

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

18 September 2019

Report No. 19-085

Parent Involvement Committee 2019-2020 Draft Workplan

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PURPOSE:

1. To discuss the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) 2019-2020 draft workplan (Appendix A).

CONTEXT:

2. Throughout school year 2018-2019, PIC members expressed their interest in operating from a structured workplan to guide the Committee's discussions towards meaningful impact on parent involvement in the OCDSB. It is recommended that the workplan be based on the PIC By-Laws and Standing Rules and the Board's 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, and structured in terms of what could be achieved in the number of meetings within a school year.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

3. PIC Mission and Mandate
PIC supports, encourages and enhances parent engagement across the District in order to improve student achievement and well-being. PIC serves an integral role within the District by providing parents with the opportunity to voice their concerns, ideas and challenges. The duties of PIC include:
 - Outreach to parents, recognizing the barriers of time, language, recent immigration, socio-economic status, newness to the system, or other factors;
 - Working collaboratively with the Board to ensure linkages between parents, the Director of Education and trustees;
 - Developing strategies to enhance parental engagement and outreach;
 - Encouraging inter-school communications; and
 - Participating in the promotion, development, and implementation of projects addressing barriers to parent engagement.
4. Thoughtexchange Results
In response to the members' request, staff initiated a Thoughtexchange to elicit members' feedback on what was important to them, other parents, school

communities, and the organizations they represented. Members were given two weeks to submit their thoughts on the following question:

“What are your thoughts about the priorities for the PIC workplan for next year?”

A total of 15 participants, representing all members of the Committee including the alternates to community representatives, submitted their thoughts and made over a total of forty ratings of the submissions (Appendix B). The feedback from the Thoughtexchange reflects much of the Committee’s discussions over the past year.

In conducting content analysis of the submissions, staff gave equal consideration to all thoughts aligned with the parameters of PIC mandate and purpose according to *Ontario Regulation 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee* and PIC By-Laws and Standing Rules (Appendix C). Content analysis revealed the following dominant themes:

- enhanced support for minorities and the diversity of parents who find engagement challenging;
- enhanced partnerships to leverage available resources in support of parent engagement; and
- improved communications, within and among schools, and between the PIC and the Board of Trustees.

5. OCDSB 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

Recognizing that the OCDSB has a new strategic plan and the value of the alignment between the Committee’s work and the District’s strategic priorities, it may be helpful to consider the key work the District will be undertaking this year which connects to the PIC mandate. Some examples include:

- development of a parent engagement/satisfaction survey;
- strategies to encourage participation in the collection of identity-based data;
- input into Safe Schools and District Code of Conduct policy reviews;
- development of the Parent Portal;
- implementation of Safe arrivals/attendance reporting program;
- review of the English language program; and
- Parent Conference and Speaker Series (Appendix D).

With this in mind, the attached Appendix A includes a draft workplan with all meeting dates, fiduciary responsibilities, and possible discussion topics for the first three meetings of the Committee.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

6. The costs associated with administering the Thoughtexchange were covered within the existing budgets. PIC activities planned for this year will be covered through the parent involvement budget (PINV) provided by the Ministry of Education.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

7. It is anticipated that the responses to the Thoughtexchange are based on PIC members' discussion and consultations with their school communities and respective organizations. No further consultation is required for the Committee to draft and endorse its 2019-2020 workplan.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

8. Adopting a PIC workplan closely ties into the Culture of Innovation of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. In seeking a new way of conducting its business, PIC has a goal of optimizing its time and resources to better serve the parents of the District in support of children's education and well-being.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

The following questions are to guide the Committee's discussion of the draft workplan:

- Is the draft workplan inclusive of all PIC priorities? What are the gaps?
- What additional resources could the Committee use to reach its objectives?

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APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Parent Involvement Committee 2019-2020 Draft Workplan
Appendix B: Thoughtexchange Summary Report
Appendix C: PIC By-Laws and Standing Rules
Appendix D: 2019-2020 Speakers Draft Plan