



2021-2022 Program Priorities Funding – Parent Reaching Out Grant Allocation Update

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 6 October, 2021

Report No.: 10-21-4145

Strategic Directions

- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being
- Transform Student Learning

Recommendation

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

Context

Changes to the PRO Grant program were made in 2019-2020 from an application-based funding model to a grant allocation model. School boards received a predetermined funding amount for parent engagement projects.

For the 2021-2022 school year, TDSB has received an allocation of \$253,125.14 for projects that demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents/caregivers in students' educational experiences. This year's allocation is an increase of over \$119,000.00 from 2020-2021. It is worth noting that the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) and Trustees advocacy to the Ministry of Education, requesting restoration of post 2019 PRO Grant funding levels may have contributed to the increase

As stipulated by the PPF agreement, the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC), Urban Indigenous Community Advisory Committee and School Councils were consulted in May and June 2021 to identify and prioritize parent/caregiver engagement thematic areas for the funds. The following events and activities were identified as priorities for the grant:

- **School Council Grant** - continue to support the work of School Councils in informing, educating, and addressing anti-oppression, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism
- **Conversation Series 3.0** - featuring renown speakers, panelist and presenters on Colonization, Indigenous Racism and the Israel and Palestinian Conflict, with parent/caregiver engagement at schools
- **Parents Caregivers as Partners Conference**
- **Virtual Engagement Tools** - Enhanced tools to support parent caregiver, school/School Council engagement
- **Central Administration Expenses** -The PPF agreement allows for Central Administration Expenses that cannot exceed 10% of the maximum project funds or \$25,000.00, whichever is lesser. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of the School Council Anti-Oppression grant, additional administrative staffing supports will be required to support the development, implementation and reporting of the grants

As the district continues to roll out COVID-19 operational and safety guidelines and the pandemic recovery plan, virtual events and activities will be prioritized. System-wide engagement activities that require large audiences will remain virtual using approved TDSB virtual platforms.

Appendix A - Chart 1 - 2021-2022 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation provides an outline of projects and activities.

For the 2020-2021 school year, TDSB was allocated \$131,563.00 for projects that demonstrated a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences. As stipulated by the PPF agreement, 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, Conversation Series, system-wide virtual sessions for parents and caregivers, 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 Conversation Series and the School Council grant applications were well received by School Councils and the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee who at its meeting on Tuesday March 10, 2021, approved the reallocation of \$24,063.00 of the PPF and an additional support of \$25,000.00 of PIAC funds to supplement the Council grants initiative, for a total of \$101,563.00.

The grant process received 190 submissions with a dollar value of \$170,000.00 of which 80 were approved with 6 being high schools, 11 Middle Schools, and 63 elementary schools. Of the 80 approved, 61 were supported by the PPF Grant for a total of \$76,563.00 and 19 by PIAC allocated funds of \$25,000.00. While many School Councils were able to implement their projects, there were many who were unable to do so due to limited council capacity, timeframe, and availability of speakers. Feedback from applicants encouraged future grants be allocated earlier in the school year and include a grant information session along with more supports and guidance for councils. To respond to this, the goal is to rollout the grant earlier in the school year and along with grant information sessions.

Appendix A - Chart 2 – 2020-2021 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation provides an outline of projects and activities.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Staff will ensure the effective rollout of the 2021-2022 initiatives by June 30, 2022.

Resource Implications

There are currently no resource implications.

Communications Considerations

The Government, Public and Community Relations Department will be consulted on the development and implementation of a communication plan for notifying schools, School Councils, and parents/caregivers of grant initiatives. Information on grants will also be available on the TDSB 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 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 Allocation

- Chart 1 – 2021-2022 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation
- Chart 2 – 2020-2021 PPF-PRO Grant Allocation

From

Kathy Witherow, Acting Associate Director Equity Well-Being and School Improvement,
kathy.witherow@tdsb.on.ca or 416-397-3187.

Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator Parent Engagement at
michelle.munroe@tdsb.on.ca or 416-397-3528.

**Appendix A – Program Priorities Funding (PPF) – Parent Reaching Out (PRO)
Grant 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 Allocation**

Chart 1 – 2021-2022 PPF – PRO Grant Allocation

Project	Description	Allocation (\$)
School Council Anti-Black, Anti-Indigenous and Oppression Grant	School Councils may apply for a maximum of \$1,500.00 to continue work of School Councils in informing educating, and addressing anti-oppression, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism.	\$170,000.00
Conversation Series 3.0-Going Deeper	Going Deeper featuring renown speakers, panelist and presenters that will encourage parents' caregivers, staff and students to challenge thinking and bias	\$35,000.00
Parents Caregivers as Partners Conference (PCaPC)	Support the implementation of the 2 nd Annual Virtual Parents Caregivers as Partners conference scheduled for October 16 th and 17 th 2021.	\$10,000.00
Virtual Engagement Tools	Enhanced tools to support parent caregiver, school/School Council engagement (e.g. hybrid meeting virtual tools, ZOOM etc.)	\$13,125.14
Central Administrative Expenses	Supports to organize and implement the school council grant allocation process.	\$25,000.00
TOTAL		\$253,125.14

Chart 2 – 2020-2021 PPF - PRO Grant Allocation

Project	Description	Allocation (\$)
School Council Grant-Anti-Black, Indigenous and oppression initiatives	80 School Councils received funds to develop, enhance or further anti-oppression work within the Council. Projects featured speakers who addressed anti-Black Racism, anti-Indigeneity, building an inclusive School Council, arts evening, book clubs and many more. Councils reported that the funds enabled them to have the conversation and acquire the relevant supports and expertise to do so.	\$76,541.00
Virtual Parent/Caregiver engagement tools and supports	Enhanced ZOOM meeting participant capacity from 300 to 1000 to support Council and the Parents as Partners Conference.	\$20,022.34
Conversation Series 2.0-Going Deeper	The conversation was deepened on race and racial trauma. We also explored coping for teens with a viewing and presentation of the movie Screenagers with the director, explored how adolescent girls were coping during the pandemic and explored the truth about vaccines and the future of education. These conversations were well attended with a minimum of 40 people and a maximum of 3000.	\$35,000.00
TOTAL		\$131,563.34