



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

Members: Diana Mills, Alexandra Arraiz, Calla Barnett, Alison Telford, Tabassum Khan, Scott Walker, Alison Kinahan (Parents for Diversity), Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm, Fartun Farah

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

Staff and Guests: Jason Glover, Stacey Segal, Tamara Persaud (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Barnett called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Homelands

Vice-Chair Barnett acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land and for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Seyi Okuribido-Malcolm,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Family Conference Debrief (S. Suliman)

Family and Community Engagement (FACE) coordinator, Samah Suliman, presented an update on the Family Conference held on 2 November 2024 at Woodroffe High School. Students and their families were invited to

participate in a day of learning, growth and connection with Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) and Community partners.

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

- There were 650 participants at the conference. This was a significant increase from previous years;
- Positive feedback has been received via email from students and families regarding the event. A survey will be sent out on 22 November 2024 to attendees to obtain formal feedback;
- Recordings of the presentations from the event will be posted online for those who were unable to attend;
- For the first time, interactive workshops on math, literacy and science were held during the conference and were well received by students and parents. These workshops will be implemented in family conference planning going forward; and
- Planning has begun for the 2025 Family Conference. Work is being done to simplify the registration and check in to reduce delays in administrative processes for the event.

5. Action Items

5.1 Report 24-122. Parent Involvement Committee Membership Confirmation (P. Duah)

Your Committee had before it Report 24-122, seeking approval to appoint new members to the Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Duah provided an overview of the membership campaign and sub-committee process that had been conducted to address upcoming PIC vacancies as of 30 November 2024. He reported that the membership subcommittee had met and selected six parent members for appointment by PIC members.

Moved by Alison Telford,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) appoints the following parent members and waiting list candidates for term identified:

Name	Position Term Limit
1. Alexandra Arraiz	Parent Member 2024 - 2026
2. Ali Yaqub	Parent Member 2024 - 2026

3. Stacey Segal	Parent Member 2024 - 2026
4. Khalhela Zoeller	Parent Member 2024 - 2026
5. Jason Glover	Parent Member 2024 - 2026
6. Tahir Yapici	Parent Member 2024 - 2026
Waiting List Ranked in Priority	
1. Erin Fitzmaurice 2. Sima Noorbakhsh 3. Lyndsay Wise	

Carried

6. Reports

6.1 PIC Report, 16 October 2024

Moved by Alison Kinahan,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report, dated 16 October 2024, be received.

Carried

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report and noted the following:

- Kindergarten orientation and High School information sessions for parents will be held in coming weeks to assist in navigating education in the OCDSB;
- Funding from the Ministry of Education has been allocated to PIC to support family mental health and addiction initiatives. This funding is focused on gathering information from the community and parents in regards to what mental health services are best suited to the needs of students and their families. Consultations and campaigns will be done in conjunction the special education and mental health teams;
- It was noted that gambling should be included in the wide array of mental health and addictions, as it has become an increasing issue in schools; and

- It was suggested that a parent peer support group be arranged for families with students experiencing mental health issues, and that these groups be led by a trained facilitator.

7. Information Items

7.1 Chair's Report

During the report from the Vice-Chair Barnett, the following information was provided:

- The 2024 Family Conference was successful. It encouraged PIC to continue to collaborate with FACE and work closely on similar initiatives and programs;
- During the Family Conference, PIC hosted a session in which members had an opportunity to speak to the importance of school councils;
- Chair Mills reflected on her time on the PIC and thanked the members for their ongoing commitment to the important work being done on this team. She extended gratitude to the Committee for the opportunity to learn and grow and encouraged members to remain steadfast in their commitment to the students and families of the OCDSB. Superintendent Duah and Members of PIC honoured Chair Mills and thanked her for her tenure on PIC. They wished her well on her future endeavours;
- Due to budgetary restraints, meals will no longer be provided at PIC meetings. Options to determine a course of action going forward will be discussed at the 15 January 2025 meeting;
- Some PIC members attended the Provincial PIC meeting to discuss current issues Ontario schools are facing. Topics of discussion included bullying and cyberbullying. The Toronto District School Board provided a presentation bullying awareness and breakout conversations on vaping, cell phones and preparing students for the workforce were valuable to the work being done by PIC; and
- Members were urged to consider representing PIC at advisory committees or Committee of the Whole meetings. More information regarding types of committees available and time commitments, can be found on the OCDSB website.

8. Standing Items

8.1 Work Plan Subcommittees

There were no updates from the Workplan Subcommittees.

8.2 Update from Board Committees

Vice Chair Barnett attended the Policy Review Committee where the proposed Advisory Committee on Equity (ACE) policy revisions were discussed and approved, following consultations with the public, trustees, and the ACE Committee members. There was discussion to ensure a wide array of voices are heard during the decision making process and that marginalized groups within the OCDSB are represented. An initial staff review of the respectful workplace policy was presented to the committee. The Vice-Chair raised concerns about some definitions and the need for a deeper analysis of the policy, including review by ACE and the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), being necessary to ensure that marginalized OCDSB employees are considered, such as recognizing kinship relationships and restorative justice.

9. New Business

It was noted that the OCDSB is under financial supervision from the Ministry of Education due to a deficit, which has impacted the overall budget. The PIC representative for COW Budget will provide an update following the 17 January 2025 COW Budget meeting.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Diana Mills, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee