PIAC Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

PIAC Working Group REPORT

Toronto District School Board

Working Group	**School Council Support WG**
Meeting Dates	**May 27, 2025**
Description/Objective	The School Council Support Working Group is a non-governance working group with the purpose of communicating and supporting SCs of schools of the board. The School Council Support Working Group will develop and engage in outreach strategies to support School Councils; work with TDSB staff to promote parent involvement in the Principal/Vice Principal hiring/selection process (previous P/VP WG); and provide recommendations on Parent/Caregiver Engagement in the Virtual School (previous Virtual Engagement WG). The areas of focus include but are not limited to Regulation 612, inactive SCs, effective SCs, and issues surrounding SCs. This working group coordinates with all other PIAC working groups on relevant matters.
Co-lead(s)	Gordon Harvey (W3) & Eden Hagos (W16)
Working Group Members	**Present:** Eden Hagos, Sarah Brager, Aaron Kucharczuk, Nicole Di Wu, Nicole Herbert, Andrew Waters, Latha John, Zena Shereck, Kaydeen Bankasingh, Mercy Charles **Parent Participants:** Stephanie Toye (W16), Kiersten Artemenko (W16) **Absent:** Gordon Harvey **Regrets:** None
Strategic Work Plan and Working Group Goals	**Current Strategic Work Plan Goals** ***Goal 1: Becoming a Trusted Source of Information for Families and Caregivers*** ● collaborate with other WGs re: Advocacy and Community Engagement, and Peer Mentorship and Support ***Goal 2: Increasing Awareness of PIAC Across the System*** ● Work with trustees to facilitate roundtables and parent engagement forums ● Co-host events with schools to address specific community needs ● Encourage PIAC representatives to engage with school councils and build trust at the local level ● Ensure regular communication between PIAC, school councils, and administrators ● Establish clear communication channels with school administrators and staff ***Goal 3: Supporting School Councils in their Engagement and Advocacy*** ● Provide training on parent engagement, advocacy, and policy analysis ● Offer advocacy toolkits, including structured funnels for effective advocacy ● Ensure councils receive a comprehensive "Welcome Package" ● Provide access to childcare, translation, and other support services for events

	● Act as a supportive resource for councils, offering guidance and helping with organizational challenges ● Facilitate ward-level connections and create opportunities for PIAC reps and school councils to interact regularly ● Organize mentorship programs where experienced council members can support newer councils ● Address participation challenges by offering flexible meeting options and building a digital parent community **Ongoing** ● SC email IT support - new process was released November 2024, survey SC's to see if this has helped solve issues with accessing email accounts and school messenger ● Accountability of Principals ● P023 - work with PCCEO, Consultations WG for PIAC involvement in Board development of new SC Operations Guide, other procedures **Completed** ● Checklist for applying an equity lens to the work of school councils ● Compile a short document outlining ways in which School Councils can engage families to support student learning and well-being through online events (with Communications WG) ● Supporting schools with no School Council ● Empowering School Councils - positive relationship with Principal ● SC Basics Slide deck update ● SC Survey ● School Improvement Process - new engagement tools
Updates	**PIAC School Council Grant** ● Process details were decided and application form created ● Deadline for School Councils to apply is 11:59 pm Thursday June 19, 2025. ● WG Chair distributed the Application form and email to PIAC Chairs and PCCEO **SC email IT support** ● Ongoing challenges with accessing and using TDSB email addresses ● WG will distribute a survey to School Councils for feedback in the Fall ● WG will invite TDSB IT staff to attend a future meeting to discuss feedback that is collected **SC Outreach** ● "What is PIAC?" & letter for Fall outreach ● distribution plan: TDSB Connects, trustees ● Print deadline mid-June to Latha **Ward Outreach Initiative** ● 3 wards have submitted responses
Motion(s)	None

Next Steps and Action items	**PIAC School Council Grant** ● Application form and email to be distributed to School Councils, Principals and trustees by PIAC Co-chairs and Ward Representatives ● Recipients will be selected through a randomized lottery that will take place via zoom and will be recorded, on Saturday June 21 at 10am. PIAC Ward Reps must sign up here to attend this meeting. **Ward Outreach** ● any remaining PIAC reps who have held ward forums to complete survey **SC Outreach** ● Outreach material to be sent to Latha for printing ○ "What is PIAC?" & letter for Fall outreach **May Motion re SC suspensions** ● Director to report back to PIAC on May motion **Accountability of Principals** ● WG co-leads waiting for meeting with senior staff ○ School Generated Funds Balance report ○ Principal Accountability: ■ Institutional Accountability/SC checklist ■ checklist tracking mechanism **School Council Innovation Grant (SCIG)** ● PCCEO to provide update into possible inclusion of PIAC Rep on grant review team