

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

October 2023

WELCOME BACK PIAC MEMBERS!

We hope everyone had a great summer and an engaging September with their school communities.

PURPOSE OF PIAC (ACCORDING TO EDUCATION ACT REG. 612/00)

27. (1) The purpose of a parent involvement committee is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

(2) A parent involvement committee of a board shall achieve its purpose by,

- (a) providing information and advice on parent engagement to the board;
- (b) communicating with and supporting school councils of schools of the board; and
- (c) undertaking activities to help parents of pupils of the board support their children's learning at home and at school.

28. A parent involvement committee of a board shall,

- (a) develop strategies and initiatives that the board and the board's director of education could use to effectively communicate with parents and to effectively engage parents in improving student achievement and well-being;
- (b) advise the board and the board's director of education on ways to use the strategies and initiatives referred to in clause (a);
- (c) communicate information from the Ministry to school councils of schools of the board and to parents of pupils of the board;
- (d) work with school councils of schools of the board and, through the board's director of education, with employees of the board to,
 - (i) share effective practices to help engage parents, especially parents who may find engagement challenging, in their children's learning,
 - (ii) identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement,
 - (iii) help ensure that schools of the board create a welcoming environment for parents of its pupils, and
- (iv) develop skills and acquire knowledge that will assist the parent involvement committee and school councils of the board with their work; and
- (e) determine, in consultation with the board's director of education and in keeping with the board's policies, how funding, if any, provided under the *Education Act* for parent involvement as described in section 27 and clauses (a) to (d), is to be used.

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

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>

WORKING GROUPS SCHEDULES

Below is a tentative WGs Meeting Schedule based on the approved PIAC Meeting being every 5 weeks. Rationale:

- No meetings on Mondays or Fridays due to Stat Holidays/PA Days/long weekends due to making it less likely parents/caregivers can attend.
- Meeting times standardized: either 1) 6pm-7:30pm or 2) 7:30pm-9pm to support more members attending.
- Governance and Communications working groups meeting being last (Thursday) in the meeting cycle to support workflow as they support the work of the other working groups (i.e. reviewing budget requests, a communication plan for an event, etc.)

Committee/ Working Group	Working Group Time Slot	Day	Time	Meeting Cycle							
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PIAC General Meeting	N/A	Tue	7pm-9pm	03-Oct	07-Nov	12-Dec	16-Jan	20-Feb	26-Mar	30-Apr	04-Jun
Executive	N/A	Tue	6pm-7:30pm	26-Sep	01-Nov (Wed)	05-Dec	09-Jan	13-Feb	19-Mar	23-Apr	28-May
School Councils Support	1	Tue	6pm-7:30pm	19-Sep	24-Oct	28-Nov	09-Jan	06-Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr	21-May
Consultation	2	Tue	7:30pm-9pm	19-Sep	24-Oct	28-Nov	09-Jan	06-Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr	21-May
Membership	3	Wed	6pm-7:30pm	20-Sep	25-Oct	29-Nov	10-Jan	07-Feb	13-Mar	17-Apr	22-May
Events	4	Wed	7:30pm-9pm	20-Sep	25-Oct	29-Nov	10-Jan	07-Feb	13-Mar	17-Apr	22-May
Communications	5	Thu	6pm-7:30pm	21-Sep	26-Oct	30-Nov	11-Jan	08-Feb	14-Mar	18-Apr	23-May

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:

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

WORKING GROUP CO-LEADS

Co-leads will be chosen at the first meeting, Co-chairs will be present to facilitate an election if necessary

CO-CHAIR ELECTION

At the November PIAC meeting there will be an election for Co-chair. It is a two-year term. Membership Working Group will organize the election. Information on the election process will be sent out in October. We encourage all members run for Co-chair. If you have any questions about the position and it's responsibilities, please reach out the Co-chairs and we will be glad to provide information.

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

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