch a ThoughtExchange (see above), organize facilitated Conversations Continue the work of the Working Group, and develop further Virtual Engagement Recommendations, especially in the area of Accountability.</p>
<p>Co-lead(s)</p>	<p>Kaydeen Banks (Rep, Ward 8) Wilmar Kortleever (Rep, Ward 11)</p>
<p>Working Group Members <i>(Name and Email Addresses)</i></p>	<p>PIAC: Felicia Lau (W3 - Co-Chair), Saira Somani (W3), Sharon Grant (W4), Patricia Seedial (W4), Jess Hungate (W5), Mirian Turcios (W6), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), John Bakous (W8), Andrew Waters (W9), Cecile Fanum (W9), Wilmar Kortleever (W11), Nazerah Shaikh (W14), Kate Leuschen-Millar (W16), Seema Mitchell (W18), Shanti Chand (W19), Abdulla Mamun (W19), Chris Levien (W20); Zuojun Han (W20), Towhid Noman (CLG), D Williams (Co-Chair); Sylvester Witte, Zena Shereck;</p> <p>TDSB: Michelle Munroe (PCEO), Latha John (PCEO, Committee assistance), Trustee Chernos Lin (Ward 11), Hugh Keane (CSW); Ian MacPherson (CSW)</p>