



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Members: Diana Mills, Vicki Arkenstall, Alexandra Arraiz, Calla Barnett, Suzanne Lyon, Mohammed Saleem, Claudine Santos, Nancy Dean (OCASC), Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), Mourad Gradia (OCASC, Alternate), Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Adriana Johnston (Ottawa Network for Education)

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

Staff and Guests: Clarissa Arthur (Director, The Education Foundation), Dawit Gebremariyam, Erica Webster, Lisa Sherman, Mellissa Applewaihe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Suzanne Lyon,

THAT the agenda be approved

Chair Mills noted that Item 4.1 had been deferred to the meeting on 22 February 2023.

Moved by Suzanne Lyon,

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Education Foundation Ottawa (Clarissa Arthur)

Executive Director Arthur of The Education Foundation provided a presentation. She noted that the foundation aims to reduce barriers for students in need and to ensure that all students can learn confidently by providing basic needs such as food, adequate clothing and supplies, healthcare supports, learning and recreation opportunities and bursaries and awards for Grade 12 or graduating students.

Executive Director Arthur noted that the foundation raised \$68,000 in 2022 through the Toonie Tuesday initiative and that the funding limits per student for the 2022-2023 school year are \$100 for food, recreation and enrichment programs and \$150 for clothing.

5. Appointments

5.1 Vice-Chair

Superintendent Duah reviewed the election process and called for nominations for the role of Vice-Chair.

Ms. Lyon, seconded by Ms. Barnett, nominated herself.

Ms. Dean, seconded by Ms. Pushkareva, nominated herself.

Moved by Chair Mills,

THAT nominations be closed.

Carried

Following an election, Superintendent Duah declared Ms. Lyon as Vice-Chair.

5.2 Committee of the Whole, Representative

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the roles of Committee of the Whole Representative and Alternate.

Chair Mills volunteered Ms. Lyon for the role of the Committee of the Whole Representative.

Ms. Lyon was declared the Committee of the Whole Representative.

Ms. Dean volunteered to be the COW representative alternate.

Ms. Lyon volunteered Ms. Santos for the role of the Committee of the Whole Alternate Representative.

Ms. Dean withdrew her name.

Ms. Santos was declared the Committee of the Whole Alternate Representative.

5.3 Committee of the Whole, Budget, Representative

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the roles of Committee of the Whole Budget Representative and Alternate.

Ms. Santos volunteered to be the Committee of the Whole Budget Representative.

Ms. Santos was declared the Committee of the Whole Budget Representative.

Ms. Dean volunteered to be the Committee of the Whole Budget Representative Alternate.

Ms. Dean was declared the Committee of the Whole Budget Alternate.

5.4 Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Child Care, Representative

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the role of Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Child Care Programs Representative.

Ms. Santos volunteered to be the Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Child Care Programs Representative.

Ms. Santos was declared the Advisory Committee for Extended Day and Child Care Representative.

5.5 Board, Observer

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the role of Board Observer and Alternate.

Chair Mills volunteered to be the Board Observer.

Chair Mills was declared the Board Observer.

Ms. Barnett volunteered to be the Alternate Board Observer.

Ms. Barnett was declared the Alternate Board Observer.

5.6 Special Education Advisory Committee, Observer

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the role of Special Education Advisory Committee Observer.

Ms. Santos volunteered to be the Special Education Advisory Committee Observer.

Ms. Santos was declared the Special Education Advisory Committee Observer.

5.7 Advisory Committee on Equity, Observer

Chair Mills called for volunteers for the role of Advisory Committee on Equity Observer.

Ms. Dean volunteered to be the Advisory Committee on Equity Observer.

Ms. Dean withdrew her name.

Ms. Arriaz volunteered to be the Advisory Committee on Equity Observer.

Ms. Arriaz was declared the Advisory Committee on Equity Observer.

Ms. Barnett volunteered to be the Alternate Observer to the Advisory Committee on Equity.

Ms. Barnett was declared the Alternate Observer for the Advisory Committee on Equity.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Strategic Plan Toolkit

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- Opportunities should be made for younger and older grades to develop connections through peer relationships;
- Younger students could be involved in planning conversations. To date, Grade 7 students have requested the opportunity to give feedback, and student councils have visited classrooms to obtain feedback from younger students;
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) could increase outreach to new parents with a particular emphasis on new Canadians to maximize parental involvement. Translation services should be accessible;
- Support for new immigrants is essential in creating an environment for student success;
- After-school resources is a key element in student success;
- Teachers and educators should be aware whether students have access to basic needs at home such as food, school supplies, and the chance for proper rest at night. Breakfast programs provided by the Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) have proved to be successful;
- The OCDSB should determine whether there is opportunity to capitalize on the planned federal lunch program;

- There is a need for the recruitment and training for support staff in schools;
- The OCDSB should continue to build a robust support system for special educational needs; and
- The OCDSB should increase support for the transition between elementary school and secondary school and secondary school to post-secondary education.

In response to a query on whether members can use the Strategic Plan Toolkit to conduct individual sessions with other contacts, Superintendent Duah noted that he would get clear direction from the coordinators of the strategic planning consultation process and provide feedback to the PIC.

Superintendent Duah added that several schools had been selected to participate directly in the consultation process, and the principals will be notified individually. Superintendent Duah added that Multicultural Liaison Officers (MLOs) would support the various consultation groups, and the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) team would support several conversations to provide consultation access for families for whom English is a second language.

Superintendent Duah noted that he would confirm consultation timelines and circulate them to PIC members.

6.2 Workplan Sub-Committees

Chair Mills presented the topics for the Work Plan that had been suggested at previous meetings and noted that the Work Plan could span over a one or two-year period.

It was suggested that standing sub-committees should be established with overlapping topics grouped under one sub-committee.

It was noted that PIC should establish sub-committees to align with the PIC bylaws and mandate.

7. Reports

7.1 PIC Report, 23 November 2022

Moved by Ms. Johnston,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee Report dated 23 November 2022 be received.

Carried.

7.2 Superintendent's Report

There was no Superintendent's Report.

8. Information Items

8.1 Chair's Report

Chair Mills provided her report.

8.2 PIC Correspondence Register

Chair Mills provided information on the United Nations National Day of Education on 24 January 2023 and requested that members use the new PIC email of pic.chair@ocdsb.ca

9. New Business

Upcoming event information was shared by members.

Ms. Lyon provided feedback from the recent Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting on 17 January 2023.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee