



2020-2021 Program Priorities Funding – Parent Reaching Out Grant Allocation Update

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 31 March, 2021

Report No.: 03-21-4035

Strategic Directions

- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

Recommendation

It is recommended that the following update on Program Priorities Funding (PPF) – Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant be received for information.

Context

Changes to the PRO Grant program were made in 2019-20 from an application-based funding model to a grant allocation model. District school boards received a predetermined funding amount for parent engagement projects. Under the allocation model, funds have been reduced by seventy-three (73%).

For the 2020-2021 school year, TDSB was allocated \$131,563.00 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences. As stipulated by the PPF, the allocation plan was presented to the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) at the October, December, and January meetings.

Due to COVID-19 operational and safety guidelines and school closure, in-person events and activities were postponed. Hence activities and initiatives were redirected to enhance virtual tools to support parent/caregiver engagement at schools, virtual sessions for parents and caregivers, language support for multi-lingual families, and a School Council Grant to support the work of School Councils in informing educating, and addressing anti-oppression, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism.

The School Council grant application was well received by School Councils. There were 190 submissions, for over \$170,000. Applicants approved were notified the week of March 15, 2021. The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), at its meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2021, approved the reallocation of \$24,063 of the PPF and additional support of \$25,000 of PIAC funds to supplement the Council grants initiative, for a total of \$101,563.

Appendix A - Chart 1 - 2020-2021 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation provides an outline of projects and activities.

In 2019-2020, TDSB was allocated \$133,405.00 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences. At its meeting on November 6, 2019, the Board approved the allocation of (\$103,000) for Learning Centres/Learning Networks (LC/LN), which was divided equally with an allocation of \$25,850.00 per LC/LN and \$30,005 for the Parents as Partners Conference.

To determine usage of the allocated funds LCs/LNs engaged in a series of consultations (survey & in-person) with Trustees, PIAC, SEAC, and school councils to identify and prioritize engagement thematic areas, school council, and ward-based activities. Both in-person and surveys highlighted an interest in Ward or LC/LN workshops/summits for family caregivers with a focus on mental health, well-being, and school council training video/webinars. Immediately following this process, schools were then closed due to COVID-19.

With approval from the Ministry of Education, PIAC, and an update to Trustees, the funds were reallocated to support virtual tools for schools and School Councils, a virtual Conversation Series, and enhanced language supports for multi-lingual parents and caregivers.

Appendix A - Chart 2 – 2019-2020 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation provides an outline of projects and activities.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Staff will ensure the effective rollout of the 2020-2021 initiatives by June 30, 2021.

Resource Implications

No resource implications at this time.

Communications Considerations

Communications has developed and implemented a plan for notifying schools, School Councils, and parents and caregivers of grant initiatives. Grants information can also be found on the TDSBs website.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

P023 - Parent and Community Engagement Policy

PR558 - Parent and Community Engagement Procedure

Appendices

Appendix A - PPF PRO Grant 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 Allocation

- Chart 1 - 2020-2021 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation
- Chart 2 - 2019-2020 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation

From

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Appendix A – Program Priorities Funding (PPF) – Parent Reaching Out (PRO)
Grant 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 Allocation

Chart 1 - 2020-2021 PPF – PRO Grant Allocation

| Project | Description | Status | Allocation (\$) |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| School Council Grant-Anti-Black, Indigenous and oppression initiatives | School Councils apply for a maximum of \$1,500. | Grant application closed March 01, 2021. One hundred and ninety (190) applications have been received. PIAC has approved a reallocation of \$25,000 of their funds and reallocation of the Enhanced Multi-lingual Supports to supplement the grant process. | \$52,500 +25,000+24,063= \$101,563 |
| Virtual Parent/Caregiver engagement tools and supports | Enhanced virtual equipment to support the council and the Parents as Partners Conference. | Renewing agreement for ZOOM 3000 and 1000 webinars for one year. | \$20,000 |
| Conversation Series 2.0-Going Deeper | Going Deeper with series of speakers and presentations for parents/caregivers on an array of topics (e.g. mental health, talking race, social media, etc.). | The Series was launched in January 2021. Monthly Conversations are scheduled. Visit: https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Conversations-Series | \$35,000 |

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|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Enhanced Multi-lingual Supports | Virtual interpretation, translation, and Sign Language services for engaging and communicating with parents/ caregivers. | These resources have been reallocated to support School Council grants. | |
| TOTAL | | | \$156,563.00 (\$131,563.00 in PPF +25,000 in PIAC allocation) |

Chart 2 - 2019-2020 PPF - PRO Grant Allocation

| Project | Description | Allocation (\$) |
|--|--|------------------------|
| School Council & Virtual Engagement Platform Purchase | Purchase of two-year 600 ZOOM meeting licenses+ 3 Webinars ranging from 1000-3000 to support schools, School Councils, and System-wide parent/caregiver engagement & ZOOM meetings. | \$79,125.00 |
| Parents Caregivers End of Year Motivational Sessions (Conversation Series 2.0) | A delivered virtual end-of-year session(s) for family caregivers on topics such as mental health and well-being, transitions and routines, anti-racism, in collaboration with PIAC and the | \$26,119 |

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|--|---|---------------------|
| | Mental Health and Well-Being Team. | |
| Supporting Multi-lingual Students and Families (Language services) | Virtual interpretation, translation, and Sign Language services for engaging and communicating with parents. | \$18,161 |
| Parents as Partners Conference | Support costs for the first Virtual Parents as Partners two-day Conference that had over one thousand participants. | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL | | \$133,405.00 |