

# Minutes

## Parent Involvement Committee

Jan. 21, 2019

Attendance: Tanya Sharma, Co-chair, Brampton  
Arwinder Kalsi, Co-chair, Mississauga  
Kuldeep Kanda, Ex-Officio  
Peter Joshua, Director of Education  
John Marchant, Trustee representing Mississauga  
Kathy McDonald, Trustee representing Brampton (by phone)  
Susan Benjamin, Trustee representing Brampton  
Ashley Bigda, Community Relations Officer  
Audrey Crasto, School Communications Assistant  
Leona Chen, Parent member representing Mississauga  
Barb Cyr, representing Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)  
Mangaljit Dabb, Parent member representing Brampton  
Wendy Hill, Parent member representing Brampton  
Heather Munich, Parent member representing Caledon  
Nighat Nabi, Parent member representing Mississauga  
Lili Schemil, Parent member representing Mississauga  
Dr. Salha Jeizan  
Shazia Hassan  
Jay Sengupta  
Tina Walia

Regrets: None received

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Approval of Agenda and Approval of November Minutes:**

- No conflict of interest
- Agenda approved
- Previous Minutes approved

2. **Trustee Updates:**

- Peter and Kathy welcome new Trustees: Susan Benjamin and John Marchant;
- The new Board of Trustees was formed in December. There are 4 of the 12 on the Board are new Trustees. The Board will continue to build community relationships and provide insight around needs of the students;
- Susan Benjamin: Was a teacher in Peel Region, and has been retired 2 years. As a Trustee, she hopes to increase parent / family involvement, in schools;
- John Marchant: Also new to the role of Trustee. Has worked with youth for over 25 years. Now works with adults with mental health needs.

### 3. **Director's Update:**

- Peter introduced Jay Sengupta, Human Rights Commissioner. This is a new role, which was created by the Ministry. Jay was hired in Dec. 2018.

### 4. **Jay Sengupta, Human Rights Commissioner:**

- Introduced her role as facilitating proactive actions to increase capacity and understanding of "What is Human Rights?";
- Since graduating with a Bach. Of Law degree, from Osgoode Hall in 1992, Jay has been actively involved and interested in child and youth concerns. Her roles have included: Senior Council Ombudsman in Ontario; Vice-Chair of the Child Review Board; Special Education Tribunal;
- Her role is to assist with policies, procedures and practices within the Board, with hopes of addressing gaps and minimizing risks, and strengthening procedures;
- The Human Rights Officer role is intended , in part, to be advisory capacity to the Director, and work in collaboration to determine effective resolution of potential disputes. Jay will be meeting with students, families and employees, to determine current procedures and plan for the future;
- Jay is establishing her role, and creating her team. A formal announcement will be made, once she is settled.

### 5. **Chair Updates:**

- Procedural Matters: A PIC member has resigned due to health issues. Options to find a replacement are: A) have the Board request new applications, or, B) nominate a candidate who has been on the applications list from the previous list of Applicants. Following discussion, it was determined that the Selections Sub-Committee may keep a "short list" of candidates from the previous list of applicants, from which potential replacement members may be selected.
- Applicant Tina Walia has been attending PIC meetings this year. She was nominated and invited to join the Committee.

### 6. **Subcommittee Updates:**

- **Communications:** Mangaljit will Lead this subcommittee. Their plan is to provide a newsletter to parents. Constraints have limited their ability to have the newsletter ready to be sent home with Report Cards in January. Info will be included about PIC and Parent Councils. There will be social media links for parents. March 4 is anticipated for final draft distribution. Parents and Councils to be made aware of connections and supports. Board will support digital newsletter, as needed, with the aim of creating a newsletter for each quarter of the calendar.
- **Conference:** Wendy will Lead this subcommittee. The event is scheduled for Sat., March 30 at Louise Arbour SS. A 2-sided form was created by Tina and Arvind for agencies sign-up to attend. There are hopes of charging a nominal fee to vendors/ agencies this year – hope to encourage commitment and support. Ashley reports that the Finance Team are investigating rules/restrictions, and

should have an update ASAP. Discussion that money received would go to the “It’s a Family Affair” Conference; it could be used toward honorariums for student volunteers and presenters. Peter advised that we need to articulate to the agencies, where the funds will be used. A copy of conference Agenda was Approved by the Committee. Early registration is being promoted. Breakout sessions will be arranged by school areas (Family of Schools) to promote linking. Brainstorming discussion on ‘how to encourage representatives from more schools to attend?’: – have invites available for Councils / Principals to share at their next meetings; – send synervoice to Council Chairs.

- **Budget:** Account shows \$26 000 funds available. To date, approx. \$50 in receipts have been received. PIC hopes to be able to link with other agencies, using funds available. PIC hopes to be able to host 1 numeracy event this Spring. PIC has received notice that our PRO-Grant application was denied for this year {not all schools/ groups have received any notice – Ashley reports her team have been trying to find information}. Barb posed question to potential discrepancy of Account, as the \$ transfer per student should be est. \$31 000 – an answer of funds will be sent by e-mail.

**7. PIC Members Attending PDSB and Other Board Meetings:**

- Calendar of public meetings has been sent via e-mail. Members are encouraged to attend meetings, as they are able, as a “member of the public”.

**8. Submissions to the Chair:**

- No written submissions received;
- Concern discussed re: messages sent to PIC members via “WhatsApp”. Request that messages do not always need to be sent to “All”. Please send appropriate messages to individuals.

**9. Other Business / Public Questions:**

- None at this time.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2019 (5:30 – 7:00)