

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 6:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting

**Pages**

- |      |  |         |    |
|------|--|---------|----|
| 1.   | Call to Order  |         |    |
| 2.   | Approval of Agenda   |         |    |
| 3.   | Guest Speaker- Dr. Vera Etches, Ottawa Public Health                                 | 60 mins | 2  |
| 3.1. | Presentation   |         |    |
| 3.2. | Q&A Session  |         |    |
| 4.   | Review of PIC Report, 21 September 2020  |         | 10 |
| 5.   | Discussion Items   |         |    |
| 5.1. | Report 20-082, PIC Brainstorming Session -<br>Reimagining Parent Involvement in 2020 | 60 mins | 20 |
| 6.   | Information Items  |         |    |
| 6.1. | Chair's Report   |         |    |
| 6.2. | Director's Report  |         |    |
|      | a. Back to School Survey   |         |    |
|      | b. School Councils   |         |    |
|      | c. Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap                                       |         |    |
| 6.3. | OCASC Report   |         |    |
| 6.4. | PIC Correspondence   |         |    |
| 7.   | New Business   |         |    |
| 8.   | Adjournment  |         |    |



# Questions About Testing?



Public Health  
Santé publique

Given the current demand for **COVID-19 testing**, Ottawa Public Health wants to provide clear directions on recommendations for **who needs to be tested** for COVID-19 in a school setting:

## The current priority for testing includes:

- Any person (adult or child) with **COVID-19 like symptoms**.
- Any person that Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has identified as a **high-risk contact**. A high risk contact is typically someone who had a prolonged exposure in close proximity to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. You would be notified that you are a high-risk contact by OPH through a phone call, email, or an automated message.



## To be clear, COVID-19 testing is currently NOT recommended for:

- Individuals without symptoms, unless you have been identified as a high risk contact by OPH.
- Family members without symptoms, who have other family members that have symptoms.
- Family members without symptoms, who have other family members that are identified as a high-risk contact.
- Students and staff members in schools who don't have symptoms and who have not been notified by OPH that they are high-risk contacts.



OPH has developed a **Screening Tool** to help parents and guardians make decisions about whether their child can attend school/child care. This screening tool found on our website: [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolsCOVID19](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/SchoolsCOVID19) should be completed daily **before** attending school/child care for **each** individual child **separately**.



# Symptomatic Student or Staff at School

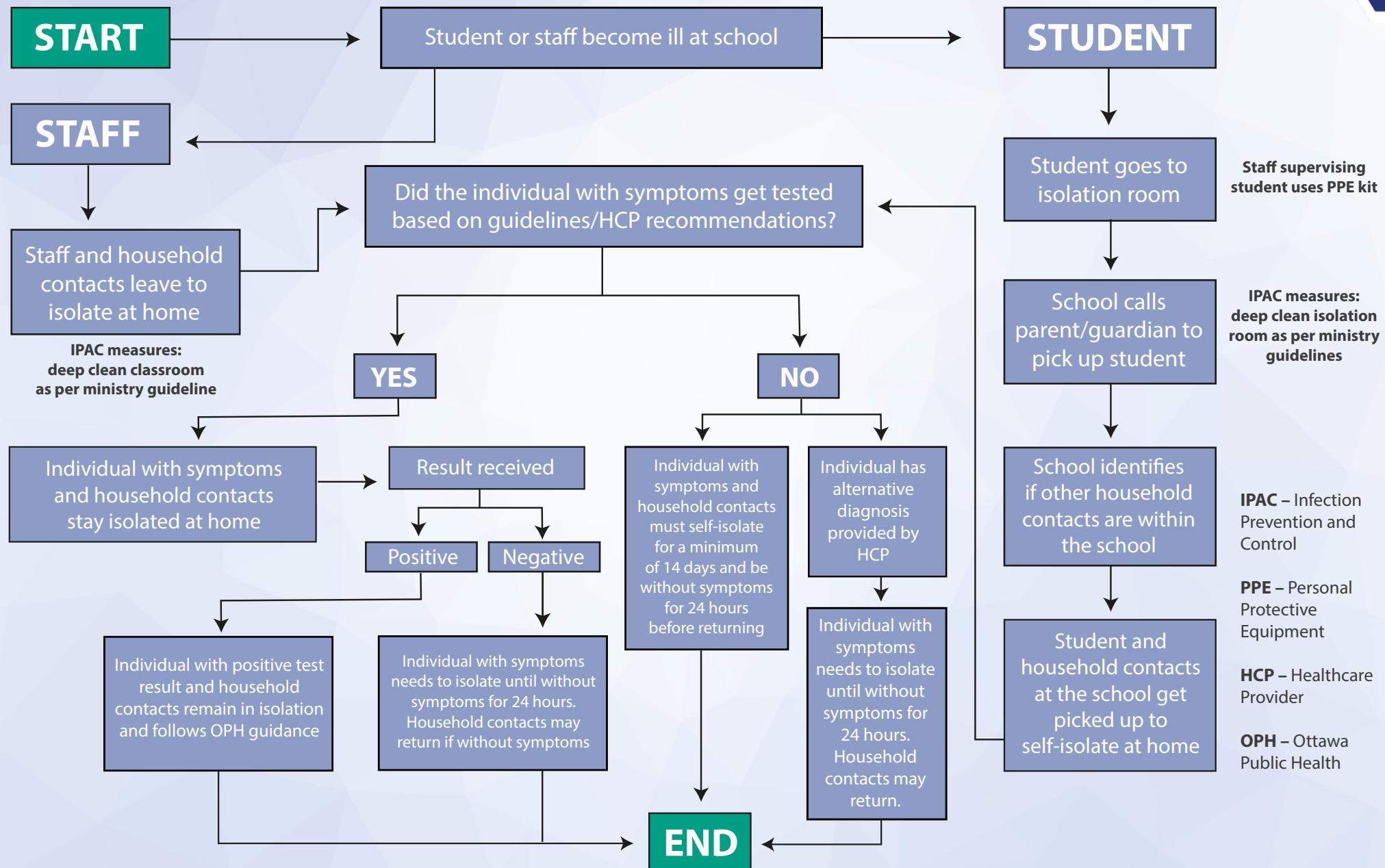
## School Decision Guide

Valid as of Sept 6, 2020



Public Health  
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### Attestation for Return to School/Child Care Following Illness

Student's Name:

My child was sent home from or denied entry to school or child care because of an illness that might be COVID-19 on

(date - dd/mm/yyyy)

I attest that my child may return to school or child care on

(date – dd/mm/yyyy)

for the following reason (**check one**):

☐ My child's symptoms are not new and have not changed. My child was previously seen by a doctor or nurse practitioner and was diagnosed with a chronic condition, such as allergies or asthma, with the exact same symptoms my child has now.

☐ We took my child to a doctor or nurse practitioner during the time since my child was sent home or denied entry to school/child care. The doctor or nurse practitioner told us that another diagnosis (medical reason) other than COVID-19 explains my child's symptoms (why my child was feeling sick).

☐ My child did NOT have a COVID-19 test but completed 10 days of self-isolation from the date when my child started to feel sick **AND** is feeling better **AND** has not had a fever for at least 24 hours.

☐ My child had a negative COVID-19 test after starting to feel sick **AND** has NOT felt sick for at least 24 hours\* **AND** has NOT been told by Ottawa Public Health or a healthcare provider to continue to self-isolate for a total of 14 days because my child was a close contact of a person with COVID-19.

☐ My child did NOT have a COVID-19 test, but had only ONE of the following symptoms: sore throat; stuffy nose and/or runny nose; headache; nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea; OR general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness, poor feeding in infants **AND** symptoms improved over 24 hours\* of monitoring.

**\* Please note: For vomiting and diarrhea, OPH recommends your child does not return to school/child care until 48 hours after symptoms have gone away.**

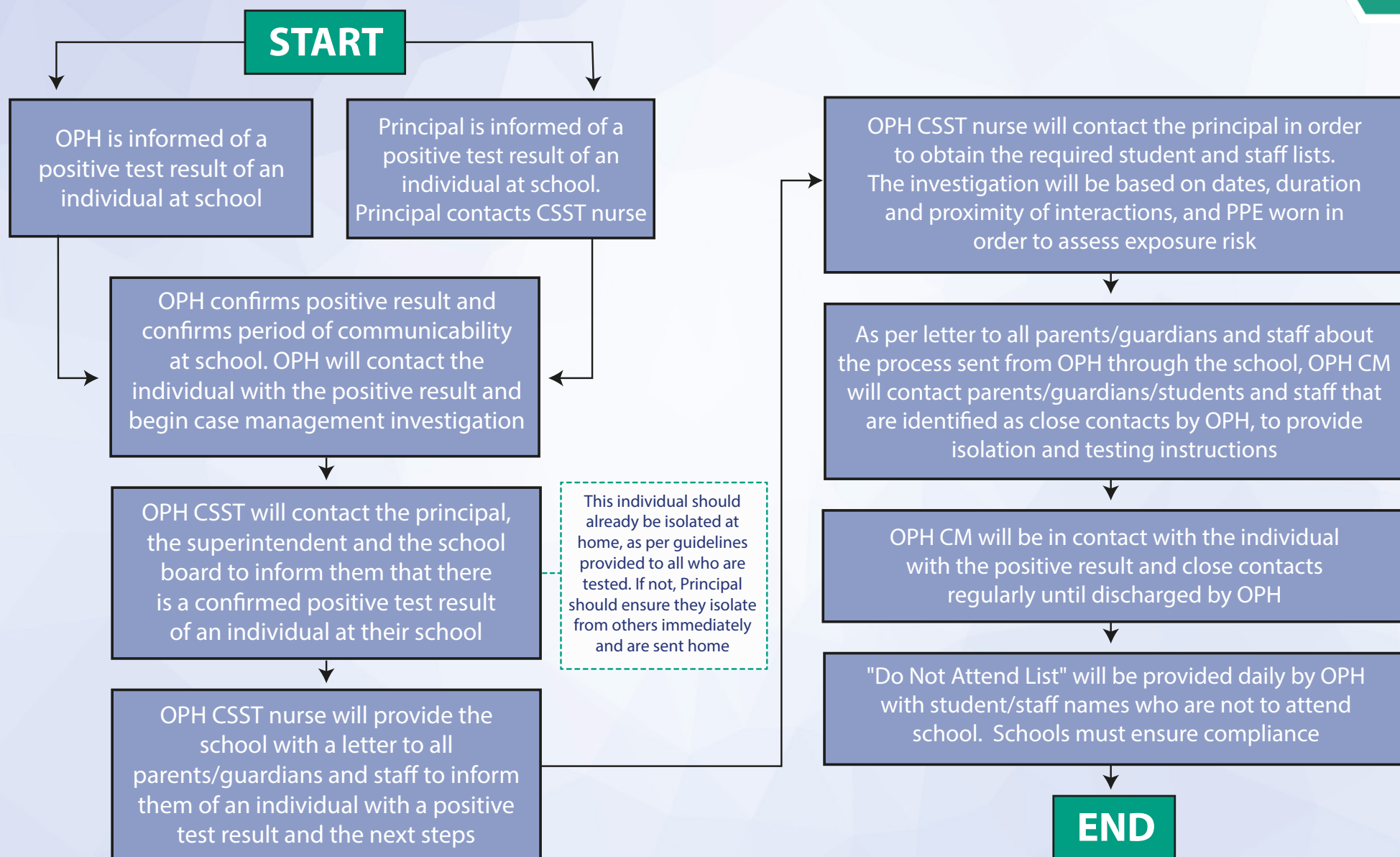
*Mild symptoms like a runny nose do not have to be completely gone when your child returns to school provided the mild symptom is improving and other symptoms have stopped.*

Parent/Guardian Name:

Version: Oct 4, 2020







\*Secure File Transfer must be used in communicating details between school setting and OPH.

IPAC – Infection Prevention and Control

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

CSST – COVID-19 School Support Team

OPH – Ottawa Public Health

CM – Case management





## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Monday, September 21,  
2020  
6:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting**

Members:	Mostafizur Khan, Diana Mills, Gita Nurlaila, Malaka Hendela (OCASC Member), Martyn Reid (OCASC Member), Seyi Okuribido Malcolm (Parents for Diversity), Jennifer Hood, Kahmaria Pingue, Noura Ahmed, Carolyn Hunter and Melissa McGuirk McNeil (Ottawa Network for Education),
Non-Voting Members:	Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Wendy Hough (Trustee), Alain Brule (Principal, Cedarview Middle School), Sarah Pope (Principal, Castlefrank Elementary School)
Staff and Guests:	Lynn Scott (Trustee), Justine Bell (Trustee), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services) Michael Gilbert (Audio-Visual Technician) and Darren Gatley (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Khan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Mr. Reid,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Delegations

3.a Nancy Dean, Re. PIC and School Council Communication

Ms. Dean expressed concern regarding communication from the District to parents. She noted that parents with questions seem to be asked to go directly to teachers and principals. She asked how the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) will engage parents, how they can give feedback, and how PIC is structuring communication. Ms. Dean asked for clarity regarding where to go for information and where parents can ask

questions. She also noted that she would like to know a timeline for postings on the OCDSB website. Communication needs addressed and improved. Ms Dean also offered her help where possible.

Executive Officer Giroux responded that when students transitioned to learn at home in the spring, the newsletter was cancelled and the District started communicating directly with parents. During the closure period, the District sent over 30 direct messages to parents. Over the course of the closure, the district managed communications centrally and are now migrating this task back to schools and school principals. Executive Officer Giroux noted that the District news email is an opportunity for two way communication and that staff have responded directly to close to 4000 emails from parents. She added that when the newsletter was reintroduced last week, there was a link to the 21 September 2020 PIC meeting.

Mr. Reid suggested that school councils communication could be incorporated into the workplan.

3.b Robert Crampton, Re. Council Membership at Home School for Parents of Children in OCV

Robert Crampton is the chair for the Honeywell Elementary School Council and expressed concern that parents that chose Ottawa Carleton Virtual (OCV) may not be able to remain as members of their in person school councils. He stressed that school councils do not want to lose committed parents and hoped they could remain as full members for their in person schools.

Mr. Reid, noted that parents he spoke with voiced similar concerns and expressed the view that the tie to their in person school gives parents a feeling of normality. He added that parents also feel more comfortable discussing issues with staff and other parents they are familiar with.

Mr. Crampton also noted that parents are concerned about their eligibility to vote. He explained that parents do not want to lose the community they have worked to build and wanted to ensure that these volunteers continue their support.

In response to a query, Mr. Crampton noted that principals are focused on operations but the schools councils need direction now on how their councils will function this year.

4. Review of PIC Report

4.a Parent Involvement Committee Report 19 February 2020

**Moved by Mr. Reid,**

**THAT the PIC Report of 19 February 2020 be approved.**

**Carried**

5. Discussion Items

5.a Update and the Reopening of Schools under COVID-19

Director Williams-Taylor provided members with an update on the reopening of schools under COVID-19 via a powerpoint presentation. During discussion, the following comments were noted:

- Every effort has been made to meet class size parameters and the District is below the requirements in most cases. There may be a reorganization in the coming weeks as there is every September based on enrollment;
- Director Williams-Taylor noted that she had visited several schools during the opening week and observed how efficient students are in entering, exiting, and moving throughout the school, demonstrating that the district's planning has been successful;
- The course calendar has been posted on the OCDSB website for parents who have concerns on the balance for semester one and two for quad semester schools;
- OCV launched on 18 September 2020 with over 17,000 students. One secondary and six elementary virtual campuses;
- Having one OCV secondary campus maximizes course options and every effort has been made to ensure all course options are available;
- OCV faces challenges to offer instructional music and physical education, however, teachers have been looking for creative ways to teach their classes while still following guidelines to avoid the sharing of equipment;
- Co-op courses have similar challenges, but are still operating;
- The district has been working hard to make ensure students have a dedicated teacher, but some staffing challenges remain;
- Principals and vice-principals have been assigned to OCV campuses. The district has been investigating ways to maximize services in the virtual campuses while continuing to build school culture. Early Childhood Educators (ECE), Educational Assistants, and Student Success Teachers have also been assigned to OCV to

ensure students will not lose the services they would normally receive at in person schools;

- Director Williams-Taylor recognized staff for the enormous amount of time invested into meeting health and safety requirements in order to reopen schools;
- Specialized Program Classes (SPC) have been organized to adopt to keep students matched with their regular teacher and classroom;
- Childcare and Extended Day Programs (EDP) are operating. Staggered entry is matched to start dates to ensure families will not pay additional fees for days their child was not attending. Registration is lower than normal, however, registration is still open to welcome new students;
- Concern regarding transportation are in part due to many last minute resignations of bus drivers. Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is actively pursuing all options to resolve the issue. OSTA understands the urgency but must ensure safety guidelines and quality training requirements are met;
- Google Meet is available for all school councils;
- School Council elections will be held 30 days from 14 September 2020;
- Three PA days were provided at the beginning of the school year that prioritized health and safety training;
- Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has a nurse affiliated with each school;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies are provided monthly from the Ministry of Education. Specialized PPE has been given to staff with students with special needs as required;
- Staff and students must use the OPH daily self assessment screening tool before entering OCDSB properties;
- Reminders regarding the self assessment are sent regularly to increase awareness of daily self assessment;
- OPH maintains a COVID-19 “do not attend” list for the District. Any individual on the list must be cleared by OPH before they can return to work or class;
- OCDSB has a 10:30 a.m. reporting time to the Ministry, however, the number of cases reported can change throughout the day as cases are identified;
- OPH defines an outbreak as two or more positive cases related to a school;
- OPH defines: close contact, positive cases, outbreaks, and closures. If a student does test positive for COVID-19, OPH must advise parents and administrative staff;
- If students or staff are symptomatic or if there is an outbreak, a flowchart is provided on the OCDSB website to describe how to manage an individual’s symptoms or outbreak;

- Social networking and online safety webinars with Paul Davis were very successful with over 3,600 participants to date; and
- The “It takes a community” advertising campaign allowed OCDSB to connect and work with communities and with links to the district’s strategic 2019-2023 plan;

In response to a query from Mr. Crampton, Executive Officer Giroux noted that the District cannot compel parents to bring forth a negative COVID-19 test result for students and in most cases, the student will have to remain in isolation for the full 14 day period.

In response to a query from Ms. Hood, Executive Officer Giroux acknowledged that some parents of remote learning students have trouble understanding the technical instruction provided by teachers. Executive Officer Giroux pointed out that as some teachers have only recently been assigned to their classes, they may require more time to prepare. Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff is working diligently to normalize communication between teachers and parents.

In response to a query from Ms. Hendela, Executive Officer Giroux noted that the Board and Board Services make every effort to include all those that wish to delegate. Board Services often makes exceptions to allow additional delegations by extending time limits for that item and has not turned anyone away. Executive Officer Giroux also clarified that information on how to register as a delegation can be found on the OCDSB website.

#### 5.b Supporting School Councils in the 2020-2021 School Year

Your Committee had before it for consideration, a report regarding the issues relating to school councils for the 2020- 2021 school year, including meeting format, elections, and engagement between families attending Ottawa-Carleton Virtual - OCV schools and their home school in order to inform the drafting of necessary revisions to PR.509.SCO School Council Elections, Constitution and By-Laws.

During the discussion of the report, the following points were noted:

- Mr.Crampton expressed concern that some parents may lose interest in school councils if they are not associated with their home school and that the Board must recognize the importance of letting OCV parents be part of the executive if possible. He urged the Board to find some flexibility to permit participation and for school councils to remain strong;
- Mr. Reid sought clarification on the requirement for councils to record meetings. Executive Officer Giroux noted that School Council meetings are public meetings and as such the minutes of

the meeting must be posted and available to members of the public;

- Staff noted that meeting management guidelines or best practices could be created to assist school councils in conducting virtual meetings to meet the requirements of the regulation, policy and constitution;
- In response to a query from Trustee Hough, Executive Officer Giroux noted that it is in the best interest of the Board and the school councils to find a solution that fits within the policy and/or procedure. Despite the unusual circumstances, the Board must work within the confines of the regulation;
- Ms. Dean expressed concern that her school council will lose executive members should parents of the OCV be precluded from participation. She added that there is not enough time to properly engage and recruit new members;
- Ms. Arais noted that her school council has enough parents whose children are attending in person to fill all of the positions on the executive despite a loss to OVS and private schools. She noted that her council has expressed interest in allowing parents whose child attends OCV to attend meetings but not serve on the executive. She noted that her council is interested in the Board decision and the conversation at PIC and is anxious to begin addressing the issues in the school. She added that she would need assistance in reaching out to parents in OCV;
- Executive Officer Giroux noted that Option A within the report could allow for the flexibility Ms. Arais and her council have envisioned and provide school councils with more autonomy in their decision making;
- Ms. Hendela expressed concern with a requirement for parents to disclose their schooling choice and forcing volunteers to share personal information which could be a barrier to participation;
- Mr. Crampton suggested that in the interest of keeping parents engaged, that parents may make a voluntary declaration about enrollment in either their home school or OCV;
- Ms. Hendela queried the consequence of not meeting the school council election guidelines, and hoped councils could have more time to address the issues of meeting management, communication and elections;
- Mr. Reid suggested that school councils make the determination of their membership themselves and make allowances for parents to be a part of both school councils; and
- Executive Officer Giroux noted that one solution may be to change the definition of parent in the policy, procedure or by way of motion.

Moved by Martyn Reid,



THAT PIC recommends that the OCDSB allow OCV parents to continue to be parent members of the School Council at their children's home schools.

In response to a query from Trustee Hough, Mr. Reid expressed confidence that parents will support both the OCV and their home school council. He added that parents want to continue their affiliation to the school where their child will eventually return.

**Moved by Martyn Reid,**

**THAT PIC recommends that the OCDSB allow OCV parents to continue to be parent members of the School Council at their children's home schools.**

**Carried**

5.c Report 20-078, Parent Involvement Committee Membership Update

Your committee had before it Report 20-078, to update the Parent Involvement Committee on the current status of its members and seek approval to begin to address its membership needs for the 2020-2021 school year.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that two year terms are becoming more common as long as the applying member being appointed is interested.

Moved by Mr. Reid,

THAT staff contact the individuals currently on the waiting list inquiring about their continued interest in serving on PIC as Parent Members for a term effective 21 September 2020 to 30 November 2020;

THAT the Membership Subcommittee be established and the following persons be appointed to serve on the committee:

Chair: Mostafizur Khan

Parent Members: Martyn Reid, Diana Mills, and Malaka Hendela

THAT the Committee asks the Membership sub-committee to identify key local associations to be contacted in terms of their interest in sitting on PIC.

In response to a query from Mr. Reid, Executive Officer Giroux clarified that OCASC representatives on PIC serve a one year term as parent members are appointed annually by OCASC.

In response to a query from Ms. Malcolm, Executive Officer Giroux explained that the sub-committee will address any membership interest and will present a recommended membership waiting list.

In response to a query from Ms. Hendela, Executive Officer Giroux noted that the chair position serves a two year term. If, however, a member serving a one year term becomes chair, their term automatically becomes a two year term.

In response to a query from Ms. Hendela, Executive Officer Giroux noted that in the past, one or two year term requirements did not deter interest in membership, however, Executive Officer Giroux will seek clarification of the bylaws and report back to the committee, if necessary.

**Moved by Mr. Reid,**

**THAT staff contact the individuals currently on the waiting list inquiring about their continued interest in serving on PIC as Parent Members for a term effective 21 September 2020 to 30 November 2020;**

**THAT the Membership Subcommittee be established and the following persons be appointed to serve on the committee:**

**Chair: Mostafizur Khan**

**Parent Members: Martyn Reid, Diana Mills, and Malaka Hendela**

**THAT the Committee asks the Membership sub-committee to identify key local associations to be contacted in terms of their interest in sitting on PIC.**

**Carried**

## 6. Chair's Report

Chair Khan expressed his gratitude to OCDSB staff for their hard work in reopening schools and for relaying OPH guidelines to parents and students. He also thanked students, families, and staff for their patience in returning to class and for sharing some responsibilities of educators in OCV and remote learning. Chair Khan recognized that the 21 September 2020 PIC meeting was also the International Day of Peace and urged all to participate by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Khan reported that informal provincial PIC Chair's Meetings took place during the school closure and made recommendations to the Ministry (ie. smaller class sizes, increase of funding for additional supports and services, clear guidelines for remote learning and virtual schools). Chair Khan noted that during these meetings, the following information was collected:

- 81% of English language committees expressed interest that the Ministry directly inform PIC of announcements and expectations;
- 45% of committees recommended that PIC continue to meet virtually;
- 78% of French language committees recommended that PIC continue to meet virtually; and
- 67% of boards expressed the view that school boards relay information from the Ministries announcements and expectations;

In response to a query from Ms. Hendela, Chair Khan explained that the provincial PIC Chair meetings were informal and ad hoc and that he had distributed all available information from the meetings to the members of PIC by email. He added that the purpose of the meetings was to share general parent and community feedback with other boards across Ontario.

Chair Khan recognized the success of the District's Thoughtexchange program and noted that a total of 7,012 participants shared 8,902 thoughts. Each thought had a rating system allowing the district to receive focused feedback from communities.

#### 6.b Director's Report

Director Williams-Taylor noted that 2020 has been challenging and she recognized that interaction with communities and each other has changed. She reflected that there is an opportunity to build new relationships and she urged PIC to use its leadership to engage the public and communities to hear and support those that are not heard or represented.

#### 6.c OCASC Report

Ms. Hendela reported that OCASC has not formally met during the pandemic, however, OCASC has used social media in an attempt to reach school council communities. Ms. Hendela thanked Trustee Hough for her work, advocacy, and support for OCASC's participation in the budget process. Ms. Hendela also noted that OCASC is looking for new members and participants.

In response to a query from Chair Khan, Ms. Hendela, noted that the basic school council membership fee of \$30 may no longer be required as school council meetings are now virtual. She noted that any school council or parent is welcome to attend OCASC meetings with details on the OCASC facebook page and website. Ms. Hendela noted that OCASC plans to host virtual meetings and will look to either PIC or board staff to facilitate communication with councils. She added that the OCASC model is flexible and would like to connect with schools that have not had a school council in the past. The next virtual meeting will be in October.

### 7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Mostafizur Khan, Chair,  
Parent Involvement Committee



## Parent Involvement Committee Report No. 20-082

14 October 2020

### PIC Brainstorming Session - Reimagining Parent Involvement in 2020

Key Contact: Michele Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services, (613) 596-8211 ext. 8310

#### PURPOSE:

1. To brainstorm strategies to support parent involvement and school councils in the 2020-2021 school year.

#### SUPPORTING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN:

2. Recognizing and investing in the contribution that parents make to their child's education and the school communities across the District helps to support engagement and is an important component of fostering a Culture of Caring.

#### CONTEXT:

2. The 2020-2021 school year presents a whole series of challenges which are unique. Parent involvement in education will look entirely different this year. Recognizing this, there is an important opportunity for PIC to hold a brainstorming session to consider the unique needs of parents in the 2020-2021 school year and to best meet those needs. Using Thoughtexchange during the meeting, PIC will engage in a discussion about parent involvement in 2020-2021 and how PIC can help to support those needs. PIC members are asked to review this report and come to the meeting prepared for an interactive discussion about what PIC can do to support parent involvement in 2020-2021. This discussion connects the current reality and needs of parents with the PIC workplan, the annual parent conference and school council training day, the operations of school councils, the budget allocation for parent involvement and much more.

#### KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

##### 3. Parent Needs

Parents are coming to this school year with many different priorities and concerns. Safety is a key issue and maintaining safety protocols is essential to schools remaining open. Parents have had many changes in their connection to schools. Some parents have students attending in person and others are attending virtually. Parents cannot enter the school building and meetings are

online or by phone. Whether children have returned to school in person or are enrolled in an Ottawa-Carleton Virtual School (OCV), parents continue to require more support and outreach. Given the number of changes occurring this particular year, there is a need for greater investment in parent engagement such as translation, professional development for principals and educators on engagement strategies with families. What support do parents need to be involved in their child's education? What practices or resources need to be reimagined to accommodate this school year?

#### **4. School Councils**

The regular operations of school councils will be impacted this year. Meetings will be held virtually and opportunities for community building are significantly changed. What resources and supports do school councils need to be effective in 2020-2021? How might this impact communications and the school council training day?

#### **5. Advancing Equity in Parent Engagement**

As the OCDSB launches a new [Indigenous Equity and Human Rights Roadmap](#), there is a strong focus on equity. How can we bring an equity lens to the work of PIC? What specific actions and/or initiatives may help to better engage parents who traditionally face barriers to engagement?

#### **6. Parent Conference and School Council Training Day**

The annual parent conference and school council training day needs to be reimagined in a virtual context. The attached overview provides some preliminary thinking about what a virtual conference could look like.

#### **7. Strategies to Overcome Barriers to Parent Involvement**

At the February meeting, PIC discussed strategies and tools to overcome barriers to parent involvement. Many of the ideas generated will be good for future consideration but may not be achievable during the pandemic with current limitations on physical distancing and parent access to schools. The following list of strategies from the session may still be practicable and assist in planning activities for parent engagement in 2020-2021:

- create and develop a series of webcasts;
- provide information on how education works in Canada and develop a glossary of terms for newcomers;
- use clear messages and avoid jargon;
- solicit more feedback and input from parents;
- translate and produce reference and parent support material (i.e., Help with Mathematics) easier to understand with more diverse imagery and use of graphics; and
- communicate the many ways parents may engage in their child's learning.

#### **8. PIC Mandate and Responsibilities**

PIC advises the Board from a parent perspective, champions parental engagement and contributes valuable input at meetings of PIC and other Board subcommittees. *Ontario Regulation 612/00* sets the mandate for the PIC. It lists the following primary objectives:

- undertake activities to help parents support their children’s learning at home and at school;
- support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level;
- to improve student achievement and well-being;
- provide information and advice to the board on parent engagement; and
- communicate with and support school councils.

PIC’s responsibilities are:

- to develop strategies and initiatives that the Board and the Director could use to communicate effectively with parents and to engage parents in support of their children’s learning at home and at school, and to advise on the use of these strategies;
- to communicate information from the Ministry to school councils and parents;
- to determine, in consultation with the Director, how Ministry funding, if any, for parent engagement initiatives is to be allocated;
- to work with school councils;
- to share effective practices to help engage parents in their children’s learning, identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement, and help ensure that schools are welcoming to parents;and
- to support initiatives that help build knowledge and skills that will assist the PIC and school councils of the board with their work.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

### 9. Budget Changes

During the 2020-2021 budget process, the issue of parent engagement was a topic of discussion and the following clause was incorporated in the motion that was ultimately passed by the Board on 26 August 2020:

*THAT a budget allocation of \$150,000 be made for the funding of effective school councils across all schools and the work of an engaged Parent Involvement Committee to ensure it meets obligations regarding communications with School Councils and to “undertaking activities to help parents of pupils of the board support their children’s learning at home and at school.*

What advice and guidance can PIC offer on the effective allocation of these funds?

**10. Human Resource Allocations**

PIC has previously inquired about the allocation of human resources to parent involvement and school council support. While the OCDSB has staff designated to support parent involvement, it is part of a broader portfolio and those individuals often face competing demands on their time. Should consideration be given to allocating funds in a more targeted way to support parent engagement?

**COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

11. The discussion at PIC will inform much of the work and communications to support parent involvement.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

12. Using a live Thoughtexchange during the meeting, Committee members will have the opportunity to respond to the following question:

*Given the uniqueness of the 2020-2021 school year, what can PIC do to support parent involvement and school councils?*

There will be staff available to explain the Thoughtexchange process and to help facilitate the discussion.

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Michele Giroux  
Executive Officer, Corporate Services  
(ext. 8607)

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Camille Williams-Taylor  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board



## Parent Conference and School Council Training Day 2020 – Options in a Virtual World

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### **Background**

The Parent Conference and School Council Training Day provides parents and educators with a fantastic opportunity to learn about issues related to children's learning and well-being, special education and school council best practices. Parent Involvement Committee Educational sessions presented by highly skilled facilitators provided more in-depth learning opportunities for parents and included topics such as growth mindset, leveraging digital technology in the classroom, the parent-child connection, self-regulation, math fundamentals, active transportation, special education supports and more. School council training sessions focused on best practices, finance, and school council websites.

### **Recommendations for Options in a Virtual World:**

Reflecting on the current realities, throughout the month of November, 2020, 4 weekly sessions on Thursday evenings will be held via Zoom webinar that will include both parent and school council training workshops. Parents will be able to register for the Zoom webinar to a maximum of 150 participants to enable interactivity with the workshop presenters. All other attendees will be able to watch via Zoom. The 150 participants will be able to ask questions through the chat feature that will be monitored by OCDSB representatives and the presenters will be able to respond to these questions. This will facilitate a more interactive approach. All sessions will be saved to the website for those who cannot attend.

The first session would be launched by the Director of Education and a guest speaker (TBD). Surveys would be sent to parents and school councils to solicit workshop ideas on Friday, October 16th, 2020.

### **Suggested Parent Workshops**

Mental Health During COVID-19 – K-8  
 Mental Health During COVID-19 – 9-12  
 Supporting your Child Learning Online (Remote and OCV)  
 Equity and Inclusion  
 Indigenous Education  
 Special Education  
 OPH Session  
 Welcoming Newcomer Families into Caring Schools

### **Suggested School Council Training**

Best Practices for School Councils in a Virtual World  
 School Council Meetings and Google Meets  
 School Council Finance  
 School Council Websites