

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

November 2023

SUCCESS WITH THE PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

The recommendations to Board and Director of Education to improve parent and caregivers' ability to communicate with each other for School Council purposes was received by PSSC on Oct 18, 2023. Andrew Waters, Co-chair, was able to speak for 5 minutes to the recommendations (see Appendix 1) and the issues with 'shared email account' and general difficulty that parents and caregivers have to communicate with each other for School Council and Advisory Committee purposes.

Trustees Dawson, King, Laskin and Williams reacted strongly echoing PIAC's, parents and caregivers frustration with TDSB staff inability to resolve the communication issue going back many years. Trustee discussed the issue for over 20 minutes including seeking information of the staff on the issue and how it can be resolved. Staff had to respond to Trustee questions several times and committed to fixing the issue. Trustee referred the recommendations back to staff.

The process for PSSC meetings will be that CAC co-chairs will only present recommendations to the committee.

Prior minutes and agendas for all Board Committee meetings can be found on the TDSB website on the agenda and minutes page.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda- Minutes>

TDSB's VISION & MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision for Learning

Our Commitment is Equity of Access and Outcome for All Students

TDSB is committed to creating an equitable school system where the achievement and well-being of every student is fostered through rich, culturally authentic learning experiences in diverse, accepting environments where all are included, every voice is heard, and every experience is honoured.

Vision for Service

Our Vision for Service in the Toronto District School Board is to foster a culture that values service excellence and continuous improvement.

Every decision we make supports student well-being and learning. Providing responsive and effective service to the TDSB's primary clients – our students, their families and school communities - plays a significant role in that. While the work of Business and School Operations departments might not directly impact students, their efforts to build a service excellence culture enables those who are directly responsible for student achievement and well-being to remain completely focussed on serving the needs of students.



Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Vision for Learning & Service

Leadership

School Improvement

Service Excellence

Governance

Transform Student Learning

- Deep Learning: Global Competencies
- Deep Learning: Mathematics
- Deep Learning: Literacy
- Early Years: Literacy & Numeracy
- Inclusion/Special Education
- Suspensions, Expulsions & Restorative Practices
- Grade 9 & 10 Academic
- Indigenous Education
- Toward Excellence in the Education of Black Students

Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being

- Well-Being and Mental Health
- Staff Well-Being
- Physical Well-Being
- Student Voice

Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students

- Long Term Program and Accommodation Strategy
- Policy and Procedures Related to Access
- Secondary Program
- Accessibility
- Human Rights
- Employment Equity

Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs

- Budget Resource Allocation
- Learning Opportunities Index
- School Budgets and Fundraising
- Equitable Distribution of Facility Resources
- Staffing Allocation

Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning & Well-Being

- Community Engagement Standards
- Internal Communications
- External Communications
- Open Access to TDSB Data
- Issues Management for School and System Leaders
- Government Relations and City of Toronto Public Education Advocacy

PIAC CO-CHAIR ELECTION

Thank you to the Membership WG with the support of the PCCEO to ensure that we will have our Co-Chair Elections on November 7, 2023 and wishing best of luck to all our candidates.

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). Please send any updates or ideas for future PIAC POST editions to the co-chairs at info@torontopiac.com

WORKING GROUPS SIGNUP

Gentle reminder to sign up for working groups for the 2023-2024 school year! Every PIAC member is required to sign up and participate in a minimum of 1 working groups as per our Bylaws. Please note that much of the work and discussion occurs at the

working group level before it comes to the monthly meeting. PIAC members' duties include contributing to tasks at the working group level and attending PIAC's monthly meetings. PIAC welcomes any community members to join non-governance working groups. Membership WG has the updated [PIAC WG Sign up form 2023-24](#) link and can be found on at www.TorontoPIAC.com. Descriptions of the Working Groups mandate can be found at [PIAC WG Descriptions 2023-24](#).

The non-governance working groups are:

- School Council Support WG
- Consultations WG
- Events WG
- Communications WG

WORKING GROUPS SCHEDULES

| Committee/ Working Group | Time | Day | Meeting Cycle | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| PIAC General Meeting | 7pm-9pm | Tue | 12-Dec | 16-Jan | 20-Feb | 26-Mar | 30-Apr | 04-Jun |
| Executive | 6pm-7:30pm | Tue | 05-Dec | 09-Jan | 13-Feb | 19-Mar | 23-Apr | 28-May |
| Events | 7:30pm-9pm | Mon | 27-Nov | 08-Jan | 05-Feb | 04-Mar | 15-Apr | 13-May |
| School Councils Support | 6pm-7:30pm | Tue | 28-Nov | 09-Jan | 06-Feb | 05-Mar | 16-Apr | 21-May |
| Consultation | 7:30pm-9pm | | | | | | | |
| Membership | 6pm- 7pm | Thu | 30-Nov | 11-Jan | 08-Feb | 07-Mar | 18-Apr | 23-May |
| Governance | 7pm-8pm | | | | | | | |
| Communications | 8pm- 9pm | | | | | | | |

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>

For any members who seeking one-on-one support to familiarize themselves with using Google drive, Nicole Herbert has offered time to assist. Please email Nicole Herbert at nicole.herbert.work@gmail.com or message her in the Zoom chat to arrange a time to connect. Thanks to all the members who have completed the PIAC Google Drive User Agreement!

To facilitate the important work which members are performing, all Working Groups are to be using this shared PIAC Google Drive. If you are a PIAC Working Group 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 folder/documents.

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

Sharon Grant & Andrew Waters
Co-chairs, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, TDSB

Appendix 1: PIAC Recommendations Received by Program & School Services Committee on Oct 18, 2023



ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Name of Committee: PIAC

Meeting Date: 19 06, 2023

Directed To: Program and School Services Committee

A meeting of the PIAC convened on 19-06-23 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:55 p.m. both in-person and virtually [type location and meeting software], with Sharon Grant and Andrew Waters(cochairs) presiding.

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|--------------------|---|
| Attendance: | Sarah Ali (W2), Tamasha Grant (W4), Zena Shereck (W5), Kaydeen Bankasingh (W8), Karin Trajcevski (W9), Bruce Oyelowo (W10), Jenny Zeng (W13), Jenny Gannon (W14), Bahira Abdulsalam (W14), Jennifer Volk (W15), Seema Mitchell (W18), Chris Levien (W20), Abdul Azeem Mohammed (W21), Nadia Judunath (W22), Sharon Grant (PIAC Co-Chair), Andrew Waters (PIAC Co-Chair), Felicia Lau (PIAC Liaison), Trustee Debbie King Exec Superintendent Shirley Chan, Exec Superintendent Uton Robinson, Central Coordinator, PCEO Michelle Munroe, Office Administrator, PCEO Margaret Horvath |
| Regrets: | Jessica Ruiz (W4), Ayan Kaillie (W7), Alice Romo (W7), Janice Barnett (W11), Nicole Williams (W17) |
| Absent: | Erin Clarke (W1), Frances Shawera (W2), Saira Somani (W3), Sandreen Porter (W5), Crystal Stewart (W6), Anshu Grover (W8), Melanie MedeirosSims (W9), Manna Begum (W10), Charles Zhu (W11), Liesha Earle (W12), Susan Lee (W12), Jenny Zheng (W13), Mohammad Yousuf (W15), Nicole Williams (W17), Tanya Ono (W17), Shanti Chand (W19), Zuojun Han (W20), Nicole Marshall (W22), Towhid Noman (Community Liaison Group (CLG)) |

Part A: Recommendations

PIAC recommends:

Whereas TDSB School Councils represent the voice of parents/caregivers and the community members at their school to improve student achievement and hold the board accountable, the the ability of 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 P023, the Parent and Caregiver Engagement Policy, section 6.9, “Board will provide an effective and operational communication system(s)” 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 P037 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.”;

Whereas School Councils have not historically 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;

Whereas PIAC recognizes the steps taken by the board IT Department since 2022 to address the gaps in technical support;

And whereas access challenges and poor technical support over the course of so many years have resulted in a culture of dis-use among School Councils, with limited overall uptake of TDSB School Council email accounts and the communication tools attached to them. Therefore, be it resolved that PIAC recommend the following, in addition to the recommendations from January 2022:

1. The TDSB and the Director of Education renew their commitment to equitably provide School Councils and Advisory Committees with reliable communication tools to fulfill their role by having in place a fulsome strategy to start the 2023/24 school year with a proactive communication and outreach campaign to School Councils, capacity for prompt response to all IT support requests, and follow-up with account users and Principals to ensure schools are successful in using the TDSB communication tools provided to School Councils. This strategy should coincide with the October School Council election cycle.
2. The Director of Education be accountable for their commitment by sharing a comprehensive plan to change the culture of dis-use among TDSB School Councils with PIAC and PIAC's School Council Support Working Group.
3. The TDSB and the Director of Education plan to regularly evaluate the effectiveness and equity of their current board CAC and School Council email account system to assess its true efficacy. This evaluation will be supplied to PIAC's School Council Support Working Group in the Fall of 2023 and thereafter within the regular evaluation schedule.

Part B: Staff Supplementary Information

During the deliberation of this recommendation, staff outlined for the committee the difference between policy (Board of Trustees) and procedural/operational (Director) recommendations and advised this recommendation is procedural and should be directed to staff. The committee approved the recommendation to the Board of Trustees with the suggestion that a report to the Board will make the request public. The recommendations have been shared with staff for response at the October PIAC meeting.

Report Submitted by: [Shirley Chan, Executive Superintendent, Learning Centre 2, Uton

Robinson, Executive Superintendent, S. Chan, Learning Centre 1]