Toronto District School Board

PIAC Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 25**,** 2025

A Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meeting convened via Zoom on Tuesday, February 25, 2025from 7:08 p.m. to 9: 59 p.m. With PIAC Co-Chair Zena Shereck & Co-Chair Sarah Ali

Attendance:	Erin C. (W1), Nabil H(W1), Andrew W (W3), Gordon Harvey (W3), Johnson J (W4), Tamasha G (W4), Mercy C. (W6), Eemily A(W7), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), Anshu G.(W8), Melanie Medeiros-Sims (W9), Janice Barnett (W11), Susan L. (W12), Nicole W(W12), Jenny G.(W14), Eden H. (W16), Tanya O. (W17), Thanuja S(W17), Seema M. (W18), Moosa A (W19), Prasanna J (W19) Chris L.(W20), Geetika B. (W20), Azeem A.(W21), Zena S (Co-Chair)
Trustee:	Trustee Matias de DoVitiis,
Staff:	Lisa Dilworth System Superintendent, Stephanie Harris, Comptroller Finance and Enterprise Risk, Latha John (PCCEO) Jack Nigro, Executive Superintendent Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, PCCEO, Anita Pathmanathan Snr Manager, Diana Panagiotopoulos Exec Superintendent, Brandie Waldriff Finance Support Manager
Guests	Trustee Hastings, Trustee Williams, Nicole Herbert
Regrets	Sarah A (PIAC Co-Chair), Elizabeth Addo, Exec Superintendent, Nadia J. (W22) Crystal S.(W6)
Absent:	Bruce Oyelowo (W10), Charles Z.(W11), Jun (Janet) Z. (W13), M Saleem K (W14), Shelley K(W16), Hasiba Anna E(W18)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	MOTION	RECOMMENDATION
Welcome & Introductions • Approval of Quorum • Land Acknowledgment Code of Conduct **Meeting Administration** • Conflict of Interest • Change in Membership Status. • Approval of Consent Agenda & Minutes of PIAC General Meeting January 21, 2025	Quorum was confirmed by PIAC Membership WG lead Andrew W (W03). The meeting began with the land acknowledgment and welcome. Discussion on a conflict of interest on the discussion on PIAC's letter on the Ward 11 Trustee elections for PIAC member is a candidate in the Trustee election. Member stated that they didn't see a conflict of interest. A procedural debate followed, and it was noted that any further concerns about conflicts of interest should be addressed in accordance with PIAC's bylaws. Request to amend the agenda. • A roll call vote was requested for the motion and discussion followed with various members spoke about expressing concerns about the process and others defending the motion. • Roll call voting was done and 7 in favor, 8 against, 1 abstention. • The motion failed, and the item remained on the agenda. The Consent Agenda & Minutes of PIAC General Meeting January 21, 2025, were approved by the committee.	Motion by Erin C (W01) seconded by Melanie M (W09) to remove the motion regarding Bylaw Amendment 3.1.1 and the appointment of a Ward 5 representative from the agenda.	

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Co-Chairs Update	A written report was distributed to the committee and the following was highlighted by co-chair Zena: **Status of Letter of support from PIAC on public education funding** A letter supporting the trustees' stance on public education funding. The letter was sent out after receiving feedback and support from PIAC members. The task had been delegated to Co-Chair Sarah and that confirmation of its submission would be provided by Co-Chair Sarah. A discussion arose about the importance of timely communication regarding advocacy efforts and whether a formalized process should be established for handling urgent matters outside of general meetings. Co-Chairing the meeting Gordon H (W03) volunteered to co-chair at 7:43 pm the meeting alongside Chair Zena S to assist in facilitating the meeting until Co-Chair Sarah A joins the meeting.		
Trustee Report Trustee Matias deDovitiis	Trustee reported on the following: **1 New Director of Education** • Director Clayton La Touche has started as the new Director of Education. **2. Budget Shortfalls** ○ TDSB and other large school boards received no funding for capital projects this year, exacerbating existing infrastructure challenges.		

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	○ Members expressed concerns about deteriorating school conditions, including outdated gymnasium floors, lack of proper sports equipment, and unsafe learning environments. ○ Trustee de Dovitiis encouraged members to contact MPPs and advocate for increased education funding. ○ Discussion about misleading government signage in schools claiming funding improvements. Members inquired about the possibility of removing such signs, Trustee de Dovitiis clarified that they are mandated by the provincial government and cannot be taken down.		
Lunchbox Program Internal Audit Findings	○ Staff presented an overview of the lunchbox program, and the use of this program is optional for schools. ○ PIAC members voiced concerns about the pricing structure of the lunchbox program and the potential for reduced fundraising revenue at the school level. ○ Lunchbox contracts with vendors are confidential, and exact revenue details could not be shared. ○ Findings showed that some councils did not follow financial guidelines, including failing to prepare monthly reconciliations and improperly storing cash and cheques.		

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	○ Some members raised concerns about the perception that school councils were being scrutinized unfairly compared to other entities within the board. ○ Recommendations included increased principal oversight and additional training for council treasurers. ○ Resources-Business Services help desk to connect with financial support officers. School Council Financial information Webinar https://www.youtube.com/embed/Rxe1DP9AGao ○ businesshelpdesk@tdsb.on.ca or 416 3955-8080 • Request to staff to present internal audit reports from Ontario Auditor General on TDSB.		
Multi-Year Strategic Plan	**Better schools and student outcome Bill 98:** The provincial government has shifted control over academic priorities, requiring all publicly funded boards to focus on reading, writing, and math, with increased accountability measures. Boards must now report on key performance indicators (KPIs) annually.TDSB priorities are achievement, future preparedness, and student well-being. **Strategic Plan Goals:** • The Board of Trustees approved the TDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, which aligns with the Ministry's Student Achievement Plan. The plan focuses on student learning		

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	outcomes, future success, engagement, and well-being. • Other key strategies include literacy and math programs, efforts to combat hate and racism, mental health support, and infrastructure improvements. **Concerns Raised:** • Declining student achievement post-COVID, particularly in math, which affects students pursuing STEM fields. The board acknowledged this issue and highlighted a Math Action Plan that includes professional learning, digital tools, and new teaching strategies. • The Board's ability to measure equity and student achievement for underrepresented communities due to a lack of intersectional data collection. Concerns were also raised about leadership accountability in handling equity issues. • Staff clarified that while KPIs are set by the Ministry, ongoing work is being done to refine data collection and address equity concerns. Mobile Device Policy & Attendance Monitoring **Cell Phone Use Policy:** ▪ Students in Grades K-6 are not permitted to use mobile devices during the school day. ▪ Students in Grades 7-12 are not allowed to use mobile devices during instructional time unless for educational purposes or special education accommodations.		

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	○ The Board does not monitor students' mobile device usage outside of school hours (e.g., commuting to and from school). **Concerns Over Attendance and Skipping Classes:** ○ A member raised concerns about high rates of students skipping school during slower hours, particularly lunch breaks, and the lack of strict enforcement of attendance rules. Motion to extend the meeting extended by 30 mins moved by Andrew W(W03) seconded by Janice B(W11).		
Working Group (WG) Reports Operational Effectiveness Working Group	• Continuing work on the bylaw review process, with a first round of proposed amendments expected in April. • Budget discussions will resume in April, with an invitation for working groups to submit funding requests before the end of the school year. • Upcoming information session on ward outreach funds scheduled for February 27, providing guidance on applying for and accessing funding.		
Strategic Planning WG	• The data from the January 18 session was reviewed by the WG. • The data was compiled into a strategic plan template based on the 2021 model, and is available in the shared drive.		

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	• The strategic plan includes four key goals, corresponding initiatives, action items, timelines, required resources, and success metrics. • The document will be shared with co-reps for review in the coming weeks. • Eden H(W16) was confirmed as the new co-lead for the working group.		
Membership WG	• Addressed concerns regarding the proper use of members' email addresses and emphasized adherence to privacy guidelines. PIAC Bylaw Amendment recommendation ▪ PIAC make the following amendment to the PIAC Bylaws: Add *3.1.10 (c) Ward Vacancies - When a vacancy exists for a PIAC Ward Co-representatives position, PIAC can appoint a parent to represent the Ward who is qualified to be a PIAC parent member for that Ward for the length of the appointment term. The appointment term is for 1-year or until an election is held in the Ward to elect the PIAC Co-representative, whichever occurs first.* This amendment will not be considered to prevent other amendments of the bylaws in the 2024-2025 school year. ▪ PIAC appoint Aaron Kucharczuk to a vacant PIAC Ward Co-representative position in Ward 5 as per PIAC Bylaw clause 3.1.10(c). Discussion Bylaw Amendment Process Concerns:		

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	○ Trustee Matias de Dovitiis raised concerns about the proposed bylaw amendment and that proper procedure must be followed. ○ Co-Chair Zena S acknowledged the ongoing bylaw review process and agreed that any amendments should be carefully considered within that framework. Transparency & Democratic Representation: ○ Members expressed concerns about the lack of a formal election process for the proposed appointment. ○ It was noted that the trustees were unaware of the nomination and that there had been no prior discussion about potential candidates. ○ A preference was expressed for running an election in coordination with the trustee, rather than proceeding with an appointment. Next Steps: ○ The discussion highlighted the need for PIAC to uphold democratic processes and ensure transparency in decision-making. • Members suggested that the issue be deferred to the bylaw review process for further discussion and alignment with PIAC's governance structure. The bylaw amendment was withdrawn and members discussed the need for more structured, transparent, and accessible processes in the future. Motion to extend the meeting extended by 30 mins moved by Emily A (W07) seconded by Moosa A(W19).		

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School Council Support WG	The WG reported on the following: **Virtual School Rep** The virtual school currently has no designated PIAC representative. However, individuals interested in taking on this role can now volunteer through the working group sign-up form. **Ward Outreach Information Session:** The session is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 PM. There was concern that this date conflicts with election night, but there is hesitation to change it due to potential delays in distributing important information regarding available funds for reps. The recording the session for members who can't attend, ensuring everyone has access to the materials and conversation to make informed decisions before the end of March.		
Communication WG	The WG reported on the following ○ Plans to enhance outreach efforts through social media and direct engagement with parents. ○ Discussion on standardizing communication templates for consistent messaging across wards. ○ The WG is looking for recommendations for domain or web hosting service providers		
Consultations Working Group	The WG reported on the following: Public consultation for the Learning Opportunities Index Policy is ongoing, with a closing date of		

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	March 24th. There are both virtual and hybrid public consultation options. The concern for consultations during Ramadan and that the closing date for submitting feedback is March 24th, while the final hybrid consultation is scheduled for April 3rd, which creates confusion.		
Staff Report	**PIAC Letter and Process Concerns** Procedural issue regarding PIAC letter supporting a by-election instead of a board appointment for the Ward 11 trustee vacancy at the December 11th board meeting was cited in the debate on the floor. The letter was presented as coming from PIAC, but proper approval procedures were not followed before it was sent. The letter did not go through the full PIAC committee for discussion and approval, which is the required process as per PIAC bylaws. Staff recommended that PIAC retract the letter, as it was not properly vetted. PIAC members questioned whether staff had the authority to make such a request. The discussion remains unresolved, with a need to determine how PIAC will vote on retracting the letter and whether to revise bylaws for handling urgent decisions in the future. Due to a lack of quorum, no decision could be made.		
PCCEO Update PR 505 (Parent Concern Protocol)			

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Ward Updates			
New Business			
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm due to lack of quorum.		