

## Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Highlights

**Date:** Monday, Nov. 22, 2010

**Time/Place:** 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Trustees' Area, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Savi Khanna, School Council Chair representing Brampton (PIC co-chair)  
Karen McDonald, School Council Chair representing Caledon (PIC co-chair)  
Valerie Arnold-Judge, Trustee representing Caledon  
Ashis Basu, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee  
Vijai Dasrat, Parent Member representing Brampton  
Lucy Ding, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Velvet Dodge Matinna, Parent Member representing Caledon  
Dr. Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel  
Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee representing Brampton  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education

**Resource:**

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer  
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator  
Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications

**Regrets:**

Kathy Parris-McDonald, Parent Member representing Brampton and French Immersion  
Allison Van Wagner, Trustee representing Mississauga

### **Committee hears presentation on research project focused on perceptions of recently immigrated parents**

Rita Manners, principal of Floradale P.S., Dr. Schechter, associate dean of the Faculty of Education at York University and Lorraine Otoide, Peel board resource teacher and PhD candidate at York University, attended the meeting to present the findings of their research project called *Through Parents' Eyes: Perceptions of Recently Immigrated Parents on their Children's School/Life Experiences*. The presentation covered three main themes that were investigated in the research: learning at home and in the community, homework and O Canada. The researchers provided participating parents with disposable cameras to allow them to document situations in their lives which fell into these themes. The committee received an article outlining the findings of the research. For a copy of the article, contact Lorraine Otoide at [Lorraine.otoide@peelsb.com](mailto:Lorraine.otoide@peelsb.com).

### **Committee to provide feedback on Board Improvement Plan, and on assessment, evaluation and reporting process**

Shawn Moynihan, superintendent of curriculum and instructional support services, and Michael Bowman, instructional coordinator, assessment literacy, K – 12, attended the meeting to ask the committee to provide feedback on the board's improvement plan, and on the assessment, evaluation and reporting process in

schools. The committee will receive background information and resources to help with the feedback process before the winter break.

### **Report on workshop at Great Start—an orientation and training evening for school council members**

Karen and Savi talked about the workshop on encouraging parent involvement they hosted at *Great Start* on Oct. 27. They observed that there were many brand new school council members who attended the event, including members who are newcomers to Canada. A lot of discussion among participants in the workshop focused on how to get more parents to come to school council meetings. Karen and Savi emphasized that they worked to steer participants off this topic and to help them understand that there are many types of involvement and all need to be valued.

At the event, participants could sign up to receive updates from the committee and they would be entered in a draw to win a Chapters Gift Card. Karen selected a ballot during the meeting and Hema Ramkeesoon won the gift card. It has been delivered to her through the school she volunteers at.

### **Procedural report**

As a result of feedback from a member of the public, the committee will now record in its highlights the name of a member of the public who asks a question, along with their question. The committee will also now review and approve the meeting highlights at the next meeting.

### **Committee elects new co-chair**

Savi Khanna completed her term as co-chair and the committee selected Kathy Parris-McDonald, parent member representing Brampton and French immersion, as the new co-chair. Kathy will serve a two-year term.

### **Questions from the public**

Catherine Soplet, a Peel board parent, asked the committee if it would be willing to create a sub-committee to monitor the implementation of the regional Parent Reaching Out grant Catherine is involved with. The committee deferred the decision to the next meeting.

### **Next meeting:**

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on Monday, February 28 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Please let Alison Farbar know if you are unable to attend. Refreshments will be provided.