



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Members: Diana Mills, Calla Barnett, Vicki Arkinstall, Alexandra Arraiz, Tabassum Khan, Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, Mohammed Saleem, Claudine Santos, Alison Telford, Scott Walker, Adriana Johnston (Ottawa Network for Education), Alison Kinahan (Parents for Diversity)

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

Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Donna Dickson (Trustee), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Courtney O'Halloran (Principal, Agincourt Public School), Tristan Reid (Student Senate), Scarlett Plunkett (Student Senate), Josh Wilson (Guest), 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 this meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mohammed Saleem,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Alexandra Arraiz requested that the Parent Engagement sub-committee report be moved from item 7.1 to item 5.1.

Moved by Mohammed Saleem,

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Consultation on Renewal of Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap (C. O'Halloran)

Principal O'Halloran provided a presentation on the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap (Roadmap).

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

- Data collection on special educational needs does not reflect students with special needs who also have an Individual Education Plan (IEP);
- When communicating with families and students regarding special educational needs, the District should provide clear, transparent and accessible information;
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) educators should reflect a diverse range of representation for students to see themselves;
- Staff would benefit from receiving training on how to navigate classroom or playground situations and incidents related to global tensions;
- It is important that the District focus on equity in well-being in addition to equity in achievement;
- Students and families should be aware of how and where to access resources to support well-being;
- It was suggested that the District could track incidents involving racism, discrimination or hate at the school level to identify the frequency; and
- Members suggested that elementary students be involved in the Roadmap consultation process.

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion

Claudine Santos requested direction from Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) members regarding the OCDSB administrative requirements for a

town hall event that the sub-committee had proposed to host on 21 February 2024.

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

- PIC members expressed the view that new member orientation should provide clear details of the role and the District's governance and procedural processes;
- The provincial legislation for PICs across the province directs that the Committee achieves its purpose by providing information and advice on parent engagement to the Board;
- PIC has a voice in the planning of the Parent Engagement Conference and should work in liaison with the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator (FACE);
- PIC members can take individual note of issues in their school or communities and bring them forward to the PIC for discussion or action;
- It was suggested that the PIC develop a recommendation to bring to the Board regarding town hall style events;
- The Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion sub-committee expressed the view that the Committee had decided to hold an event on 21 February 2024 as proposed by the sub-committee at the January 2024 PIC meeting;
- PIC members noted that they would like to see the budget for the upcoming year prior to the allocation of funds; and
- It was suggested that the sub-committee engage with school councils on a collaborative event, and that members meet informally to determine the process.

6. Reports

6.1 PIC Report, 17 January 2024

Vice-Chair Barnett requested the following changes to the 17 January 2024 minutes:

- That Memo 24-006 be included under Item 5.1;
- That the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Sub-Committee be noted under item 9.1; and
- That information provided in a verbal report at the meeting was missing under item 8.1.

Claudine Santos and Scott Walker expressed the opinion that a vote on an event proposed by the Parents Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion Sub-Committee had taken place at the 17 January 2024 meeting and should be recorded.

Staff recommended that approval of the 17 January 2024 PIC minutes be deferred to the 17 April 2024 meeting to allow for revision of the minutes.

Moved by Vice-Chair Barnett,

THAT approval of the Parent Involvement Committee Report dated 17 January 2024, be deferred to the 17 April 2024 meeting.

Carried

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report and noted the following:

- The Education Foundation of Ottawa is collecting donations for the Toonie Tuesday campaign on 27 February 2024;
- Registration for OCDSB Winter Virtual Night School is open until 15 February 2024;
- A Black History Showcase: Honouring Black Excellence will be held on 24 February 2024 at Longfields-Davidson Heights Secondary School from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.;
- Information sessions on Kindergarten and High School are in progress; and
- The 2024 Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA) Awards are open for nominations. The awards recognize educators, school administrators, students, trustees or community members whose exceptional contributions have made a significant impact on their school or community.

6.3 Chair's Report

Chair Mills provided her report and noted that she and Vice-Chair Barnett had attended a meeting with PIC chairs and school board leads from Ontario.

Chair Mills noted that PIC governance and PIC involvement in the Parent Conference will be discussed at the April 2024 meeting and encouraged PIC members to provide future agenda topics to herself or Superintendent Duah. She advised that there are timeframes that could affect the addition of agenda items.

Vice-Chair Barnett suggested that the voting members of PIC convene for an informal meeting in March 2024. She requested that members contact her to indicate interest and provide location options.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Updates from Workplan Subcommittees

The update for the Parent Engagement, Outreach, Guidance on Advocacy and Inclusion sub-committee was discussed under item 5.1.

There were no further sub-committee updates.

7.2 Meeting Reports

a. Board, Committee of the Whole, Committee of the Whole Budget

Claudine Santos provided an update on the 30 January 2024 Committee of the Whole (COW) Budget meeting.

b. Ad Hoc and Advisory Committees

Vice-Chair Barnett provided an update on the 8 February 2024 Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee and noted that the committee had voiced a concern regarding proposed changes to the student transfer appeal process. The committee had noted that the guidance document on the appeal process should provide families with clear details of what staff require in order to make decisions on cross boundary transfer requests.

Vice-Chair Barnett suggested that the topic could be a future item for discussion for PIC members.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

