

Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

Meeting Date: 15 December 2020

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee convened on 15 December 2020, from 7:05 p.m. to 9:54 p.m. via ZOOM platform with PIAC Co-Chairs D. Williams and Felicia Seto-Lau.

Attendance Sharleen Ahmed (W15 Rep), John Bakous (W8 Alt), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8 Rep), Janice Barnett(W11 Alt), Shanti Chand(W19 Alt), Neil Faba (W15 Alt); Cecile Farnum (W9 Alt), Jenny Gannon (W14 Alt), Sharon Grant (W4 Rep), Dean Gray (W6 Alt); Zuojun Han(W 20 Alt), Jaimala (W5 Alt), Jess Hungate(W5 Rep); Nadia Judunath(W22 Alt), Wilmar Kortleever(W11 Rep), Felicia Lau (Co-Chair), Kate Leuschen Millar (W16 Rep), Christopher Levien (W20 Rep), Abdullah Mamun(W19 Rep), Nicole Marshall (W22 Rep); Seema Mitchell (W18 Rep), Towhid Noman(CLG), Aretha Phillip (W13 Rep), Vivek Rao (W2 Alt), Mark Ramcharan(W18 Alt), Alice Romo (W7 Rep), Saira Somani(W3 Alt), Patricia Seedial (W4 Alt) Nazerah Shaikh (W14 Rep), Haniya Sheikh (W12 Rep), Syed Sumar Alam (Ward 13 Alt), Mirian Turcios (W6 Rep), Andrew Waters (W9 Rep), Glenna Wellington (W17 Alt), D.Williams (Co-Chair)

Executive Officer Marisa Chiu, Trustee Trixie Doyle, Associate Director Karen Falconer, Latha John Committee Assistant), Michelle Munroe (Central Coordinator, PCEO), Executive Superintendent Uton Robinson, Shameen Sandhu (System Leader), Associate Director Craig Snider,

Regrets Shafoli Kapur (W2 Rep), Pargat Mudher (W17 Faduma Qaline(W1 Alt),

Part A: Recommendations

No Recommendations

Part B: For Information Only

At the meeting the committee approved the following:

Whereas PIAC can make recommendations directly to the Director of Education, based on O.Reg. 612 (330), and;

Whereas PIAC is eager to learn more about the Engagement priorities that Parents/Guardians/Caregivers in the Virtual School have, PIAC recommends:

1. The Director of Education distributes a ThoughtExchange for PIAC among Parents/Guardians/Caregivers in the Virtual School. The Thought Exchange question would be “*What kind of Parent Engagement would you like to see strengthened in the Virtual School?*”
2. The Virtual Engagement Ad Hoc Working Group collaborate with the Director explore and organize PIAC-facilitated Conversations with Virtual School parents/guardians/caregivers.

Staff provided information on the following:

Director Designate Highlights

Mental Health Supports for Students-Shameen Sandu, Manager of Professional Services updated the committee on mental health supports and resources available to students and parents/caregivers. E.g. Virtual Students (VS) have access to Professional Support Services through their bricks-and-mortar school. Students and parents/caregivers are referred to relevant services by VS staff. Six Social Workers have been assigned to VS across all Learning Centres.

Virtual Engagement-Superintendents have reviewed the PIACs recommendations and noted that some communication concerns have been addressed e.g. social media updates, newsletters, meet and greets, etc. Parents/caregivers are being provided with information on the Parent Concern Protocol. The issue of responsiveness of VS staff remains a challenge due to the volume of students/parents/caregivers in Virtual School. Work continues to address IPRC/IEP requirements. . As for large ward sessions within Virtual Schools work to continue.

Switching Communication-Letter shared with parents/caregivers on the switching request for January 2021.

Provincial Testing in TDSB-Random testing by TPH has resulted in ten schools being closed for various factors. For system update on school, closures visit TDSBs COVID Advisory page.

Working Group Highlights

The Ready Set Engage, conference held on November 21st and 22nd 2020 reached a large number of parents/caregivers and School Council members. A special thanks to Trustees who attended the Networking session on Sunday evening.

Part C: Ongoing Matters

Report Submitted by Associate Director, Karen Falconer and
Michelle Munroe Central Coordinator PCEO