

Parent Involvement Committee Minutes

Date: Jan. 28, 2013
Time/Place: 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Trustees' Area, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Anthony Blair, Parent representing Brampton, Co-chair
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Janace King-Watson, Parent representing Brampton
Harinder Malhi, Trustee representing Brampton
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Shan Rai, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Skeete, Parent representing Mississauga
Sukhjit Singh, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Thompson, Parent representing Brampton
Dan Wilkinson, Parent representing Brampton

Regrets:

Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon
Meredith Johnson, Trustee representing Mississauga
Kelly Ralston, Parent representing Mississauga

Resource:

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer
Jay Fedosoff, Leader, Parent and Family Literacy Centres
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator
Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications

Approval of minutes

The committee approved the minutes from the Oct. 29 meeting.

Committee Membership

One member from Caledon is no longer able to attend meetings and has vacated her seat on the committee. The committee agreed to contact the other person who had applied for the position from Caledon to determine if she is still interested. Alison will make contact with that individual and update the committee. Anthony made a motion to appoint the individual into the position for the remainder of the term if she's interested.

Co-chair Election

A vote was held to break the tie between Kelly and Lisa. Kelly was voted as the new co-chair.

2012-13 Budget

Anthony reviewed the budget (see attached). The committee discussed how to allocate the remaining budget.

Parent Literacy Conference

Barb attended a conference recently and was impressed by the speaker, Dr. Colgan, and her topic of making math practical and relevant for parents and students. It was suggested that Dr. Colgan speak at the Parent Literacy Conference on March 23 at David Suzuki Secondary School in Brampton. The decision was to have Dr. Colgan provide an afternoon session and potentially a workshop in the morning. The committee decided to allocate up to \$2000 to cover her expenses. Scott LaMantia from the Communications Department is the lead on the conference and will follow up with Dr. Colgan to make arrangements.

Community Outreach

All agreed that the committee must reach out to all groups including racialized groups, LGBTQ community, French immersion parents. Whenever we're planning an event, we should always keep in mind the members of our school community who may not always be represented.

Follow up from budget sub-committee meeting

Barb reviewed the expenses to date and the committee's wish list, which was generated during a budget sub-committee meeting in December. Items included:

Welcome folders for schools – these folders have already been printed and now include information about the PIC on the back. It was suggested that the next reprint include the PIC's email address: parentinvolvement@peelsb.com.

Outreach in the community – the committee discussed allocating \$5000 to community workshops as was done last year.

A website for the committee – Alison explained that there is already a webpage with committee information: <http://www.peelschools.org/parents/involved/PIC/Pages/default.aspx> and suggested that the committee could create and manage a Facebook page if it is interested in a tool for collaborating. Varsha suggested Google Docs could be used for sharing information as well.

Flyers and/or bookmarks about the committee

Consider subcommittees including others from school councils and community parents.

Host a school council event to find out how school councils have successfully engaged parents. Six school councils will be asked to present and share their successes with other school councils. Many ideas surfaced including an invitation to the ministry to have a representative discuss PRO grants. A suggestion was made that the school council members could set up booths with their parent engagement ideas. The related costs are to be determined.

Anthony moved a motion for the committee to commit to the school council event. All were in favour and the motion carried.

A sub-committee was struck and will include: Alison, Barb, Sukhjit, Shan, Lisa. Other members, who were not present will be invited to participate on the sub-committee. The sub-committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6 in the Cooksville Room at the HJA Brown Education Centre. As with all PIC meetings, this meeting is open to the public.

Much discussion was held about accepting the offer from the rep from Mississauga Transit to prepare a tip sheet on getting to school safely. It was noted that the committee has members skilled in safety planning who would be willing to prepare the tip sheet. Janace moved a motion to ask Lisa and Carla to draft a safety plan for getting to school safely to include in the transition booklet for the next printing. Lisa S. seconded and all were in favour. Motion carried. We will not invite the Mississauga Transit rep to return to the meeting to assist us with this venture. ACTION: Lisa and Carla will prepare draft and submit to the committee for feedback.

Update on Peel Region projects

Varsha shared information from the Regional Diversity Roundtable workshop. She will post it on the PIC web page.

New Business

A self employed individual has reached out to our committee and would like to present to us. Members wanted more information before proceeding. ACTION: Anthony will follow up with to find out what work he has done in Ontario Schools.

Barb asked that correspondence be added to the agenda on an ongoing basis. ACTION: Alison will add " Correspondence" as a standing agenda item.

Public Questions

Fair Share for Peel – Catherine Soplet suggested that the organization should contact us for narratives on experiences with respect to support for special needs.

Poverty Reduction - Transportation Conference: Transportation for the poor. How do poor students get to school and get around their communities. Conference date -Feb 22 at Sheridan College.

Catherine has advocated to the Ministry to keep the PRO grants. She continues to do outreach

for literacy through agencies such as Boards of Trade. Her message to the ministry and funders "Literacy grows the top line and restores fiscal balance".

Tony suggested to include information about potential sources for community reps, including the Boards of Trade, in an email that is traditionally sent to administrators in the spring re: preparing for school council elections.

Next meetings

The next meeting is on Feb. 25.

All meetings will start at 5 p.m. and take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street in Mississauga.