

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

- Members: Diana Mills (electronic communication), Vicki Arkenstall, Calla Barnett, Suzanne Lyon, Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, Nancy Dean (OCASC), Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Adriana Johnston (Ottawa Network for Education)
- Non-Voting Members: Naya Markanastasakis (Principal, Pinecrest Public School), Suzanne Nash (Trustee), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction)
- Staff and Guests: Dr. Kristin Schaub (Supervisor of Psychological Services), Claire Reynolds (Program Evaluation Officer, Learning Support Services, electronic communication), Chantel Smith (System Principal, BEAC-RAISE Schools), Noora Hussein (Community Education Liaison Worker, BEAC-RAISE), Lyra Evans (Trustee, electronic communication), Justine Bell (Trustee, electronic communication), Lynn Scott (Trustee), Donna Dickson (Trustee, by electronic communication), Alysha Aziz (Trustee, electronic communication), Mellissa Applewaithe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Ms. Okuribido-Malcolm,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

It was noted that parental concerns related to the removal of Grade 9 and 10 exams will be added to the next agenda.

4. Presentations

4.1 Mental Health (K. Schaub)

Supervisor of Psychology, Dr. Schaub provided a presentation. She noted that the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is in the process of creating an updated multi-year Mental Health Strategy.

Dr. Schaub noted that recent data from the Center for Addiction and Mental Health Ontario shows that students currently in Grades 7-12 are more likely to report mental health issues compared to 2019. 16% of students have considered suicide in the last year and Learning Support Services (LSS) has been engaging in conversations to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of Black and Indigenous students. She noted that educators want stronger equity-based, culturally responsive mental health resources and supports and that the OCDSB is working in collaboration with community partners to provide staff training to support newcomers.

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) members can provide their input on the Mental Health Strategy until 31 March 2023. Learning Support Services will report back to SEAC at a future date on the feedback that was integrated into the final Mental Health Strategy.

4.2 Family and Community Engagement/Student Achievement Through Equity (SATE) (P. Duah)

System Principal Smith provided a presentation. She noted that the work of Student Achievement Through Equity (SATE) is grounded in evidence-based research to inform the development and implementation of programs, practices, and pedagogies to increase student success, removal of barriers to access to opportunities, and initiate sustained reform. System Principal Smith noted that the program has three instructional coaches and two community education liaisons and that eleven elementary schools had been selected to participate in the SATE Inquiry.

Superintendent Duah provided a presentation on Family and Community Engagement (FACE), and the equitable partnership between families, educators and community partners to enhance student achievement and well-being. He noted that the mandate of FACE is to advance family and community engagement as a key foundation for equity, inclusion, student achievement and well-being.

5. Standing Items

5.1 PIC Work Plan

Following a break at 8:30 p.m., the meeting was called to order at 8:37 p.m.

Superintendent Duah noted that the PIC sub-committees need to establish a starting point as there are only two PIC meetings left for the school year, and the sub-committees, once established, can run for multiple years. He presented the top three priorities identified from the PIC Work Plan survey completed by members, and PIC members were invited to sign up for the following sub-committees:

1. Mental Health;
2. Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Funding Application and Distribution; and
3. Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion.

5.2 Updates from Workplan Subcommittees

PIC members agreed that the (PRO) Grant would be included on the agenda for the upcoming meeting to provide an overview of what has occurred during the 2022-2023 school year.

6. Discussion Items

It was suggested that PIC could establish a Children's Rights sub-committee in the future. The committee could review issues relevant to PIC from the lens of children's rights and provide the results of their analysis to PIC.

7. Reports

7.1 PIC Report, 18 January 2023

Moved by Ms. Barnett,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee Report dated 18 January 2023 be received.

Carried.

7.2 Chair's Report

Ms.Mills provided her report.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report and noted the following:

- Parents interested in providing input to the proposed revisions to Policy P.029.SCO Field Trips, Excursions, Educational Tours, and Student Exchange, can do so until 24 February 2023;
- The deadline for input to the strategic plan is 24 February 2023;
- The PRO grant deadline was 20 February 2023 although some schools may be granted an extension; and
- The 2022-2023 PRO grant allocation of \$78,000 will be used for all parent engagement activities and funding.

8. Information Items

There were no items for information.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee