

Parent Involvement Committee

Date: Monday, March 1, 2010

Time/Place: 4 to 5:30 p.m.

HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga
Location: Cooksville

Committee Savi Khanna, School Council Member representing Brampton, Co-chair

Members in Karen McDonald, School Council Chair representing Caledon, Co-chair

Attendance: Deanna Henderson, Parent Member representing the Special Education Advisory Committee

Ashis Basu, Parent Member

Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing the diverse community

Suzanne Nurse, Trustee representing Brampton

Tony Pontes, Director of Education

Regrets

Valerie Arnold-Judge, Trustee representing Caledon

Sally Drew, School Council Member

Dr. Salha Jeizan, Parent Member representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel

Allison Van Wagner, Trustee representing Mississauga

Staff resource

Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Communications & Strategic Partnerships

Carla Pereira, Communications Officer

Brian Woodland, Director of Communications & Strategic Partnerships

Terms of reference update

The draft terms of reference were reviewed by Executive Committee and revised to reflect that Peel board employees can be PIC parent members, but cannot be PIC co-chairs. The community liaison coordinator, communications officer and other board staff will serve as a resource to the committee.

Rabia Khedr also suggested adding the following to the terms:

Committee members who are absent from three consecutive committee meetings without the approval of the committee thereby vacate their seat. The co-chairs have the ability to approve the extended absence of any committee member.

The PIC's terms of reference will be taken to the board for approval on March 9, 2010.

Selection of new parent members

Parent members of the committee will hold office for two or three years. Terms will be staggered so that parent positions become available each year. Upon application, parent members will identify if they would like to serve on the committee for two or three years.

Terms will begin in September and end in August. Committee membership may apply for one additional term.

Parents appointed by the Special Education Advisory Committee and the Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel will serve on the PIC for two years.

Debanjali Paul, parent member representing diverse communities, is stepping down as a parent member effective immediately. Sally Drew, school council chair representing Mississauga, will step down effective Aug. 31, 2010.

A selection sub-committee, comprised of at least one of the co-chairs and up to four additional parent and trustee members, will work with the communications officer to determine the selection process for committee approval and will manage the recruitment and selection of new members. Every effort will be made to select parent members who reflect Peel's diverse communities.

Sally Drew, Rabia Khadr, Savi Khanna, Karen McDonald, Suzanne Nurse will sit on the selection sub-committee. Carla Pereira will serve as the sub-committee's staff resource. Sub-committee members will receive applications to review in advance of the selection meeting scheduled for May 3 at 3 p.m.

Parent member application packages will be distributed the week of March 22. Packages will be sent to:

- Schools – emailed to principals and school council chairs for distribution to parents
- Faith leaders
- Multicultural, Settlement and Education Partnership workers

The application package will be posted on the board website—www.peelschools.org—and on individual school websites. They will also be distributed using social media websites like Twitter and Facebook. Carla will inform media about the application process.

Promotion of Parent Involvement Report

PIC co-chairs made a special presentation to the board at its meeting on Feb. 9, 2010. The full and summary reports are posted on the board website, with a link from the Spotlight section of the home page. The reports were also emailed to principals and school council chairs.

Roger Belgrave, a reporter with the Brampton Guardian, will be writing a short article about the report for the community newspapers.

Teacher research re: parent involvement

The committee will review Dr. Christine Frank's proposal regarding teacher focus groups and a survey. Committee members are to provide Carla Pereira with feedback by Feb. 17. At its January 2010 meeting, the PIC approved \$10,000 of its budget be dedicated to this research.

Equity & Inclusiveness consultation

The Ontario Ministry of Education has released an equity and inclusive education strategy for the province. To guide school boards in implementing this vision, the ministry issued Policy/Program Memorandum I19 (PPM I19). PPM I19 was distributed to PIC members.

In the board's action plan to respond to the ministry strategy and PPM 199, the board is consulting widely with stakeholders to review and revise its equity policy, Policy 54—Antiracism and ethnocultural equity. A copy of the policy was also distributed to PIC members.

PPM 199 requires that, by September 2010, the board's updated equity policy address eight areas of focus:

1. board policies, programs, guidelines and practices
2. shared and committed leadership
3. school-community relationships
4. inclusive curriculum and assessment practices
5. religious accommodation
6. school climate and the prevention of discrimination and harassment
7. professional learning
8. accountability and transparency

At the meeting, PIC members received a consultation guide to fill out and return by March 19, 2010. The input provided individually by members will help the board shape its equity policy and implementation plans.

The consultation guide is attached.

You can download PPM 119 from <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/extra/eng/ppm/119.html>.

For Policy 54, visit http://www.peelschools.org/departments/diroff/policies/policy_54.htm.

Update on teacher focus groups

Fifty-six teachers have signed up for focus group sessions on parent involvement. These will be held at the HJA Brown Education Centre on March 23, 25 and 30, and April 1, 13 and 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Dr. Christine Frank will facilitate the sessions and use her own transcribing service, which is included in her fee.

Materials for PIC table at the Parent Literacy Conference

The board's Parent Literacy Conference will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at Stephen Lewis Secondary School in Mississauga. Registration is open and parents can register online on the board's website.

Carla will work with Savi and Karen to determine what tip sheets will be available from the PIC table at the board's Parent Literacy Conference. The photocopying fee will be applied to the PIC budget. PIC word wall magnets have been ordered and will be distributed at the table. Carla is also working on a teaser bookmark that will encourage parents to visit the board website to learn more about the Parent Involvement Report.

Communications staff will transport the copies, magnets and bookmarks to Stephen Lewis. Savi and Karen will be on site at the conference to staff the table.

Next meeting

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on May 3 between 4 and 5:30 p.m.

The selection sub-committee members will meet prior to the PIC meeting—Trustees' Area between 3 and 4 p.m.