

PIAC Co-Chair Report

February 20, 2024

Family Day – Feb 19, 2024

Hope you had a wonderful and well-rested Family Day weekend.

February African Heritage Month

During February, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) proudly recognizes African Heritage (Black History) Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of people of African descent to Canada and the world.

TDSB celebrates African Heritage/Black History Month with the theme **Our Black Is...**

February Chinese Heritage Month

The TDSB proudly recognizes Chinese Heritage Month in February each year.

This year is the *Year of the Dragon: Majesty, Brilliance, Confidence, Leadership.*

January Tamil Heritage Month

TDSB proudly recognized and celebrated Tamil Heritage Month during January

This year's theme was TAMILICIOUS: Tamils and Food – Past, Present, & Future

Ministry of Education meeting with PIC Co-Chairs

This is a meeting for specifically the co-chairs of Board Parent Involvement Committees across the province. The names and contact information of PIC co-chairs are provided by the Boards in the province to the Ministry of Education.

The high-level topics spoken about at the meeting with the Ministry were the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act 2023, and the Board Student Achievement Plans which is part of the Education Act section 169.2, Ontario Regulation 224/23. Also mentioned was the inclusion of mandatory mental health modules that are now being taught in grades 7 and 8 as part of the health and physical education curriculum as part of PPM 169 Student Mental Health. Information was also shared about PPM 151 PA Day Transparency.

A new document has been created by the Safe and Healthy Schools Branch called "Bullying We Can All Help Stop It".

Mental Health and Well-Being Committee PIAC Liaison Rep Vacancy

PIAC is looking for a PIAC ward rep to take on the role of the PIAC Liaison to the TDSB Parents as Partners Mental Health and Well-being Committee. This role would require a PIAC ward rep to attend the TDSB Parents as Partners Mental Health and Well-being Committee meetings and share what that committee is doing at our monthly PIAC meetings. This would be a one-year commitment for the 2023-2024 school year.

Anyone PIAC ward rep who is interested, please contact co-chairs Zena & Sharon.

PIAC School Council Empowerment Conference was a success!

We would like to thank All PIAC members, Parents/Guardians/Caregivers and Community members, Trustees, TDSB Staff & TDSB Student Volunteers for supporting and contributing to a very successful conference. We had school representation from all 22 wards which is amazing. Special thank you to the Special Events Working Group (WG) led by Nadia (W22) for your hard work to ensure that we launch our annual conference for the 2023-2024 School Year held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Earl Haig Secondary School 100 Princess Ave., North York ON M2N 3R7. The conference was well supported in the background by our TDSB staff from the PCCEO.

It's important that we support our annual conference which gives us the opportunity to continue the outreach by letting our TDSB school councils and school communities know about us and the work that we do to support, encourage, and enhance parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being.

The conference inspired parents to continue the advocacy through their school council in order to continue to improve student achievement and well-being within their school.

PIAC Working Groups Meeting Schedule

The working group (WG) meeting schedule dates were sent out to the PIAC general membership from the PCCEO and we encourage each PIAC Co-Reps to join at least one working group. The work is done at the Working Group level which is then brought to the general meeting as an update or as a motion for the general membership to review and vote on

PIAC Working Groups

The important work of PIAC happens as we support our school councils and school communities in person and direct communication as well in our PIAC working groups. As per our PIAC by-laws, each PIAC member is required to sign up and participate in at least one PIAC working group. There are two types of PIAC working groups, the governance and non-governance working groups. The current governance working groups are Membership, By-laws, Strategic Planning, and Operational Effectiveness which include Budget and operational matters and are open to all PIAC co-representatives and the CLG representative to PIAC. Our non-governance working groups are Communications, Special Events, School Council Support, and Consultations which are open to all PIAC co-representatives, members, TDSB Parents and Caregivers as well as persons from the community. Please look out for the link from the PCCE Office to sign up for a working group and read the working group descriptions. All our working groups are supported by the TDSB PCCEO team (Parent Caregiver and Community Engagement Office).

We're also hoping that as part of the PIAC Co-Reps outreach within their wards parents/guardians/caregivers or community members are encouraged to join one of the PIAC non-governance working groups as well.

PIAC Post Newsletter

Please look out for this monthly newsletter in your email and share it with those in your communities (ensure your email accounts are updated with our Parent Caregiver and Community Engagement Office). Please send any updates or ideas for future PIAC POST editions to the co-chairs at info@torontopiac.com

PIAC Google Drive

We are encouraging all PIAC members to use the PIAC Google Drive for member resources and Working Group activities. Please complete the User Agreement to gain access to the drive: <https://bit.ly/PIACGOOGLE2021>. Thanks to all the members who have completed the PIAC Google Drive User Agreement.

To facilitate the important work which members are doing to be in compliance with security protocol, all Working Groups are to be using this shared PIAC Google Drive. If you are a PIAC Working Group lead/co-lead, please move your work into the WG Google folders created in the “!Start Here-PIAC Main Folder!” and make piac.toronto the owner of the folders/documents.

Thank you to all engaged PIAC members for their efforts in advocating for the parent/guardian/caregiver voice and the continued push for student achievement and well-being improvements. It may not appear that our work is important and immediately impactful though changes are happening.

Sharon Grant & Zena Shereck
Co-Chairs, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, TDSB