



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Members: Diana Mills, Alexandra Arraiz, Suzanne Lyon, Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Nancy Dean (OCASC), Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), Adriana Johnston (Ottawa Network for Education), Kahmaria Pingue (Parents for Diversity)

Non-Voting Members: Suzanne Nash (Trustee), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Tess Porter (Family & Community Engagement Coordinator), Naya Markanastasakis (Principal, Pinecrest Public School)

Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), James Baker (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mill 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. Dean,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. Action Items

4.a Report 22-082, Parent Involvement Committee Membership Confirmation (P. Duah)

Your committee had before it report 22-082, to appoint new members as required by the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Duah reported that the PIC Membership Sub-Committee met on 26 October 2022 to review 37 applications. Superintendent Duah reported that a fulsome discussion and debate occurred to select five parent members and one community member to the committee.

Superintendent Duah reported that the names the successful parent member applicants were listed in the report, along with the names of community members and their respective representatives.

Chair Mills noted that all candidates would be contacted with respect to the results. She added that all unsuccessful candidates are encouraged to both observe and participate.

Moved by Ms. Lyon,

THAT the PIC appoints the following parent members and waiting list candidates for the term identified:

- **Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, 2022-2024**
- **Alexandra Arraiz, 2022-2024**
- **Mohammed Saleem, 2022-2024**
- **Claudine Santos, 2022-2024**
- **Vicki Arkenstall, 2022-2024**
- **Nancy Dean (OCASC), 2022-2024**
- **Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), 2022-2024**
- **Mourad Gradia (OCASC alternate), 2022-2024**
- **Kristin Honshorst (OCASC alternate), 2022-2024**

and (in ranked order),

1. **Dawit Gebremariyam**
2. **Erica Webster**
3. **Lisa Sherman**
4. **Fiona Scerri Diancono**

THAT Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) be appointed as a community member for a two year term with representation from Adriana Johnston (representative), and Kristina Price (alternate).

THAT the City of Ottawa representative Emmanuel Worlor be confirmed for the term of 1 December 2022 to November 30 2023. An alternate is to be appointed at a later date.

Carried

Name	Position	Term Limit
Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm	Parent Member	2022-2024
Alexandra Arraiz	Parent Member	2022-2024
Mohammed Saleem	Parent Member	2022-2024
Claudine Santos	Parent Member	2022-2024
Vicki Arkinstall	Parent Member	2022-2024
6. TBD	OCASC Rep	2022-2024
7. TBD	OCASC Rep	2022-2024
Waiting List Ranked in Priority		

5. Reports

5.a PIC Report, 19 October 2022

Moved by Ms. Okuribido-Malcolm,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report dated 19 October 2022, be received.

Carried

5.b Superintendent's Report

1. Update on Parent Conference 2022

Ms. Porter advised that the Parent Conference was a success. While there were approximately 600 registrants, approximately one third participated. She added that that the conference had 20 community partner tables and that she had received positive feedback from the participants. Ms. Porter acknowledged and thanked the students volunteers from Ridgemont High School, the community partners, and the 20 staff volunteers that contributed to the success of the conference.

Ms. Porter noted that the areas of great interest from participants were: responding to stress and anxiety, mental health and well being, the parent-child connection, and problematic use of gaming and technology prevention and caregiver guidance. She added

that plans are underway to offer these sessions virtually, in the new year, for those parents who were unable to attend.

During a discussion, the following information was provided:

- The conference allowed parents to connect with staff of the District and to learn about services and support;
- Sessions were offered in three different languages; and
- The mandate of the conference was to have parent's voices heard.

5.c Update on Parents Reaching Out Grant (PRO)

Superintendent Duah advised that over the past few years, the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant program had been conducted virtually. He noted that, previously, the District had 106 schools involved and approximately 500 families that registered for sessions. Additionally, there were over 100 school councils involved with approximately 2,300 students participating in various sessions, including addiction and diversity for education.

Ms. Dean added that there had been challenges since approximately 41 schools that had participated in the past, did not do so this year. She advised that work is ongoing with school councils to determine what changes can be made with PRO funds that are forthcoming and how they will be allocated.

Superintendent Duah advised that the PRO grants that will be received is approximately \$500.00 per school. He presented the suggestion that schools join together to bring in a presenter and create engagement with in person activities. Superintendent Duah advised that there is a focus on inclusion and creating a safe welcoming environment by demonstrating respect for parents as valued partners in the education system.

Superintendent Duah discussed an expectation to form a sub-committee that would oversee the PRO grant application process and disbursement of funds. He noted that PIC had been delegated authority over the budget. The process would be reported to the Ministry of Education.

6. Discussion Items

6.a Work Plan Sub-Committees

The proposed work plan was provided for information purposes.

Chair Mills requested that members put forward items for the work plan. She noted that the 2020-2021 work plan may have items that were

pertinent and that a discussion could take place on any ideas that were presented.

During a discussion, the following information was provided:

- An action plan is required to enhance communications with the community through social media and other platforms;
- Further discussion should occur to explore and leverage relationships with PICs in other districts;
- A review of O Reg 612/00 would assist in identifying the work that PIC needs to do to support the legislative mandate;
- A list of strategies is needed that would improve student achievement;
- Exploration of methods in which PIC could assist students with completing volunteer hours; and
- Exploration of methods to engage parent involvement from individuals that are not members of the committee.

7. Information Items

7.a Chair's Report

Chair Mills provided a report on the Parent Conference and noted the positive response with respect to the keynote speaker. She noted that questions from parents demonstrated a need for additional reach out with respect to supports that are available from the District. Chair Mills highlighted the feedback that was received and items that would be implemented next year. She added that she had an opportunity to speak with individuals who presented as the living library. She further added that she had inquired if individuals could present to PIC on subjects relevant to the LGBTQ community, the Education Foundation, consent parenting, and protecting privacy of young children.

Chair Mills reported that she had recently attended a meeting of PIC Chairs. She reported that topics that were discussed at the Chairs' meeting included idea sharing on best practices, challenges faced with community outreach, communicating with underserved sectors of the community, bullying, transitioning back to class support, ensuring parent's voices are heard, and student transportation.

Chair Mills reported that the PRO grants are now a part of the grants for student needs. She added that there is 2.44 million dollars available to all school boards in the province. Chair Mills reported that school councils would submit funding applications to PIC. She noted that details with respect to Ministry guidelines and how the funds would be distributed

could be found on the Ontario website at ontario.ca or through the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board website at ocdsb.ca.

Chair Mills reported that she had received many invitations to attend individual school council meetings. She extended the invitation to the membership to attend with her.

Chair Mills reported that she has been receiving a number of messages through the pic.chair@ocdsb.ca email address, from members of the community. She noted that this could explain the lack of communications through the PIC correspondence register.

In response to queries about the PRO grants, Chair Mills advised that all information could be found at ontario.ca.

7.b PIC Correspondence Register

There were no items of PIC correspondence.

8. New Business

Ms. Lyon reported that she attended the Special Board meeting that occurred on 22 November 2022. She advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of a mask mandate. She noted that there was a number of protesters that were disruptive and caused the meeting to be interrupted on two separate occasions. She added that the police were called in to remove individuals from the meeting.

Trustee Scott added the meeting would be continued but could not reveal details at that time.

Superintendent Duah advised that the Board had commenced the selection process of a new Director. He noted that all timelines would be provided at a later date.

Trustee Scott advised that the selection process would take some time. She added that an interim director would be appointed and that it was possible that it would be a retiree since the position could not be held by an individual who intended to participate in the competition for the permanent position. Chair Scott advised that the process requires the use of a recruitment firm and there is an expectation that the process could take between 4 and 6 months.

In response to a query from Ms. Dean regarding a separate sub-committee overseeing PRO grant applications, Chair Mills advised that the current budget sub-committee would oversee the process until the work plan is formalized.

9. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information purposes.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee