

Parent Involvement Committee

Date: Monday, May 3, 2010

Time/Place: 4 to 6 p.m.

HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Location: Trustees' Area (Mezzanine Level)

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

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

Attendance: Valerie Arnold-Judge, Trustee representing Caledon

Ashis Basu, Parent Member

Sally Drew, School Council Chair representing Mississauga

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

Rabia Khedr, Parent Member

Suzanne Nurse, Trustee representing Brampton

Tony Pontes, Director of Education

Allison Van Wagner, Trustee representing Mississauga

Resource:

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer

Carla Pereira, Acting Communications Manager

Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Coordinator

Input from the field

The co-chairs talked about a recent Ministry of Education symposium on parent involvement they attended. The symposium gave them the opportunity to meet with PIC chairs from other boards. The ministry reinforced their commitment to encouraging parent involvement.

Parent literacy conference update

Karen and Savi provided an update on the committee's booth at the parent literacy conference on April 10 at Stephen Lewis Secondary School. It appeared that there was greater awareness of the committee over last year. Still, parents are requesting a greater connection between the committee and school councils.

Update on teacher research

Dr. Christine Frank completed the last teacher focus group on April 20. A survey has also gone out to all teachers in the system—1,100 teachers responded. The research will now be compiled and a report is expected by the end of June. The report is intended to supplement the parent involvement research done last year with parents and administrators.

Report from PIC member selection sub-committee

The sub-committee selected four new members of the Parent Involvement Committee from 26 applications. The new members were selected based on criteria outlined in its terms of reference.

Remaining budget

The committee decided to meet on May 31 at 4:30 p.m. to discuss how to allocated the remaining budget.

Public questions

Catherine Sopley spoke to the committee about the Ministry's Parent Reaching Out grant program. She believes a strategy should be developed to provide training and support to parents in high social risk areas on how to successfully apply for PRO funding.

Next meeting

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on Monday, May 31 between 4:30 and 6 p.m. Please let Alison Farbar know if you are unable to attend. Refreshments will be provided.