Working Group	School Council Support WG
Date	**January 5, 2022**
Description/Objective	The School Council Support Working Group is a non-governance working group with the purpose of communicating and supporting SCs of schools of the board. The School Council Support Working Group will develop and engage in outreach strategies to support School Councils; work with TDSB staff to promote parent involvement in the Principal/Vice Principal hiring/selection process (previous P/VP WG); and provide recommendations on Parent/Family Engagement in the Virtual School (previous Virtual Engagement WG).
	The areas of focus include but are not limited to Regulation 612, inactive SCs, effective SCs and issues surrounding SCs.
	This working group coordinates with all other PIAC working groups on relevant matters.
Update	*The School Council Support Working Group met for the second time on January 5, 2022. The WG discussed the areas to focus on for the year.*
	1. *School calendar working group - interest in having PIAC make a recommendation to the board to support a switch from a day 1-4 schedule to a "fixed schedule"*
	2. *School council IT email issues - interest in having PIAC focus on getting TDSB to resolve the ongoing challenges of access to emails and lack of IT support for school councils. Also discussed the idea to create a google form to send to all school councils – to get an idea of their issues. Consider possible Freedom of Information request.*
	3. *Active vs. inactive school councils - have PIAC receive a list of active and inactive school councils (and their co-chairs) - was promised by PCEO but not delivered - was also a past PIAC motion that was passed at the June 19/19 general meeting and has yet to be fulfilled.*
	4. *Mandatory SC by-laws - interest in having PIAC consulted on new mandatory bylaws as well as flagging that the lack of consultation and mandatory terms outside of 612 may not be compliant with 612 and TDSB existing governance*
Motion(s)	**1. Motion in Support of School Council IT Support**
	Whereas TDSB School Councils represent the voice of parents/caregivers and community members at their school to improve student achievement and hold the board accountable, the ability for all councils to communicate effectively and equitably with stakeholders and the board is essential;
	Whereas every TDSB School Council has been asked to use a 'shared email account' owned and maintained by the TDSB, and these accounts are the exclusive pathway to essential TDSB services for School Councils (such as School Messenger, Zoom, school-based internet access, and web-based Business Services information), it is vital for a School Council to have consistent and timely access to the email account to fulfill its role;
	Whereas PO23, the Parent and Community Involvement Policy, section 4.4, confirms its commitment to O. Reg 612/00, in that every School Council "shall be provided with the information and support necessary for fulfilling its role.";

Whereas, the board's PO37 Equity Policy "acknowledges that inequitable treatment leads to educational, social, and career outcomes that do not accurately reflect the abilities, experiences, contributions and potential of our students, employees, parent/guardian, caregivers and community partners." ;

And whereas School Councils have never had consistent or timely access to School Council emails since the emails were launched nearly a decade ago, PIAC can no longer support the status quo of under-funding and under-serving our School Councils' access to a tool so fundamental to fulfilling its mandate.

Therefore, be it resolved that PIAC request the following:

1. The PCEO report back in writing to PIAC at the March 2022 PIAC meeting outlining how many shared email accounts for School Councils and Advisory Committee members have been successfully activated this year compared to the number of active councils and Advisory Committee members.

2. The Director of Education report back in writing to PIAC by the March 2022 PIAC meeting outlining a comprehensive plan as to how existing backlogged IT access issues will be resolved. The plan should set timelines and priority groups for access and include who has received access and who has access still outstanding.

3. The Board of Trustees prioritize the funding in the 2022-23 TDSB Budget of a full-time, permanent staff position within IT Services as a public-facing resource for the annual renewal of non-staff School Council and Advisory Committee emails and the continual, tracked resolution of email issues throughout the year.

4. The Board of Trustees request a report from IT Services to be presented by the end of February each year outlining the status of non-staff School Council and Advisory Committee emails, including the number of renewed and actively used emails for that school year, the number of service tickets issues and from whom (external volunteer or TDSB staff), and a summary of resolutions.

2. **Joint motion with Consultations WG regarding TDSB By-law Template**

   (**See Consultations WG report)

Question(s)	*[This section is for less formal questions to pose to the PIAC group.]*

Next Steps and Action items	- Introduce 2 motions at next WG meeting
	- February - make sure request for IT support for school councils in board Budget
	- **Request from the PCEO by the February 2022 PIAC meeting:**
	   - An updated list of school without councils from TDSB as per the motion passed on January 19, 2019 section (c) which states "The TDSB be held accountable to this process by providing PIAC and the PCEO with annual follow-up including an updated list of schools without school councils each November to allow for timely support of schools struggling with building their school council."
	   - A follow up to the status regarding the distribution of PIAC's Quick Guide "Fall Tips for Principals" as per the motion passed January 19, 2019 section (a) which stated "The TDSB distributes PIAC's Quick Guide "Fall Tips for Principals" to principals via their Superintendents at the beginning of each school year beginning 2019/2020."
	   - An update on how PIAC's School Council Outreach Plan is being implemented in schools identified as having no school councils as per motion passed on January 19, 2019 section (b) which stated " Superintendents can assist their principals in building school councils where they do not exist, by sharing and working through PIAC's School Council Building Quick Guides for principals and parents. PIAC suggests principal outreach occurs at year-end (June) to start identifying potential parents for school council for the following school year. We further recommend Superintendents attend a school council meeting in these schools by January of that school year."

Co-lead(s) *(Name and Email Addresses)*	1. Jenny Gannon Ward 14 Rep (jennyg.piac@gmail.com) 2. Madelaine Hamilton Ward 16 Rep (madelaine.hamilton@gmail.com)
Working Group Members *(Name and Email Addresses)*	**Working Group Members:** *Andrew Waters PIAC Co-chair Ɩ *Felicia Lau PIAC Co-chair Ɩ Erin Clarke (W01) Ɩ Anshu Grover (W08) Ɩ Kaydeen Bankasingh (W08) Ɩ Susan Lee (W12) Ɩ Kate Leuschen Millar (W16) Ɩ Shanti Chand (W19) Ɩ Zuojun Han (W20) **Community Members:** **Nicole Herbert (W15) Ɩ Emily-Jane Watson (W16)