



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 11, 2023
6:00 pm
Trustees' Committee Room
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

- Members: Diana Mills, Calla Barnett, Alexandra Arriaz, Suzanne Lyon, Mohammed Saleem, Vicki Arkinstall, Claudine Santos, Nancy Dean (OCASC), Elena Pushkareva (OCASC), Alison Kinahan (Parents for Diversity)
- Non-Voting Members: Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Naya Markanastasakis (Principal, Pinecrest Public School), Suzanne Nash (Trustee), Samah Suliman (Family and Community Engagement Coordinator)
- Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Donna Dickson (Trustee), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Marc Slesar (Principal, Emily Carr Middle School), Mellissa Applewaithe (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Mills called the meeting to order at 6:09 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

Moved by Trustee Nash,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. PIC Report, 13 September 2023

Moved by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report dated 13 September 2023 be received.

Nancy Dean noted that the minutes should be amended to reflect that the Ottawa Carleton Association of School Councils (OCASC) meet every third Thursday of the month.

Moved by Trustee Nash,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report dated 13 September 2023 be received, as amended.

Carried

5. Follow Up - Action Items

5.1 Written Process for Coordination of Information Requests

Chair Mills noted that the process for written requests for information from Board staff had been circulated to Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) members by email.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Consultation: Revision of the Ottawa -Carleton District School Board Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (M. Slesar)

Principal Slesar provided a presentation on the consultation process for the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

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

- The importance of engaging parents, caregivers and community partners in bullying prevention and intervention was noted;
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) is working to provide training to administrators and educators on a restorative approach to bullying; and
- It was suggested that the OCDSB should collect data to inform strategic planning on bullying intervention and prevention.

7. Reports

7.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report. He noted that the revised PR 509 SCO, School Council Elections, Constitution and By-Laws will be available on the OCDSB website on 12 October 2023 and that the Ontario Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) would like to recruit a PIC

member to join a working group to focus on finding solutions to the current transportation challenges.

7.2 Chair's Report

Chair Mills provided her report and noted that the Annual Family Conference will be held on 4 November 2023 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and will feature Ontario's first Poet Laureate, author, arts educator, and community leader Randell Adjei as the keynote speaker. She requested that PIC members interested in hosting the PIC table at the event contact her directly.

7.3 Committee Reports

1. Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee

Calla Barnett provided an update from the 19 September 2023 Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee.

2. Board

Trustees Nash and Scott provided an update from the 26 September 2023 Board meeting.

3. Committee of the Whole

Vice-Chair Lyon provided an update from the 3 October 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

4. Special Education Advisory Committee

There was no report from the Special Education Advisory Committee.

8. Standing Items

8.1 Updates from Work Plan Subcommittees

1. Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion

There was no update from the Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion sub-committee.

2. Mental Health

Vice Chair Lyon noted that she had not been able to convene a meeting of the Mental Health sub-committee and requested that another PIC member take the lead for the Mental Health sub-committee.

Chair Mills requested that any members wishing to join the sub-committee contact her directly.

3. Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Nancy Dean noted that the Parents Reaching Out Grant sub-committee has not yet met and that she intends to meet with Superintendent Duah.

9. Notice of Motion (D. Mills)

Suzanne Lyon assumed the chair.

Diana Mills provided a presentation to introduce her notice of motion.

Moved by Diana Mills,

WHEREAS the mandate of the Parent Involvement Committee is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the District level in order to improve student achievement and well-being;

WHEREAS increasing the individual parent members who represent under-represented community groups will strengthen the Committee for equitable representation, stewardship and social responsibility providing these communities with an opportunity to express their concerns within the Committee's objectives;

WHEREAS adding the perspective of diverse communities as referenced in Policy P.098.CUR Equity and Inclusive Education, therefore, will increase parent representation where gaps may exist through amending sections 4, 5, and 6; and

WHEREAS advance notice has been given to all Committee members at the Parent Involvement Committee meeting of 13 September 2023 and in writing on the 11 October 2023 agenda cover for the Parent Involvement Committee meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the proposed revisions to sections 4, 5, and 6 of the OCDSB By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Parent Involvement Committee as set out in Appendix A to this notice of motion, be approved.

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

- Section 14 of the PIC By-laws and Standing Rules allows for the proposal of the motion;
- The proposed amendment will not exclude Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) from attending PIC meetings;
- Chair Mills expressed the view that there is a need for PIC to attract a more diverse section of members from the parent community and that the motion seeks to address this;

- OCASC members will still be eligible to apply as individual parent members to the PIC;
- Several members expressed the view that potential parent members should all have to apply through the same process;
- It was suggested that the number of parent member seats on PIC be increased to allow for the current OCASC seats and additional parent member representation as noted by Chair Mills;
- It was suggested that the motion would exclude the voice of the school council; and
- It was suggested that the OCASC seats be reduced to one to allow for a transitional phase.

An amendment moved by Nancy Dean,

THAT the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils retain one (1) seat.

Defeated

An amendment moved by Calla Barnett,

THAT the words "to take effect on 30 November 2023" be inserted after the word "approved."

Carried

Moved By Diana Mills

THAT the proposed revisions to sections 4, 5 and 6 of the OCDSB By-laws and Standing Rules of the Parent Involvement Committee as set out in Appendix A to this notice of motion be approved, to take effect on 30 November 2023, as amended.

For (8) Diana Mills, Calla Barnett, Alexandra Arriaz, Suzanne Lyon, Mohammed Saleem, Vicki Arkinstall, Claudine Santos, Alison Kinahan

Against (2) Nancy Dean, Elena Pushkareva

Abstain (0)

10. New Business

Diana Mills resumed the chair.

There was no new business.

11. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee