



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room
133 Greenbank Road
Ottawa, Ontario

Members: Calla Barnett, Alison Telford, Jason Glover, Stacey Segal,
Tabassum Khan, Tahir Yapici, Scott Walker, Fartun Farah

Non-Voting Members: Suzanne Nash (Trustee), Prince Duah (Superintendent of
Instruction)

Staff and Guests: Tamara Persaud (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Barnett called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Barnett 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 Alison Telford,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

4. Chair's Report

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

- The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Google Drive has been organized and a filing system has been created to share documents with subcommittee Chairs and Board staff in a streamlined manner. Resources are now available to support subcommittees through the Chair and Vice Chair;
- It was requested that an update be made to the email address displayed on all of the school council microsites, as it is currently the PIC Chair

email. They should be corrected to display the corresponding school council Chair emails;

- Many inquiries have been received regarding the Elementary Program Review (EPR). Those interested in sharing feedback are encouraged to do so on the engage.OCDSB website. Gratitude was extended to city councillors and trustees for taking into consideration, information from parents and caregivers regarding the impacts of the review on students and their families;
- The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) community youth officers has hired four divide amongst schools city wide with the intention of having officers with experience working with students and position themselves as a main point of contact for inquiries for schools. It was clarified that there will not be increased police presence in schools but rather specialized officers to support schools when required. Representatives from the OPS have been invited to present at a future PIC meeting to further inform the committee of the purpose of the community youth officers;
- The provincial PIC Chair meeting will be held on 13 May 2025. Presentations will be held regarding student achievement, student mental health, *Bill 123*, and supporting learning and wellbeing; and
- The PIC end of year report deadline is fast approaching. A draft of the report is currently in development and will be circulated to members ahead of the 14 May 2025 PIC meeting.

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Elementary Program Review Update (P. Duah)

Superintendent Duah provided an update on the EPR and further clarified the revised plan that was released on 3 April 2025.

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

- The revised proposal of the EPR addresses feedback from parents and caregivers regarding grade configurations and boundaries in order to accommodate french and english learning with the goal of preserving community ties and reducing the number of kindergarten to grade 3 and grade 4-8 schools. The revised EPR proposal also focuses on the consolidation of single-track schools. It addresses the potential shifts in school schedules, resource and funding allocation, training for staff, and implementation of teaching accommodations;

- In the revised proposal, the number of SPCs to be phased out was reduced from 39 to 26 which impacted the number of teachers and educational assistants that could be reallocated;
- During consultation, concern was raised by parents that their children will be moved from current schools and potentially separate students from attending schools with their siblings. It was noted that a process to consider exemptions will be established for families to remain at their current schools, which will include sibling considerations and legacy exemptions;
- Staff is working to streamline the student transfer process to ensure students that will be required to move schools will be supported through the transition;
- The Engage OCDSB portal will remain open until 24 April 2025, to allow for further public feedback regarding the EPR;
- Staff highlighted the process of amalgamating school communities and the courses of action other school boards have taken to ensure students are supported through this transition;
- Practical considerations have been taken into account such as childcare, transportation and ensuring school buildings are suitable to accommodate new grade configurations;
- The final EPR recommendation will be presented to the Committee of the Whole on 6 May 2025 with final decisions expected to be made by the Board on 13 May 2025;
- It was clarified that the EPR is not a cost saving measure for the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) but rather a restructuring of the current program offerings. This plan was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic but was postponed with the shift in priorities as the OCDSB navigated the pandemic;
- Members requested that follow up analysis be conducted to determine the success of the models once they are implemented and the impact the implementation of these models has on students and staff;
- Concern was raised regarding the potential reduction of 26 specialized program classes (SPC), the phasing out of the elementary alternative program and the accessibility of necessary supports for students. It was clarified that should these reductions be approved, students currently in these programs will be able to continue until they complete the program and programs will be phased out gradually;

- If the EPR recommendation is approved, some of the SPC and alternative program classes will be amalgamated with other programs, to ensure students remain supported through the restructuring; and
- It was encouraged that educators and staff receive further professional development (PD) to enhance in-classroom supports for students, ensuring the pedagogy used provides meaningful academic experiences for all students including those with a diverse range of learning needs

5.2 PIC Workplan

Chair Barnett introduced the PIC work plan and key priorities. The goal is to develop steps to achieve each of the plans and priorities, plan for the year ahead, and create subcommittees.

Moved by Calla Barnett,

THAT the school council engagement subcommittee be created;

THAT the engaging hard to reach parents subcommittee be created;

THAT the PIC budget oversight subcommittee be created;

THAT the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant oversight subcommittee be created; and

THAT the proposed PIC work plan be approved.

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

- Top priorities for PIC are the family conference planning, bylaw and governance oversight, and school council engagement;
- The PIC annual report is in development and will be brought to the committee for approval at the 14 May 2025 meeting;
- Staff reminded the committee of the PIC mandates and scope of the committee priorities as they align to PIC bylaws and policy. It was encouraged to maintain a mentality of proactiveness when making decisions;
- It was noted that the family and community engagement (FACE) team will be supporting the engaging school council and family conference subcommittees;
- It was clarified that the goal of the Student Achievement Through Equity (SATE) inquiry was to build relationships with schools to bring resources, programming, and support to parents. Two

liaisons were hired to support targeted schools. Members requested that these liaisons attend a PIC meeting to further discuss the inquiry and the effectiveness of the program;

- Scott Walker and Tabassum Khan volunteered to Co-Chair the school council engagement subcommittee;
- Scott Walker volunteered to Chair the engaging hard to reach parents subcommittee; and
- Jason Glover volunteered to Chair the PRO grant subcommittee.

Moved by Calla Barnett,

THAT the school council engagement subcommittee be created;

THAT the engaging hard to reach parents subcommittee be created;

THAT the PIC budget oversight subcommittee be created;

THAT the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant oversight subcommittee be created; and

THAT the proposed PIC work plan be approved.

Carried

6. Reports

6.1 PIC Report, 12 February 2025

Moved by Alison Telford,

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report dated 12 February 2025, be received.

Carried

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Duah provided his report and noted a letter was sent out today from the Director of Education, informing staff of the four year financial deficit the OCDSB is in and possible repercussions of the \$20 million reductions being made within the organization. There will be a reduction of 80 full time equivalent staff (FTE). It was also noted that reductions will first be made through attrition, retirements, and not filling vacant positions

7. Standing Items

7.1 Update from Subcommittees

The family conference planning subcommittee is meeting this upcoming week to finalize planning along-side FACE coordinator Suliman.

The substance abuse and addictions subcommittee is working along-side a number of school councils in the area to gather feedback from both parents and students to gauge the needs of students and their families. Virtual focus group sessions are also being held to gather feedback to inform the campaign the subcommittee hopes to launch in the fall of 2025.

The bylaw and governance subcommittee is meeting to discuss the PIC bylaws, policy framework and mandates to better inform the priorities of the committee.

7.2 Update from Board Committees

Trustee Nash reported that at both Board and Committee of the Whole (COW), discussions were held regarding the EPR, the student well being report, and the student mental health report. She also highlighted the Special Board delegation nights held on 26 February 2025 and 19 March 2025 to gather feedback from the public regarding the EPR.

Jason Glover attended the COW Budget meetings ON 18 February 2025 and 18 March 2025, at which the significant financial deficit was noted. He highlighted the discrepancy between the decision made in the 2023-2024 school year regarding the increase of EAs and now the possible reduction of EAs as a cost-saving measure. He noted the significant reductions to 80 FTE staff and the process in which these reductions will be achieved.

Chair Barnett attended the Policy Review Committee on 10 April 2025 meeting and reported on the curriculum decision making regarding resources in classrooms and the appeal process for trustees.

8. New Business

Jason Glover expressed his intent to plan informal, social events over the summer for PIC members and their families with the intention of building rapport.

9. Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming meeting dates were provided for information.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Calla Barnett, Chair, Parent
Involvement Committee