

Working Group	Virtual Engagement (Parent Engagement for families in the Virtual Schools)
Date (PIAC Meeting)	April 20, 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 March 9, 2021), the ad hoc Working Group met once, on March 30. <u>Meeting March 30, 2021</u></p> <p>1. Exchange of Contact Information between Parents/Guardians/Caregivers (Parent Connect)</p> <p>Unfortunately, despite various meetings, changes, new approaches and suggestions by many (by staff, PIAC members, and others), the project of exchanging contact information between parents in Virtual School classes will not be launched. Subsequent to our last PIAC meeting (in which the Working Group asked and received budget room to facilitate Parent Connect), we received confirmation that (and explanation why) TDSB Executive Council decided not to support Parent Connect:</p> <p>" [...] although [the legal department] had some input in the decision, the response was from executive Council. Here are the concerns raised why [parent] connect was not supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who owns, manages and supports this information • Who monitors the appropriate use of this forum • Risk of email harvesting • Concern sharing confidential information • CASL concerns • Limited Staff resources • Limited time remaining in the year <p>[...]"</p> <p>A new idea, proposed by Co-Chair D. Williams, is to facilitate contact between parents in classes through a series of Town Halls. To be discussed at our next Working Group Meeting.</p> <p>2. Volunteering in the Virtual School</p> <p>This project is underway. Teachers have been asked about volunteer needs, and parents(/guardians) have received a similar message, asking them about their availability/preferences</p> <p>3. Review of the November PIAC Recommendations</p> <p>On November 17, 2020, PIAC voted to submit 25 recommendations to both the Board of Trustees and to TDSB Staff. The recommendations can be found: here. The Working Group had a preliminary discussion about the Recommendations, and will review them further in our next meeting.</p>

	<p>4. Virtual School Resources: Where are resources lacking in the Virtual School; is there a discrepancy between Brick & Mortar schools and the Virtual School(s)? Any proposed motions?</p> <p>Further discussion to be had in our next Working Group meeting.</p> <p>5. Draft Motions re: a. Virtual School families' inclusion in Brick & Mortar communication re: b. Virtual School Graduation equality/equity</p> <p>In addition to raising these issues separately with Staff, further discussion to be had in our next Working Group meeting.</p>
<p>Motion I (can be deferred to May meeting)</p>	<p>Whereas the Parent Connect initiative will not take place (as foreseen) in the 2020/2021 School Year</p> <p>We move that PIAC remove the previously assigned Budget of \$2000 for this initiative from its budget.</p>
<p>Next Steps and Action items</p>	<p>Discuss items as raised during our next Working Group Meeting (to be held ASAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November Recommendations Review • Virtual School Resources • Draft Motions re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VS families inclusion in Brick & Mortar communication - VS Graduation equality/equity • Support the Virtual School Volunteerism initiatives • Further explore the inequities in the Virtual School Experience, including advocacy for more (equal) resource allocation. <p>PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ThoughtExchange • Organize facilitated Conversations with parents in the Virtual School • Develop further Virtual Engagement Recommendations, especially in the area of Accountability.
<p>Co-lead(s)</p>	<p>Kaydeen Banks (Rep, Ward 8) Wilmar Kortleever (Rep, Ward 11)</p>
<p>Working Group Members (Name and Email Addresses)</p>	<p>PIAC: Saira Somani (W3), Sharon Grant (W4), Patricia Seedial (W4), Jess Hungate (W5), Jaimala (W5), Mirian Turcios (W6), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), John Bakous (W8), Andrew Waters (W9), Cecile Farnum (W9), Charlotte Schwartz (W10), Wilmar Kortleever (W11), Nazerah Shaikh (W14), Kate Leuschen-Millar (W16), Seema Mitchell (W18), Shanti Chand (W19), Abdullah Mamun (W19), Chris Levien (W20); Zuojun Han (W20), Towhid Noman (CLG),</p> <p>Co-Chairs: D. Williams, Felicia Lau</p> <p>Community Members: Sylvester Witter, Zena Shereck</p> <p>TDSB: Michelle Munroe (PCEO), Latha John (PCEO, Committee assistance), Trustee Trixie Doyle (Ward 14);</p> <p>TDSB Guests: Vicky Branco (Parent Engagement in the Virtual School); Hugh Keane (CSW); Ian MacPherson (CSW); Ian Allison (Superintendent, VS), Shirley Chan (Superintendent, VS);</p>