



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

6:00 pm

Trustees' Committee Room

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

- Members: Mostafizur Khan , Carm Janneteau, John Marshall, Gita Nurlaila, Diana Mills, Geneviève Harte , Malaka Hendela (OCASC Member), Susan Fullerton
- Non-Voting Members: Chris Ellis (Trustee), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Shannon Smith (Principal)
- Staff and Guests: Michele Giroux (Executive Officer of Corporate Services), Donna Blackburn (Trustee), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), Martyn Reid (OCASC), Amber LaBelle (OCASC), and Nicole Guthrie (Board Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Khan call the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Susan Fullerton,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Malaka Hendela,

THAT report from the 17 October 2018 PIC meeting be received.

Carried

4. Chair's Report

Chair Khan advised that the 2018 Parent Conference and School Council Training Day held on 3 November 2018 was a success thanks to the staff, presenters, and participants. He was pleased to report that over 300 parents and guardians were in attendance for the annual event.

Chair Khan noted that the event had a festival atmosphere and was well organized and planned. He expressed the view that all parents who attended learned many new things which will contribute to their children's higher academic achievements.

Chair Khan advised that a video of the keynote speaker and the powerpoint presentations from the workshops are available on the District's website.

Ms. Janneteau was impressed with the PIC Workshop on the Ministry Consultation. She enjoyed the workshop and suggested staff consider similar workshops which feature active parent participation and conversation at future events.

Ms. Hendela thanked the staff for their effort in organizing the PIC Workshop on the Ministry Consultation. She was encouraged by the diverse cross-section of parents who attended the workshop and gave of their time.

Ms. Hendela appreciated the video recording of the keynote speaker and suggested that this media channel be explored for future speaker series presentations.

Executive Officer Giroux advised that the keynote speaker was amenable to the recording, but added that many speakers are not. The District must also consider the topic and whether or not parents will be comfortable with video recordings. Staff will investigate the option and provide the service when possible.

5. Director's Report

Associate Director Reynolds advised that as a result of the recent media attention surrounding the historical sexual assault allegations made at Bell High School, Director Adams has issued an open letter to parents and community members. In the letter, Director Adams expresses her sympathies for the victims and reassures parents and community members that their children are safe. He noted that today there are many safeguards in place to help reduce the possibility of incidents of abuse.

Associate Director Reynolds advised that the District will officially welcome a new Board on 3 December 2018 at its inaugural meeting. He noted that several new members were elected to the Board and the Parent Involvement Committee may have a new Trustee member in January 2019.

Associate Director Reynolds noted that Camille Williams-Taylor, the new Director, will be working alongside current Director Jennifer Adams for the month

of December. Camille Williams-Taylor will assume the role of Director in January 2019.

Associate Director Reynolds noted that report cards will be sent home before 22 November 2018 and Parent-Teacher interviews will be conducted on that date.

Associate Director Reynolds indicated that secondary staff recently participated in Professional Development (PD) focused on math and student well-being.

Associate Director Reynolds advised that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) driver shortage continues and they are taking active measures to recruit new drivers and to consolidate routes to ensure the efficient transportation of students.

In response to a query from Ms. Janneteau, Associate Director Reynolds noted that the driver shortage has resulted in some routes having multiple drivers. OSTA makes every effort to minimize driver transitions as they work to consolidate routes in the face of the shortage. He added that new drivers may take longer to learn the route which may cause delays.

In response to a query from Ms. Janneteau regarding access to the PD exercises, Associate Director Reynolds noted that for Ministry Priority days agendas are posted. The PD sessions are often designed by the school teams and presented by school staff based on professional learning needs and Ministry priorities.

Associate Director Reynolds indicated he would follow up with principals to investigate the possibility of including information on PD sessions in the school newsletter.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that within each school's School Learning Plan (SLP), there are several areas of focus specific to the school. Typically, PD relates to these areas of focus. She noted that Parent Councils can further SLP success by hosting parent nights featuring activities to learn about and engage in these subject areas.

6. Action Items

6.a Report 18-119, Parent Involvement Committee Membership Confirmation (M. Giroux, ext. 8310)

1. Confirm the members

Moved by Malaka Hendela,

THAT the following persons be appointed to the PIC for the term identified:

Mostafizur Khan (Parent Member, Two-year Term)

John Marshall (Parent Member, Two-year Term)

Gita Nurlaila (Parent Member, One-year Term)
Carm Janneteau (Parent Member, Two-year Term)
Diana Mills (Parent Member, One-year Term)
Susan Fullerton (Parent Member, One-year Term)
Malaka Hendela Parent Member (OCASC Representative, One-year Term)
Martyn Reid Parent Member (OCASC Representative, One-year Term)
Amber Labelle Parent Member (OCASC Representative, Alternate, One-year Term)
Marisa Moher (Community Representative, Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative, One-year Term)
Susan Ingram Community Representative, Big Brothers Big Sisters, One-year Term)

Carried

2. Election of Chair

Mostafizur Khan nominated himself.

Genevieve Harte nominated Malaka Hendela

Following an election, Executive Officer Giroux declared Mostafizur Khan was elected Chair.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Khan nominated Carm Janneteau for the position of Vice-Chair.

Moved by Susan Fullerton,

THAT the nominations be closed.

Carried

By acclamation, Chair Khan declared Carm Janneteau Vice-Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee.

6.b Report 18-120, Ministry Consultation on Education Reform in Ontario - Next Steps (M.Giroux ext.8310)

Your committee had before it Report 18-120, Ministry Consultation on Education Reform in Ontario-Next Steps, summarizing the feedback received from parents at the PIC workshop on the Ministry Consultation held at the 2018 Parent Conference and School Council Training Day

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

- The Board reviewed a draft response to the Ministry Consultation prepared by the Ad-Hoc Committee to Develop an Advocacy Strategy. The Committee was made aware of the PIC workshop and used some of the feedback in their response;
- Executive Officer Giroux advised that the PIC respond to each question individually. She noted the cap on each of the sections is 500 words;
- The Board's submission will be formatted with an introductory paragraph responding to each question with additional key points in bullet format;
- In response to a query from Mr. Reid regarding the STEM/STEAM response and evidence to support the addition of the arts, Ms. Harte indicated that within the group that discussed this item at the PIC workshop there was a general consensus that the arts are connected to critical thinking and the acronym should be changed to reflect this;
- The members expressed concern about the communication from the Ministry regarding the results and the types of feedback that will be provided;
- Members discussed the possibility of fraudulent responses noting that if the online consultation does not include IP specific blocks, the same person may submit more than one submission which could significantly impact the outcome;
- Executive Officer Giroux advised that members could include questions regarding the survey methodology and the communication of survey results in an opening statement within an email submission to the Ministry Consultation. Local MPPs could also be contacted to provide answers to these questions;
- Executive Officer Giroux advised that the District has received limited communication on the consultation from the Ministry and that no direction was provided to school boards;
- In response to a query from Ms. Janneteau, Associate Director Reynolds indicated that he would speak with senior staff regarding the request to have school principals link to the Ministry Consultations in direct school communications to parents;
- Ms. Hendela advised that OCASC members have been asked to engage with the media to promote the consultation and will be actively seeking media time to begin a dialogue to encourage parent participation;
- A link to the Ministry Consultation is available on every school website;
- The members requested that the sentence "where this approach became, in their opinion, a tool for extremists" be replaced with "noting that a parent bill of rights may be inconsistent with Canadian values for public education and the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms."

- The District has shared information on the consultation at the Chair and Director's briefing at Committee of the Whole and Board meeting, on its social media channels, on its website and in the school council newsletter;
- Ms. Hendela offered the OCASC social media sites and websites as a repository to house sample answers to the questions for parents who may be unsure of responses but would like to participate;
- Ms. Labelle indicated that an op-ed is scheduled to be printed in the Ottawa Citizen which further references the parent's bill of rights and its use in the United States;
- In response to a query from Ms. Nurlaila regarding the role of the District in the Ministry Consultation, Executive Officer Giroux noted the District and the Board may choose to further promote the consultation to broaden awareness and encourage participation. The Board, through their advocacy efforts, have requested that parents be alerted to their opportunity to participate in consultation;
- Executive Officer Giroux indicated that PIC may choose to add a third statement to the motion advising staff to share the PIC statement on the District website to provide parents with a frame of reference for their own submissions and promote further awareness of the consultation;
- Ms. Hendela expressed concern that comments on the Health and Physical Education Curriculum as outlined on folio 19 contain no reference to the LGBTQ community and their rights;
- The members requested that the word "instated" in the second sentence of the Health and Physical Education Curriculum be revised to read "reinstated" and the word "several" be changed to read "all but one";
- Ms. Janneteau shared that she participated in the breakout group that discussed the Health and Physical Education Curriculum and most parents inferred support for the LGBTQ community through the request for the reinstatement of the 2015 curriculum;
- Ms. Hendela requested that a specific reference to LGBTQ and gender rights be added to the PIC response;
- Executive Officer Giroux suggested that the statement also reference Human Rights; and
- Trustee Blackburn indicated that the District and all her fellow trustees are supportive of LGBTQ students and assured the members their rights are well protected in the District.

Ms. Hendela rose on a point of order and requested that the Chair be respectful of her voice and refrain from restating her comments.

Moved by Genevieve Harte,

THAT PIC submits the summary from Report 18-120 to the Board of Trustees in order to inform the OCDSB's submission to the Ministry on the provincial consultation on education in Ontario, as amended (Attached as Appendix A); and

THAT PIC provides a submission with the summary from Report 18-120, on behalf of the parents of the District, to the Ministry of Education via fortheparents@ontario.ca. and

THAT PIC encourages posting of both the Board and PIC response to the District website and the use of additional outreach efforts to promote parent's awareness and participation in the Ministry Consultation.

Carried

7. Presentation and Discussion

7.a Parent and School Council Conference Update

Executive Officer Giroux circulated the preliminary results of the 2018 OCDSB Parent Conference and School Council Training Day post event evaluation survey.

Ms. Janneteau expressed concern that there were only 33 respondents. She suggested that the link to the survey be distributed at the conference and that laptops or iPads be available onsite to allow participants to complete the survey onsite.

Executive Officer Giroux noted that staff will investigate ways to incorporate the event evaluation at the 2019 event.

7.b Strategic Plan 2019-2023: Pre-Consultation (M.Giroux, ext.8310)

Executive Officer Giroux noted that the District has begun the conversation on the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. She noted that staff has presented and engaged with OCASC, the Advisory Committee on Equity, the Student Senate, the federation representatives and school principals seeking ideas and strategies on how best to reach communities and people who are traditionally less engaged in District consultations.

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

- The District was encouraged to make the Thoughtexchange questions simple and easy to understand;

- Between 21 November 2018 and 12 December 2018 students in grades 7-12, parents and guardians, employees and community partners will share ideas to help set the direction for District schools from 2019-2023;
- Invitations to participate in the Thoughtexchange have been emailed to over 185,000 people;
- The Thoughtexchange process encourages all participants to answer three open-ended questions. Participants may provide multiple thoughts and ideas, they can view other participant's ideas and rank or star those ideas. Participants may return and contribute to the process as often as they wish until the 12 December 2018 close;
- Thoughtexchange is available in English, French or Spanish. People may also participate by SMS text message in any language available in Google translate;
- The Family Reception Centre (FRC) has made technology and staff available at their site to encourage family participation. Multi-Cultural Liaison Officers (MLOs) are also providing assistance to families in schools;
- Principals are hosting information sessions and making technology and support available in their schools;
- A Thoughtexchange summary has been translated into multiple languages and is available on the District website. Schools administrators are being encouraged to send a translated summary sheet home with children in their backpacks;
- The District will also accept written submissions;
- Focus groups will be held in January to discuss the Thoughtexchange feedback and begin and strategies;
- Ms. Hendela encouraged the District to engage future OCDSB parents;
- Ms. Hendela queried how the priorities identified through the Thoughtexchange process would come back to the PIC. Executive Officer Giroux noted that the District will engage with focus groups in January and that the information can be shared with PIC. The PIC may also choose to host a focus group;
- Executive Officer Giroux noted that the District's current strategic priorities are connected to exit outcomes. Annually, the Board and the Director of Education develop work plans which identify the key work planned for the school year that will help to realize the objectives. Each year, the Board receives the Annual Student Achievement Report (ASAR) and the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSAW) which provide both qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress. She added that the PIC will review the ASAR and the BIPSAW in 2019.

8. Member Information

8.a OCASC Report

Ms. Hendela noted the Ministry Consultation on Education was a key focus for the 15 November 2018 General Assembly meeting of OCASC. OCASC also discussed parent participation on OCDSB Board authorized committees and advisory groups, highlighting the recent Gifted Advisory Group process which, in the opinion of several OCASC members, was flawed. She shared that complaints from several members of the Gifted Advisory Group went unacknowledged and were in direct violation of the District's Complaints Resolution Policy.

Ms. Hendela indicated that OCASC has formed a working group to discuss the issues of the Gifted Advisory Group in an effort to improve governance and transparency to ensure the continued participation of parents in District consultations and processes. The working group will also be reviewing the matter of engagement in an effort to improve community involvement. She will report back to the PIC and welcomed PIC members to participate in the working group.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mostafizur Khan, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee