



Name of Committee: Parent Involvement Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 25, 2023

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee convened on April 25, 2023, from 7:03 p.m. to 9:40 p. m. via Zoom with PIAC Co-Chairs Andrew Waters & Sharon Grant

Attendance:	Sarah Ali (W2), Saira Somani (W3), Tamasha Grant (W4), Jessica Ruiz(W4), Zena Shereck (W5), Sandreen Porter (W5), Crystal Stewart (W6), Alice Romo (W7), Anshu Grover (W8), Melanie Medeiros-Sims (W9), Karin Trajcevski (W9), Bruce Oyelowo (W10), Manna Begum(W10), Janice Barnett(W11), Charles Zhu(W11) Susan Lee(W12), Jenny Zeng(W13), Janet Zheng(W13), Jenny Gannon (W14), Jennifer Volk(W15), Mohammad Yousuf(W15), Madelaine Hamilton(W16), Nicole Williams (W17), Tanya Ono (W17), Seema Mitchell(W18), Shanti Chand (W19), Chris Levien(W20), Abdul Azeem Mohammed(W21), Nadia Judunath (W22), Nicole Marshall (W22), Sharon Grant (PIAC Co-Chair), Andrew Waters (PIAC Co-Chair), Felicia Lau(PIAC Liaison), Trustee Debbie King
Staff:	Exec Superintendent Shirley Chan, Richard Christie (Senior Manager, Sustainability), Latha John (Committee Assistant), Michelle Munroe (Central Coordinator, PCEO), Maia Puccetti (Executive Officer), Associate Director Audley Salmon, Director of Education Colleen Russell-Rawlins
Regrets:	Exec Superintendent Uton Robinson, Towhid Noman (CLG)
Absent:	Erin Clarke (W1), Frances Shawera (W2), Ayan Kaillie(W7), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), Liesha Earle(W12), Zuojun Han(W20),

ITEM	DISCUSSION	MOTION	RECOMMENDATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Introductions • Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands • Code of Conduct 	<p>Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands was done by Co-Chair Andrew Waters.</p> <p>Members were reminded of the code of conduct.</p>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Quorum 	<p>Quorum was achieved.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in Membership Status Declaration of Actual, Perceived, or Potential Conflict of interest 	<p>No change in membership status was declared at the meeting.</p> <p>None</p>		
<p>Approval of Consent Agenda and February 28, Minutes</p>			<p>Motion to approve the agenda and February 28 minutes by Janice B (W11) and seconded by Melanie M (W9).</p> <p>Motion was carried unanimously.</p>
<p>Co-Chairs Update</p>	<p>Letter of Support to Ministry of Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter was sent by PIAC Co-Chairs on behalf of PIAC to the Ministry of Education for reinforcing the pandemic recovery funding. There are writing campaigns that parents from wards can write to the Ministry of Education <p>Merging of Strategic planning WG and Operational WG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of both groups to merge and the decision was made based on the overlapping items between the working groups. The changes to the bylaws would be proposed in a future meeting to accommodate this merger. 		

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	<p>PIAC Conference May 6th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This event marks the first in-person gathering since the 2019 PIAC conference. • The event serves as a platform to demonstrate PIAC’s work to parents. • All PIAC members were urged to attend and show their support either as a volunteer or as an attendee. 		
Trustee Update	<p>Multi -Year Strategic Plan Renewal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current plan is coming to an end, and it's time to prioritize and renew the objectives for the next four years. • The multi-year strategic plan is a crucial document that guides and prioritizes the system's goals, actions, and resource allocation. • The board values the input of various stakeholders, including advisory committees, PIAC and parents, in shaping this plan. <p>Funding and Budget Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The projected deficit of over \$60 million and depleted working reserves. • Advocacy efforts are underway to recover expenses incurred during the pandemic and secure continued funding for COVID recovery initiatives. • The board’s finance team is analyzing the government's funding allocation, and discussions and consultations will take place to navigate these financial constraints. <p>Motion on Islamophobia</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion addressing Islamophobia was unanimously passed and is recommended for board approval. <p>Centralized admissions process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An error occurred during the admission process for elementary alternative school’s process, and steps are being taken to rectify it, including additional spots for underrepresented groups and it is directly communicated with affected families. 		
<p>Director of Education Colleen Russell-Rawlins</p>	<p>Student safety and well-being in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A newly established expert advisory panel is working collaboratively with various organizations, Toronto Public Health., Toronto Police and Safety TO along with local community groups and PIAC, to create positive learning environments. The panel focuses on school safety, student well-being, equity, and human rights. <p>New community partnerships to support children and youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative programs and camps were implemented in March break to engage students academically, provide leadership opportunities, and offer social-emotional support in a safe environment and community organizations provided tutoring with funding from the Ministry of Education. In addition to the March break camps, the caring and safe 		

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	<p>schools team collaborated with the Continuing Education Department to establish hubs for two separate leadership training programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These programs focused on developing employability skills and offered certifications in safety, trades, culinary arts, first aid, sports and recreation, and coaching. Mental health, wellness, and financial literacy sessions were also included in these opportunities. <p>Funding for youth employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional grant funding from the Ministry of Education was acquired through the board's advocacy and the chair's efforts to support youth employment. • Efforts are being done for more opportunities for young people to pursue their interests and gain employment throughout the school year. • The Provincial Government has announced funding for youth employment and engagement with community partners to offer additional programming for after school, evenings, and weekends. • The goal is to involve community partners and parents while addressing risk factors such as education, racism, and a lack of belonging in schools that can impact student safety and success. 		

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	<p>Multi-Year Strategic Plan Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board is committed to seeking input from parents, students, staff, and community partners to shape the plan. • The government has stated the following priorities such as apprenticeships, literacy, mathematics, and mental health. • The board is actively seeking input from parents, guardians, and caregivers through focus sessions, school councils, and board forums using a facilitator's guide to gather feedback in a format that can be compared across different groups and engage community. • Public engagement sessions and the survey on the website will continue into the fall for parents and caregivers to provide input. • There will be multiple opportunities to participate in these sessions, including specific sessions for PIAC. <p>Budget for staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of the board's budget is invested in school-based staffing. • The board recently received grants for student needs, but there are still ongoing challenges in securing sufficient funding that reflects the priorities and needs of the Toronto District School Board. • The board will make staffing decisions, including central staffing and discretionary budgets 		

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	<p>for equipment and support services, which have been cut back in the past to avoid cuts to school budgets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget decisions will be made in the coming weeks, and parents, caregivers, and stakeholders will be kept informed of opportunities to provide input and gain more information. 		
Senior Staff Update	<p>Accessibility of TDSB schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDSB’s facility services undertake accessibility work throughout the year, including improvements to create universal washrooms, upgrades to ramps, and the installation of automatic door openers in schools. The challenge lies in making older buildings fully accessible. Audits were conducted in 2014 and 2015, which resulted in reports for each school detailing accessibility features and as per the report 63% of schools are not accessible, while 28% are accessible, and 9% are somewhat accessible. The cost of making all schools accessible is estimated to be at least 1 billion dollars. Funding is mostly allocated for building backlog and urgent repairs. The aim has been for at least one K-12 accessible pathway per area creating accessible pathways within each catchment area. Currently, only 14 out of 78 		

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	<p>catchment areas that have existing pathways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lowest cost option for all catchment areas without pathways would be approximately 110 million dollars. <p>George Harvey and York Memorial name change Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The decision to name York Memorial was based on its unique historical significance as a memorial for Canadian soldiers who died in World War I and World War II. The school is protected by a heritage bylaw and is the only secondary school in Ontario built specifically as a memorial. As part of the consolidation strategy, opportunities will be explored to honor the other school names, such as George Harvey, in the rebuild of York Memorial Collegiate. <p>TDSB's Twitter account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TDSB utilizes Twitter as one of its communication channels to share information with families. Important updates that have already been shared via email are echoed on Twitter. Twitter is used to highlight school events and stories across the system. The TDSB will continue to use Twitter as part of its communication tools and will evaluate if it becomes a paid product. 		

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	<p>Vice Principal Reductions & New Associate Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to a budget deficit of approximately \$60-61 million, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has implemented reductions to achieve a balanced budget. • A significant reduction came from the downsizing of approximately 522 positions, including over 35 vice principal allocations, which were initially funded through the Covid learning recovery funding provided by the Provincial Government. • Regarding the addition of an Associate Director position, the decision to post the position occurred before the current school budget was established. <p>Elementary alternative schools admission error</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts are being made to address the error by increasing the allocation of spots to ensure equitable access for parents and their children. • The increased spots are not second options but provide additional opportunities across the 17 schools and various grade levels. 		
PCEO Update	<p>Update on inactive school councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 300 school council have bylaws and have school council chairs, the office aims to ensure 		

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	<p>that every school in the district has a school council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsibility for school councils falls on principals, and in cases where there are no councils, the administrators collaborate with the PCEO to establish and facilitate their formation. <p>Model Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Workers (CSWs) are parent engagement staff responsible for supporting parent/caregiver engagement in the 115 model schools across the district. • CSWs work closely with schools to build and strengthen school councils. • PCEO works with the CSW team to identify any missing information and provide necessary support to establish school councils where they are currently absent. <p>March PIAC orientation</p> <p>New PIAC Co-Reps from Wards 4,5, 7,9, 10, 11, 13, 14 ,15,18, 19 attended the orientation.</p>		
Q & A	<p>Specialized secondary programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns on the identification of marginalized or underrepresented students in specialized secondary programs. • The exclusion of LGBTQ+ students and those with special needs. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biracial students faced conflicts with identifying as black or white. • Many students feel left out of the system due to the lack of interviews and a subjective evaluation process. • Reducing entry to specialized schools to a lottery process and the lack of meaningful consultation with the parent community and their input. • The board needs to prioritize the inclusion of high-achieving students and improve the equitable distribution of information about all TDSB programs. • The Board should have a call for open and well-advertised parent group discussions during community consultations to foster dialogue and diverse perspectives. • Concerns about the fairness of allowing previously private school students to participate in the lottery for limited spaces in specialized programs. • Priority access for students from socioeconomic demographics who cannot afford these programs, need for more equitable distribution of opportunities. <p><i>PIAC to invite staff responsible for the central student interest programs for a presentation and address the questions and concerns raised.</i></p>		

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	<p>Bill 98 Concern about the lack of consultation with parent caregivers and educators on the Government’s Bill 98. <i>The Board is discussing its response to Bill 98, parents can reach out to local MPs and the government to express their views on specific aspects of the bill.</i></p> <p><i>A motion was put forward for trustees to request the TDSB chair's participation in the legislative consultation process, providing the TDSB with a voice in the consultation process. The written report will include a link to the public hearing information, allowing members of the group to consider participating if they are interested.</i></p> <p>Accessibility of TDSB schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of accessibility should include entire school environment such as deteriorating stairs and snow removal and other broader accessibility challenges in addition to specific features like elevators. • The board should consider situations where staff members or students have documented requirements for accessible facilities and prioritize resources. By considering specific cases of 		

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	<p>demonstrated need can help in making informed decisions regarding resource allocation.</p> <p><i>The decisions need to be done with staff who have the expertise in working with students with special needs. Informed decisions can be made on a catchment area-by- area basis by analyzing the specific needs, by gathering input from staff members who are familiar with special needs.</i></p> <p><i>Investments are being made in school grounds through state-of-good-repair funding which allows for holistic site improvements that benefit accessibility, such as repairing asphalt and creating accessible pathways.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government has mandated that the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) done by 2025. Will TDSB be able to achieve accessibility by 2025.? • Concern that funding allocated for accessibility purposes is being used for other facility repairs. Ward 2 has no accessible schools, despite the presence of elevators in some post-secondary institutions. • School councils and principals have been contacting the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) to address these accessibility issues, particularly minor repairs that have been neglected for several 		

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	<p>years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for students, including those with disabilities or temporary disabilities, have access to schools. <p><i>The legal requirement for making existing buildings accessible by 2025 has not yet been passed into law. TDSB currently has no legal obligation to make existing buildings accessible. Significant cost involved in making all TDSB buildings accessible by an estimate around 1 billion dollars.</i></p> <p><i>When major site improvements are made, they are designed to be AODA compliant. However, under the current funding model, the TDSB is only funded for renewal work on existing building elements, not for adding new accessible features like elevators or ramps.</i></p> <p><i>TDSB faces a significant deferred maintenance backlog due to the age of their schools, which average 67 years old. While the ministry has increased funding for school renewal work, it is not sufficient to address all accessibility needs. Parents should reach out to Principals for specific accessibility concerns in schools who can provide information and engage with facility team leaders.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a public channel or accessible information available to understand the prioritization 		

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	<p>process and justification for limited funding? How can school council members help address the problems and communicate with parents?</p> <p><i>Staff will present a significant report to the Board in the fall, which will provide more details on the operationalization of the plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Model Schools initiative is currently limited to elementary schools and does not include high schools. • It is important to consider both levels when discussing and representing the interests of students. • It is necessary to support everyone within the school community and recognize that not all schools have a school council. <p>Staffing solutions for occasional teachers</p> <p>Can occasional teachers be assigned to specific schools on a more consistent temporary basis where there is a need, rather than being available to the entire system and deployed to different schools.</p>		
Working Group (WG) Reports			
Consultation WG	Nothing to report		
Event planning WG	<p>PIAC conference (In-person)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIAC's conference is scheduled for May 6th from 9 to 4. 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers are needed to help with event preparation and on the day of the conference. • High school students can earn volunteer hours. • The conference will feature vendors, workshops, breakfast, lunch, and a theatrical performance. • PIAC members who are interested to volunteer reach out to Bruce O Ward 10 PIAC Co-Rep for more information. • This event and will be a great opportunity to reconnect with the school communities in person. 		
<p>School Councils Support WG Communication WG</p>	<p>Motions from the WG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System accountability in running the Mandatory School Committee and emphasizes the inclusion of parents. • Transparent access for the School Council to the funds held on their behalf in school accounts and through School Cash Online <p>Brief discussion on these motions followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff requested clarification from the WG on two points to address. Firstly, clarification on the request of an annual report in November, whether the data collected in November represents the entirety of the year or if it pertains to the previous year. • Secondly, when listing committees, it is suggested to include "staffing/programming" to indicate that discussions 		<p>Motion by Susan L W12 and seconded by Abdul Azeem M (W21) PIAC recommends that The TDSB is accountable to School Councils choosing to use their school's school generated funds account to hold fundraised money by instilling better awareness among school administrative staff of the processes necessary for both School Council record keeping and transparent usage of fundraised money housed in this location.</p> <p>2. That TDSB ensure regular training of Office Assistants,</p>

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	<p>involving parents and caregivers should also encompass the types of programs offered at the secondary level, not just staffing considerations.</p> <p>PIAC Co-Chair Andrew committed to work with Michelle M (PCEO) on the motions and report back to PIAC meeting.</p>		<p>Principals and School Councils in the proper handling and reporting of all School Council funds.</p> <p>3. That TDSB ensure regular training of Office Assistants, Principals and School Councils in using School Cash Online for council activities according to how the council has their finances set up. This could include the creation of a “School Council” category in the school ledger, assisting council in linking their bank account to the Cash Online system, sharing the necessary reports with School Councils in a timely manner as indicated by TDSB Finance Dept.</p> <p>4. That TDSB ensures transparent access for School Councils to their money held in the school’s account as school generated funds, as well as the Ministry School Council Operational Funds for council administration and Parent Engagement, by communicating regularly to Principals that</p>

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			<p>the spending of any School Council funds held in this manner is the collective decision of the School Council. Scheduled follow up with Principals by Superintendents is recommended annually in November.</p> <p>5. The TDSB provides to PIAC an annual confirmation each November generated by central board finance officers that every School Council has received their full GL 41500 statement via their TDSB School Council email by the end of September to align with School Council elections and as needed to prepare the required TDSB School Council PSAB budget submission by the October / November deadline.</p> <p>6. The TDSB is accountable on this matter by providing to PIAC and PCEO a regular report on School Council service requests for access to funds via school-generated funds accounts and/or School Cash Online that are received and resolved by administration be added to the relevant trustee committee meeting's standard agenda to facilitate Trustee understanding of these</p>

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			<p>issues until a system is in place and/or the Fundraising Policy P021 and related guidelines are updated to include accountability to School Councils.</p> <p>The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion by Seema M (W18), motion seconded by M Yousuf (W15) PIAC recommend the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The TDSB increases awareness among principals of their responsibility to both operate the required school committees and include parent representation, by providing annual reminders, including the PIAC Fall Tips for Principals quick guide (as per accepted PIAC recommendation of June 2019). 2. That Superintendents follow up with their Principals by November of each school year to ensure these committees are in place and include parent representation. 3. The TDSB is accountable to oversight of this matter by providing to PIAC an annual report in November on the number of operational school

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			<p>committees and how many committees are including the parent voice. The motion was passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Communication WG</p>	<p>PIAC Logo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WG reported that there will be a presentation of a new PIAC logo. • The WG is focused on increasing promotion and awareness for the upcoming conference scheduled for next week. 		
<p>Operational effectiveness WG</p>	<p>PIAC User agreement 17 new PIAC members completed the user agreement showing that the G-Drive can be used in collaboration and productivity of members using the online platform were effective.</p> <p>PIAC Meetings PIAC Co-Chairs discussed the possibility of resuming PAC meetings in a hybrid format, combining in-person and virtual attendance via Zoom and telephone. This proposal will be presented at the upcoming May meeting.</p> <p>Restructuring of Working Groups Operational effectiveness WG and Strategic Planning WG to address members' workload and ensure they are not stretched thin by serving multiple working groups. A motion to come out of Strategic planning on this.</p> <p>PIAC budget</p>		

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	<p>An updated budget report was shared, indicating available funds of \$5,435, with some pending expenses related to event planning.</p> <p>The written report included links to the bylaws, a budget summary, and the strategic planning working plan for the period of 2022 to 2023.</p>		
<p>Membership WG</p>	<p>PIAC ward elections The WG is committed to exploring a hybrid option for PIAC ward elections and aimed to make a recommendation on that matter.</p> <p>PIAC Member acknowledgement Efforts were underway to develop an acknowledgment system for PAC retirees and graduates. In the final meeting of the year, an exit survey would be introduced to gather feedback from departing members and gain further insights.</p> <p>PIAC Social The events working group discussed the possibility of scheduling a significant event for the last meeting of the year, pending further considerations and planning.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about expired terms in wards and follow up with the trustees to ensure that elections are conducted. • PIAC should expressed gratitude for the increased participation of 		

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	<p>parents in PIAC and acknowledged the support of the trustee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to WG on the importance of ensuring that the elections are conducted as mandated. • Emphasis the requirement for PIAC members to be part of a working group and keeping track of the number of members in each group to encourage participation. • The goal is to have every member involved in at least one working group. 		
Strategic Planning WG	<p>Annual strategic planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the two upcoming executive meetings, in May and June there will be an hour dedicated to strategic planning. • The decision to split the strategic planning discussions over two meetings was made to accommodate the in-person event already scheduled for May and to avoid overwhelming the members with a full day or half-day of activities. • All PIAC members are encouraged everyone to attend the executive meetings and more information to follow. 		
Ward & CLG update	<p>Ward 4 -On April 29, a parent engagement conversation session from 9:30 to 12:30 and will feature a speaker from the Black North Initiative, along with Lorna Cross, discussing the significance of parental involvement in their children's education and the</p>		

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	<p>importance of participating in policies, practices, and procedures.</p> <p>Ward 9-Trustee organized a gathering for the school council chairs in Ward 9. The meeting provided an opportunity for collaboration and discussion on the priorities and concerns within the ward. The attendees found the meeting to be a fantastic experience and encouraged others to reach out to their trustees and consider organizing similar meetings.</p> <p>Letters advocating for the reimbursement of funding The two letters are posted on the PIAC website under the "News" section. One letter is intended for parents to send directly, while the other is for school councils to distribute. Additionally, the letters can be accessed by PIAC members in the G drive on the TDSB Mental Health platform.</p>		
New Business			
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn the meeting by Janice B (W11) and seconded by Alice R (W7).		