



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 19,
2022
6:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Members: Diana Mills, Abdulnaser Atef, Calla Barnett, Suzanne Lyon, Adriana Johnston (Ottawa Network for Education), Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, Alexandra Arriaz

Non-Voting Members: Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Naya Markanastasakis (Principal, Pinecrest Public School)

Staff and Guests: Wendy Hough (Trustee), Nancy Dean (OCASC), Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Tess Porter (FACE), Mellissa Applewaihe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mills acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territory and thanked the Algonquin people for hosting the meeting on their land.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Okuribido-Malcolm,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. Discussion Items

There were no items for discussion.

5. Matters for Action

5.1 Report 22-061, Parent Involvement Committee Update (P. Duah)

Your Committee had before it Report 22-061, to update the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) on the current terms of service of its members and to seek approval to address its membership needs for the 2022-2023 school year.

Superintendent Duah introduced the report and provided a short overview on the establishment of a PIC Membership Sub-Committee.

Moved by Suzanne Lyon,

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

Chair: Diana Mills

Parent Member:

Community Member (Optional):

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

An amendment moved by Suzanne Lyon,

THAT the words "Parent Member" be changed to "Four Parent Members" in part A of the motion.

Carried

Moved by Ms. Lyon,

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

Chair: Diana Mills

Parent Members: Suzanne Lyon, Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm and Calla Barnett

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

Carried, as amended.

It was noted that the sub-committee meeting would take approximately two hours and that 36 applications have been received to date.

6. Reports

6.1 PIC Report, 21 September 2022

Moved by Adriana Johnston,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee Report, dated 21 September 2022, be received.

Carried

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah introduced Tess Porter, Family & Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator, to provide an update on the Parent Conference to be held on 5 November 2022. FACE Coordinator Porter noted that 230 parents are currently registered for the conference, where up to 20 community organizations will share resources with families in attendance during 15 sessions. Two sessions will be held in Arabic and two in Somali. FACE Coordinator Porter noted that there has been a high demand for sessions focused on stress, anxiety, and special needs support for students.

FACE Coordinator Porter noted that a Human Library will capture the student voice where students will discuss their lived experiences pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19, including how they navigated the ebbs and flows of in-person and virtual learning during the pandemic.

FACE Coordinator Porter noted that the Parent Conference will be supported by volunteers, Educational Assistants (EA's), educators, administrative staff, and students. The students will assist in directing parents to the various sessions, and it is hoped that they will gain and/or enhance leadership and communication skills during the interaction.

FACE Coordinator Porter confirmed that there will be a PIC table at the event, and Chair Mills requested PIC member volunteers to assist in staffing the table.

Superintendent Duah added that Dr. Michael Cheng from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) would attend as the keynote speaker to share with families how to build resilience in children and youth in a world of uncertainty.

In response to a query on whether any meetings are planned for the Board regarding some concerns on the events of Pride Month, Superintendent Duah responded that he would investigate and report back to the committee at a future date.

7. Information Items

7.1 Chair's Report

Chair Mills advised that emails should all be sent to the PIC Chair email address pic.chair@ocdsb.ca

Chair Mills noted that she would like PIC to meet in-person with a hybrid option once the meeting space at 133 Greenbank Road is available and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Mental Health Strategy Committee

Chair Mills reported that she attended a recent Mental Health Strategy Committee (MHSC). The MHSC was established before the COVID-19 pandemic and is due to renew its membership for the 2023-2024 school year. She noted that the MHSC focuses on setting the foundation for innovative approaches for evidence-based, informed, culturally relevant, and sustainable mental health practices in classrooms and schools. Systemic training will be provided to equip staff, families and students to understand factors that impact mental health and how to access resources.

The MHSC also researched the effect of the pandemic on racialized, Indigenous, economically disadvantaged students, and students with pre-existing mental health conditions. Approximately 6,500 staff attended sessions related to these areas.

Advisory Committees

Several PIC members indicated an interest in attending other advisory committees as a PIC representative. Superintendent Duah noted that PIC is eligible to send a representative to the Committee of the Whole or Committee of the Whole Budget meetings. Members can attend other committees as individual members of the public, not in the capacity as a PIC member, except for the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), which operates on an invitation-only basis

It was agreed that PIC would extend an invitation to the IEC to inquire if the IEC was interested in sending representative to a future PIC meeting.

7.2 PIC Correspondence Register

There were no items of PIC correspondence.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Committee of the Whole

Ms. Lyon reported that she had attended Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings on 13 September 2022 and 11 October 2022, noting that discussions had focused on policy reviews.

In response to a query on potential police presence in schools, Trustee Hough clarified that there is no plan to reestablish the School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

In response to a query on how PIC can better support the PIC representative to COW, Ms. Lyon noted that she would circulate an email to PIC members in advance of COW meetings requesting member input on the agenda items for her to voice on behalf of PIC. Superintendent

Duah noted that if a policy schedule for COW is available, PIC can discuss the policies they wish to have input on in advance of the COW meeting.

9. Standing Items

9.1 Updates from Workplan Subcommittees

Chair Mills noted that PIC should establish a work plan committee as the original sub-committee could not progress due to restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

She requested that PIC members be prepared to provide input at the 23 November 2022 PIC meeting on items they would like to be included in the work plan. Chair Mills suggested that members review the work plan included in the 21 September 2022 PIC agenda package as a guide for the discussion.

Superintendent Duah noted that he would share a copy of the final PIC report that was submitted to the Ministry of Education at a future date.

10. New Business

There were no items of new business.

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee