

Minutes

Parent Involvement Committee

Oct. 29, 2019

Attendance: Mangaljit Dabb, Co-chair, representing Brampton
Warda Abdulsamed, Parent member representing Mississauga
Karla Bailey, Parent member representing Brampton
Neema Bhanot, Parent member representing Brampton
Leona Chen, Parent member representing Mississauga
Shazia Hassan, Parent member representing Mississauga
Wendy Hill, Parent member representing Brampton
Heather Munich, Parent member representing Caledon
Nighat Nabi, Parent member representing Mississauga
Arvind Phansatkar, Parent member representing Mississauga
Diane Sardi, Parent member representing Caledon
Tina Walia, Parent member representing Brampton

Peter Joshua, Director of Education
Mark Haarmann, Associate Director
Susan Benjamin, Trustee representing Mississauga
Kathy McDonald, Trustee representing Brampton
Ashley Bigda, Community Relations Officer
Audrey Crasto, School Communications Assistant
Barb Cyr, representing Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Dr. Salha Jeizan, Committee member MIAG Ctr. For Diverse Women & Families

Regrets: Arvind Phansatkar, Parent member representing
John Marchant, Trustee representing Mississauga

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Approval of Agenda and Approval of Minutes:**
 - Welcome from Mangaljit;
 - No Conflict of Interest declared at this time;
 - Agenda for meeting Approved;
 - Amendment to previous Minutes: Wendy Hill had submitted “unavailable to attend” for September meeting.

2. **Director Update , Peter Joshua:**
 - Peter introduced Associate Director, Mark Haarmann, who will attend the meeting, as Peter has to leave early to attend another event;
 - Response to question from Barb re: PIC Funding – Ministry provides \$5 000, plus an amount for student enrolment. The Ministry calculates funding for schools based on campuses, whereas PDSB divides the monies based on number of individual schools. In the past, PDSB has arbitrarily decided to allocate funds to each school (\$500) which affects the funding to PIC. Going

forward, the Committee could table the following options: a) Continue as is; b) Monies be distributed by Ministry model (\$500 split between schools on shared campuses); c) Schools could apply for more money.;

- Barb questioned what happens to the money (\$500) that schools are not spending? Peter answered that the money is given to the school budget under the heading of 'Parent Involvement'. This is not currently tracked. Elementary schools may carry-over \$8 000, and Secondary schools up to \$16 000, but the Schools need to make applications to specify “projects” and track on budget for future spending (i.e. A School raising money to build a new playground). Superintendents are notified of these special situations, and are to follow up;
- Recommendation to 'park' this item on the Budget Committee. Many questions remain, including: Which schools do not have Parent Councils? Which schools share a campus? What schools have less than 300 students? If funds are not being spent, where should the money go? Who would track these funds?;
- Further Director Update deferred..

3. **Trustee Updates:**

- Kathy McDonald and Susan Benjamin report that Islamic Heritage Month has been well received in their schools, with great evidence of student pride in exhibits and presentations;
- Student Census data is scheduled to be shared soon.

4. **Election of Co-chair:**

- Co-chair position is open to first year members, with a two year agreement;
- Shazia Hassan nominated and acclaimed;
- Wendy questioned process of nominations for Treasurer / Secretary, as the By-laws refer to elections occurring at the second meeting of the year. Response that only the election of a co-chair was deferred from the first PIC meeting, the other positions were acclaimed at that meeting.

5. **Code of Conduct:**

- Defer to next meeting;

6. **Trustee Meeting from October 23:**

- Mangaljit attended this meeting and heard complaints of alleged racist comments made by a Trustee. Link to newspaper articles has been provided by e-mail. Per Code of Conduct process, a complaint has been filed to an independent third-party Integrity Commissioner. *Investigation is underway, and results will be made public along with recommendations. Timeline is dependent on the process;*
- In the past, PIC has posted messages / statements that affect school communities. A number of e-mails have been received by PIC. Diane recommends a balanced statement giving full support of diversity / inclusion, with promotion of family / parent involvement;

- Communication sub-committee to create and post a response.

7. Budget / Breakdown of PIC Expenses:

- Audrey provided handouts of budgets from 2017 -18, and 2018 - 19;
- Audrey provided handout of PIC Inventory, currently available, which are now available on-site at the Board office.

8. Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants:

- Ashley provided handout of program objectives and guidelines. The process has changed significantly. The Ministry suspended the program Oct./2018. Now, the Ministry will provide the PDSB a predetermined amount (\$86 350) to spend on parent engagement activities. This approx. Half the funding amount from previous years. An average of 146 schools applied for PRO Grant funding, receiving \$1 000 per school. It is now up to each School Board on how PRO Grant funding will be dispersed. There is now no distinction between school or regional (PIC) applications. The money will need to be spent this school year;
- Options for moving forward with this process: A) PDSB working with PIC to have schools make applications (similar to Ministry process); or B) Equal distribution of funding to all schools;
- Action: Outreach sub-committee to discuss and recommend process.

9. Great Start Event:

- Registration remains open. Currently +100 parents have registered;
- Agendas provided, including questions for discussion. PIC members are asked to facilitate round table discussions. Table groupings will depend on registrations received;
- PIC to provide pens for each attendee, as well as notepads and Parent Council Resource Guides provided on each table.

10. New Business / Public Questions:

- Community member commenting on concerns of process and transparency of Trustee issue, especially concerned with timeline. Integrity Commissioner is specific to the Board of Trustees;
- Sub-committee sign-up list to be sent by e-mail.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019 (5:30 – 7:00)