



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

6:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Members: Diana Mills, Vicki Arkenstall, Alexandra Arraiz, Calla Barnett, Suzanne Lyon, Mohammed Saleem, Nancy Dean (OCASC), Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), Emmanuel Worlor (City of Ottawa), Kristina Price (Ottawa Network for Education, Alternate)

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

Staff and Guests: Teri Adamthwaite (General Manager, Finance), Mellissa Applewaithe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Mills 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

Prior to approval of the agenda, Chair Mills shared a statement drafted by Vice-Chair Lyon and invited feedback via email.

Moved by Suzanne Lyon,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Budget Update (T. Adamthwaite)

General Manager Adamthwaite provided a presentation.

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following information was provided:

- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) fiscal year runs from 1 September to 31 August annually;
- The OCDSB distributes unspent funds according to the Ministry of Education (Ministry) allocation criteria. Dependent on these criteria, funds are either carried forward to the following financial year, reallocated to areas of need or allocated to the surplus deficit;
- The OCDSB has utilized surplus funds:
 - To operationalize requirements for the past two years and is currently in a deficit position. There is no longer adequate surplus funding available as required by the Ministry to maintain a deficit; and
 - To maintain classroom consistency during COVID-19 related absenteeism. The absenteeism rate remains high and is becoming difficult to support.
- The OCDSB cannot determine the final deficit figure until Ministry funding is confirmed;
- Operational adjustments implemented by the District will attempt to minimize the negative impact on students and staff; and
- The shortage of Educational Assistants (EAs) is primarily attributed to a labour shortage.

5. Discussion Items

5.1 PRO Grant 2022-2023 Update

Superintendent Duah provided an update on the 2022-2023 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant.

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following information was provided:

- Superintendent Duah will provide a Pro Grant budget breakdown at a future date;
- The PRO Grant Sub-Committee can begin forward planning, although the specific 2023-2024 allocation figure from the Ministry is required for accuracy; and
- PRO Grant Sub-Committee members hope to evaluate the PRO Grant process for 2022-2023 to inform their approach to the upcoming 2023-2024 year.

6. Reports

6.1 PIC Report, 22 February 2023

Moved by Mr. Saleem

That the Parent Involvement Committee report dated 22 February 2023 be received.

Carried

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report and noted the following:

- Nominations for Community Recognition Awards closed on 7 April 2023;
- The International Day of Pink, on 12 April 2023, is a worldwide anti-bullying and anti-homophobia event;
- The OCDSB is hosting a webinar called Social Media and Your Kids on 19 April 2023 in collaboration with MediaSmarts;
- The OCDSB is hosting a walk-in Tech and Trade Exploration night at Ottawa Technical School; and
- In recognition of Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month, a recording of the virtual event focused on increasing the well-being of children, youth and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, is available on the OCDSB website.

7. Information Items

7.1 Chair's Report

During the report from the Chair, the following information was provided:

- Chair Mills will attend a virtual event for Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) chairs and school boards in May 2023; and
- Members are still able to sign up for PIC sub-committees.

8. Standing Items

8.1 Updates from Workplan Subcommittees

Superintendent Duah advised that the new sub-committee members should now collaborate to determine how each committee would proceed.

During the discussion and in response to queries, the following information was provided:

- Sub-committees are membership-led and organized. Members from each committee agreed to send initial emails to other sub-

committee members to organize the sub-committee structure, arrange meeting dates and establish terms of reference;

- It was suggested that once the sub-committee structure and terms of reference have been agreed upon, each sub-committee should circulate the information to PIC members for review and approval;
- The PRO Grant Funding Committee is now named the PIC Funding Advisory Committee; and
- The agenda placement of sub-committee updates will be reviewed at the upcoming agenda planning meeting.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting date was provided for information.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee