

TRUSTEE REPORT: PIAC UPDATE – Nov. 19/2019

Last night was the Organizational Meeting of the Board where trustees choose their leadership team (Chair/Vice Chair), as well as Standing Committees and Trustee Reps to PIAC, SEAC, CAC's and external boards.

Robin Pilkey was re-elected as Chair, and Trixie Doyle (no stranger to PIAC!) was elected Vice-Chair. Needless to say, with Trustee Doyle and her many years on PIAC as Vice Chair, I feel confident that parent voice will be well-represented in this leadership team!

Also to note, I was named as the Trustee Rep for PIAC for another year and am looking forward to continuing the work with all of PIAC and with Associate Director Colleen Russell-Rawlins. We have all been working so well together and developed a good sense of where we are going, so it is a pleasure to be able to continue to build on this work for another year.

Of interest to PIAC, I imagine, is the makeup of PSSC since that is the Standing Committee to which you report through. Jennifer Story is chair again, and I am pleased to become the new vice chair. It was actually a coveted spot and I had to stand for election! As you may know by now, what happens inside schools and parent voice are my two passions, so this standing committee is really a joy for me to sit on and of course ties in so nicely to my work with PIAC.

Some updates from our most recent meetings that may be of interest to PIAC:

On e-learning, the following motion was passed:

1. *(a) That the Director conduct a random sample of the Board's secondary school students, parents and staff to determine their thoughts about the implementation of mandatory eLearning;*
2. *(b) That the TDSB survey platform - the Pulse - be used to conduct the survey;*
3. *(c) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education and the presidents of both the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association:*
 1. *(i) to express the Board's concerns about the implementation of the Ministry's major policy change in its schools regarding mandatory eLearning;*
 2. *(ii) to advise that the TDSB is surveying its community and will then report back to the province when the results become available in winter 2020*

On vaping: The Board is concerned about the alarming rise in vaping among adolescent youth, and as such, feels urgent action needs to be taken. The motion below as passed at Board and the chair has already written the letter to include the details below.

(a) That the Chair write to Health Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the Toronto Board of Health to plead for urgent action to address the youth public health epidemic of vaping, including:

1. *(i) a full ban on e-cigarettes in Canada until the science about the adverse health impacts is known, to ensure that these devices can be properly regulated to protect youth from severe pulmonary disease that has resulted in death in some cases,*
2. *(ii) a removal of flavoured e-cigarette products from the Canadian market;*
3. *(iii) additional regulations on the sale of e-cigarettes and nicotine-containing vape products, similar to the regulations in effect for the sale of alcohol and increased funding for enforcement;*
4. *(iv) advertising restrictions that are identical to those in effect for tobacco products to ensure that children and youth are protected;*
5. *(v) the provision of funding for schools to install vape detectors as a deterrent for youth vaping in schools.*

LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS:

As you may have heard, EFTO has indicated a partial withdrawal of services beginning on Tuesday, Nov 25. These include not completing report cards other than providing a list of marks to admin and one comment per frame for kindergarten reports. Not attending PD and not attending staff meetings. For more information and to stay updated, please click the following link:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Labour-Negotiations>