

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Working Group	Consultations
Date	Dec 6, 2021
Description/Objective	<p>The Consultations Working Group was formed to prioritize, summarize, and disseminate information to PIAC, and where applicable the TDSB parent community, regarding Policies and Procedures under review by the TDSB. Dissemination of information will be coordinated with PIAC Ward Representatives and the Communications & Outreach Working Group.</p> <p>Where applicable the Consultations WG, along with all PIAC members, will coordinate review and/or provide feedback and/or make recommendations regarding review and revision of TDSB Policies and Procedures to the PIAC Co-chairs.</p> <p>Priority Areas of the Consultations Working Group 21/22:</p> <p>Re-organize meeting structure and align needs to strategic plan, communicate with</p> <p>PIAC and the parent community around policies undergoing review, according to the TDSB Policy Review Schedule, and address emerging issues as needed.</p>
Update	<p>Meeting On Nov 30, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Further to the motion approved at the last PIAC meeting, there will be a forthcoming draft of a letter to the Director and Trustees re: review of the fundraising policy in 2021/22. Discussed timing of the letter distribution in January 2022. ● Review of PIAC Conference session on policies, which involved the staff, trustee and parent perspectives. Future changes to the session might include highlighting the policies under review at the time to reach a broader audience ● The TDSB will be conducting a student census in the Spring; possibly some parent engagement around the census. Cecile to check with staff at the TDSB running the Census about future engagement with PIAC ● Reminder that the Specialized Schools Policy is nearing the end of the consultation phase (Dec 17)
Motion(s)	none

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Question(s)	none
Next Steps and Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drafting and approval of letter re: fundraising policy● outreach to TDSB staff re: Census
Co-lead(s) <i>(Name and Email Addresses)</i>	Co-Leads: Kate Leuschen Millar, Ward 16 and Cecile Farnum, Ward 9
Working Group Members in attendance <i>(Name and Email Addresses)</i>	Susan Lee - susankim@hotmail.com Andrew Waters - andrew.waters.piac@gmail.com

January 2022 | TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Trustee Alexander Brown, Chair of the Board

VIA EMAIL: Chair@tdsb.on.ca

RE: The Policy Review Schedule and PO21 Fundraising Policy

Dear Chair Brown,

The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), within our mandate to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being, would like to offer our comments for consideration on future revisions of the Policy Review Schedule as approved by the Board of Trustees on November 10, 2021.

While we understand the incredible impact the current pandemic has had and will continue to have on the staff and families within our board, we would like to emphasize the importance of the PO21 Fundraising Policy and our disappointment in its delay yet again in the approved Schedule. Fundraising is an embedded and active part of school advisory council operations across the TDSB, and by extension, PO21 directly affects how parents/guardians support student achievement and well-being in their own schools. For this reason, PIAC would like a commitment from the Board of Trustees that it will no longer approve delays to PO21 as recommended by staff in future Policy Review Schedules.

PO21 was last revised in 2003. It is the second oldest Policy in the Policy Review Schedule (as presented to the Governance and Policy Committee on October 27, 2021) and started on its path to revision in November 2016. We understand that various factors have contributed to PO21's revision delay, including the completion of the Equity Task Force's work and staff capacity during the pandemic. These factors have not halted policy revisions as a whole; instead, they have required a process of prioritization that has left PO21 in Phase 2 of the review process since early 2017.

While parents/caregivers waited, PIAC recommended and the Board approved a motion on May 23, 2018 that required (in part) that consultation be done for any future updates to the Fundraising Guide and any related guidelines, in accordance with O. Reg. 612/00, s.19 (1.1.iv). This was necessary when published guidelines were neither consistent with PO21 nor brought for public consultation. PIAC believes the perpetuation of the PO21 in this limbo is detrimental to the role of student councils in "holding the board accountable" to both policy and procedures related to council and administration school generated funds in our schools.

PIAC would like to emphasize that it holds no specific position on how fundraising should be conducted or regulated by the province, TDSB, or individual schools. We hold the position that the PO21 Fundraising Policy should be a priority for consultations in order to create equitable and inclusive schools across our board. To this end,

WE RECOMMEND, that the Board

- 1) commit to retaining the November 10, 2021 approved Policy Review Schedule timeline for the PO21, Fundraising Policy, and

- 2) re-state its commitment that consultation be done for any future updates to the Fundraising Guide and any related guidelines, in accordance with O. Reg. 612/00, s.19 (1.1.iv).

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. PIAC values the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Board of Trustees. We look forward to working with parents/caregivers, school councils, trustees, staff and supporters of public education at the TDSB in order to improve student achievement and well-being, as we move through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Felicia Seto-Lau and Andrew Waters, Co-Chairs

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), Toronto District School Board (TDSB)

info@torontopiac.com and piac.chair@tdsb.on.ca

cc:

Colleen Russell-Rawlings, Director of Education

Trustee Yalini Rajakulasingam, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee

Trustee Rachel Chernos-Lin, Chair of the Program and School Services Committee

Trustee Christopher Mammoliti, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee