

PIAC Chair Report

December 12, 2023

Welcome to our new PIAC Co-Chair

On November 7, 2023, PIAC elections took place and Zena Shereck emerged as the new Co-Chair of PIAC to join current Co-Chair Sharon Grant. We welcome back Zena and look forward to working with her. We also like to thank outgoing Co-Chair Andrew Waters for his work at PIAC and hope to see him return to PIAC in an advisory capacity to the current co-chairs.

Welcome to our new Trustee PIAC Liaison

On November 15, 2023, an organizational meeting took place with the TDSB Board of Trustees, and Trustee Matias de Dovitiis was elected as the PIAC Liaison Trustee. We welcome Trustee Matias de Dovitiis and look forward to working with him. We also want to thank Trustee Debbie King and thank her for supporting PIAC.

Unity in the Life of a PIAC Member

Unity for PIAC means being or staying together. We should help and support each other in any situation. When we're together we're stronger and being together is paramount in building a good and strong Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). Unity is important at every step in our journey of advocacy for our TDSB parents to the Board as a PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee) member in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

PIAC School Council Empowerment Conference – Save the date

All PIAC members, CLG representatives, Parents/Caregivers and Community members, Trustees & TDSB Staff, please save the date for our annual conference to be held for the 2023-2024 School Year on Saturday, February 3, 2024.

PIAC School Council Empowerment Conference – Call for Volunteers

We will need all PIAC members to be available to help support this conference & school council celebration because this is a conference for parents by parents in partnership with the TDSB.

It's important that we support our events, and this conference is an opportunity to let 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.

Program and School Services Meeting

There wasn't a Program and School Services Meeting in November, the next meeting will take place on January 24, 2024, at 4:30 pm. 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>

PIAC Co-Representatives Orientation & Strategic Planning Upcoming Session – Jan 2024 date to follow

PIAC Orientation

In order to bridge the gap and better understand the PIAC Co-representatives' roles and responsibilities, it's very important that all new and current members participate in an orientation with the Co-Chairs and are supported by the PCCEO. We're looking for 100% participation at this orientation which will be held in January 2024. We're hoping to use this forum as a networking session to better acquaint ourselves with this committee as well as

PIAC Strategic Planning

We will need to have a Strategic Planning Session before our upcoming PIAC conference Feb 2024. The best time to do this would be in conjunction with our orientation session to be held in January 2024. It's important that we as a committee review our 5-year vision and see if we have met these goals and objectives. We will also need to set our next 5-year vision which should be in alignment with the board's Multiyear Strategic Plan. The board has started theirs so now we need to start ours to ensure that as a committee we can continue to provide effective advice to the board on behalf of our TDSB parents/guardians/caregivers in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

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, Operational Effectiveness which includes Budget and By-laws, and the Strategic Planning workgroups which 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 working groups 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 working groups are supported by the TDSB PCCEO team (Parent Caregiver and Community Engagement Office).

PIAC Working Groups Meeting Schedule

An updated working group meeting schedule will be submitted to the membership by the Jan 2024 PIAC general meeting to adopt. It appears that the current schedule is causing undue hardship for members and as such all leads/co-leads for their respective WG will need to consult with their WG group members to see the best date and time and submit to meet and then submit to the co-chairs and copy PCCEO. All leads/co-leads will be given the tool to set their up meetings once the dates have been finalized then this can be distributed to the membership.

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 that members are doing to comply with security protocol, 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 folders/documents.

PIAC Year End 2023

Wishing all of the PIAC membership, WG parents, Trustee PIAC Liaison de Dovitiis, TDSB Staff, and WG community members a safe and enjoyable holiday and your family. Looking forward to working with you all in the 2024 New Year! All the best.

Once again, 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