PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE　　　　　　**19 January 2022**

Report No. 22-011

Approval of the Allocation of 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Key Contact: Prince Duah, Superintendent of Instruction, 613-596-8211 ext. 8287

PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval for the proposed allocation of the 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant funding.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

2. The effective allocation of PRO grant funding supports the District's commitment to building parent engagement, removing barriers to access opportunities and supporting engagement within our community to achieve a culture of social responsibility.

CONTEXT:

3. The Ministry of Education has allocated $78,828 in 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant funding to the OCDSB. This funding supports school boards in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their school communities and finding solutions to support parents' engagement in their children's education.

   In consideration of the high rate of transmissibility of the coronavirus (COVID-19), virtual strategies for engagement are recommended, similar to the dispersion of funds in the 2020-2021 school year, including:

   ● Develop toolkits that include information on hosting a (virtual) workshop, planning tips and guidelines, instructional materials, examples of interactive activities for families, and other necessary steps to promote and host an evening;

   ● Paying for platform fees for school councils that decide to use meeting sites other than Google Meet; and

   ● A Speaker Series with topics of interest to parents related to student learning and well-being, including possible presentations on scholarships for grade 12 students, kindergarten registration nights, grade eight parent registration nights, and university nights.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

4. <u>School Council Speaker Series</u>
   It is recommended that the District create a format and menu for school councils to host speaker series workshops for their community. Below is the proposed model for approval by the PIC members:

   ● A consolidated list of speakers (by topic) would be developed and shared with school councils. Each council would choose a session that they could offer based on their local needs.

   ● Where possible, school councils could work collaboratively with other school councils to host a virtual night with a speaker that would serve both/all communities. School councils would be responsible for promoting the session and would be required to provide a simplified report about the event to the District so that the District could complete the required Ministry reporting.

   ● The speakers would be booked by the District using the District procurement process. Central staff would book each speaker for a fixed number of sessions. They would be available for scheduling by councils on a first-come, first-served basis.

   ● Central staff will schedule the Zoom meetings and the Youtube livestream and will provide school council leads with the necessary account credentials to conduct the Zoom and livestream along with a tutorial video.

   ● School Councils will be responsible for promoting the event with support from the District on an as-needed basis.

   ● Any parent from the participating schools could attend the speaker night.

   ● Central Staff will compile school council reports and report to the Ministry in compliance with the TPA.

   ● The booking of speakers and the number of available sessions will be subject to budget availability. Ideally, each school community would be able to select one session. If school councils collaborate, that could increase opportunities. There is significant demand for a particular speaker/topic; we could look to host a district-wide session.

5. <u>Suggested Speakers/Topics</u>
   A list of possible speakers and topics has been developed for discussion at the meeting and includes the following:

General Topic	Area of Focus	Possible Speaker
Technology	● Managing Screen Time ● Social networking and online safety ●Teens and Technology	● Dr. Michael Cheng, CHEO ● Youth Services Bureau
Mental Health	● Supporting Your Child's Mental Health	● Crossroads ● CHEO ● OCDSB ● OPH
Equity	● Understanding Equity in Education ● Your Voice Matters - Advocating for Black Student Success	● Parents for Diversity ● Parents for Diversity
Indigenous Education	● Indigenous Education - Understanding Truth and Reconciliation ● Supporting Indigenous Learning	● OCDSB Indigenous Education Team to recommend
Special Education	● Parenting Special Needs Children panel discussion ● Understanding the IEP ● Speech and Language Development	● Parents, Educators, CHEO and SEAC ● OCDSB Learning Support Services
Teaching and Learning	● Understanding the New Math Curriculum ● Supporting Remote Learning	● OCDSB Program and Learning ● OCDSB Business and Learning Technology
Parenting	● Healthy Eating for Children and Youth ● Understanding addiction ● Early Childhood Development	● Ottawa Public Health ● Youth Services Bureau ● Rideauwood Treatment Centre

6. Reporting
   School boards are required to submit a final report on the use of grant funding by completing the Ministry's reporting template. The final report must include:

   - A financial summary and an evaluation of the outcomes based on project(s) objectives;
   - The number of other participating parties; and
   - The impact on parent confidence and direct feedback from parents on the project's merits.

   To reduce the reporting burden, this model seeks to structure the reporting so that participating councils have only to complete a summary report. These will inform the Ministry report, which will be prepared by staff.

   Central staff will create a google form to assist school council leads in providing feedback on the events. Upon submission, central staff will compile the input for inclusion in the final report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

7. The suggested allocation strategy will require the full allocation of $78,828 in PRO funding. The funding would be allocated in accordance with the grant provisions. The specific allocation in relation to the speaker series may vary based on the relative costs of developing and delivering the series.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

8. The 2021-2022 Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) encourages consultation with other board advisory committees. We have consulted with the staff leads for other advisory committees and will be asking them to share the list of topics and speakers with the advisory committee members for input.

9. A communications strategy will be created to ensure school councils are informed of the 2021-2022 PRO funding allocation. Communication will include information on the initiative, a list of topics and speakers, an application form to host a speaker. The grant recipients will receive a tutorial video on setting up and conducting the Zoom meeting and a link to a simple google form to complete the necessary reporting requirements. School councils may use their local networks to promote the event.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant be used to facilitate school council speaker nights as outlined in Report 22-011.