

# OCDSB Parent Involvement Committee Chair report

13 October 2021

A slightly different format for the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) report from the Chair. One of the mandated roles of the PIC is to ensure there is engagement with school councils to allow their voice to be heard via the Board.

This report is primarily for my fellow committee members to prove that I am doing something outside of the meetings, to keep them up to date with things happening across all the PICs in Ontario and general information that is not included in the meeting due to time. However, going forward I am going to ask that it be passed to all school council chairs to use as they wish.

Schools back. Hopefully most school councils will have met and voted in members, maybe even started to plan events, ask questions to the principal and doing all those things vital to the parental engagement. I know my school has (Stittsville Public School) and this year has seen new faces online ready to be part of council. What I found interesting was several parents who initially didn't want to be members at large, let alone stand for office, but by meeting end realised it is not like Bad Moms, or other fictional PTA stereotypes, and got voted in as members at large so they can play a role. One of the aims of my time in the Chair is to look at parental engagement at the school level, is the school council the only way - could hybrid approaches work? There are schools across the district that do not have school councils, yet parental engagement exists and we, the PIC, need to help it flourish. Every parent should feel welcomed and valued for the time they give – how they give that time will depend on so many different factors. If people have thoughts on this, please get in touch.

The PIC and school councils are mandated by the Provincial Government ([relevant regulations](#)) and here to give parents a means to engage on how their children are educated, how parents are involved and to make the experience beneficial for everyone. The PIC and the board acknowledge that parents sometimes feel they can't be engaged in their children's education – there are many reasons for this. Simply asking your children about their day, helping them in homework, supportive words and packing a lunch is as valued as being a volunteer on council.

One area that I have been contacted about is getting volunteers back in schools. We all know how beneficial things like food programs are, but there are also other activities that parents (and volunteers) can help contribute to. The board has given the responsibility for parental engagement to Prince Duah (one of the wonderful Superintendents at the board) and we have spoken about volunteering and how we can get parents back in to help the schools. The board is looking at it, in conjunction with Ottawa Public Health, and we can expect more information over the next month.

## Tonight's meeting

For PIC members can I ask that you read all the background material so we can be prepared to discuss and put forward decisions/endorsements/thoughts.

The work plan will be discussed but I think we are at the stage we need a breakout group to revise it and get a better product. We did this the first time we published a work plan, it needs a few people to be able to work on it. I will need to check with the board staff, I believe PIC stuff normally requires a staff member in attendance. That means we would likely need to meet during the day. Let us chat about this.

The committee membership update is to set us up for the next elections and to get the PIC to approve and establish the membership working group.

Prince will be updating us on a few issues (SATE, breakfast program and a new role of Parental Engagement Coord).

Finally PRO Grants, I have attached a copy of the Durham PIC flyer on PRO Grants. It might be something we wish to do.

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#### Useful Links

OCDSB PIC Page - [Parent Involvement Committee \(PIC\) - Ottawa-Carleton District School Board \(ocdsb.ca\)](http://ocdsb.ca)

Ministry of Education (MoE) PICs resources - [Parent Involvement Committees \(gov.on.ca\)](http://gov.on.ca)

PIC regulations - [O. Reg. 612/00: SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES \(ontario.ca\)](http://ontario.ca)