

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

6:00 pm

Mezzanine (2nd Floor)

133 Greenbank Road

- Members: Mostafizur Khan, Diana Mills, Malaka Hendela (OCASC Member), Martyn Reid (OCASC Member), Seyi Okuribido Malcolm (Parents for Diversity), Jennifer Hood, Kahmaria Pingue, Noura Ahmed, Carolyn Hunter (Ottawa Network for Education)
- Non-Voting Members: Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Wendy Hough (Trustee), Alain Brule (Principal, Cedarview Middle School), Dr. Maggie Mamen (SEAC Representative)
- Staff and Guests: Lynn Scott (Trustee), Justine Bell (Trustee), Engy Abdel Masieh (Policy Analyst), and Leigh Fenton (Board/Committee Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

Chair Khan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Trustee Bell, newly appointed trustee for Zone 10, requested that members of the committee reach out to her with any questions.

2. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Martyn Reid,**

**That the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

3. Review of PIC Report 20 November 2019

**Moved by Martyn Reid,**

**That the Parent Involvement Committee Report of 20 November 2019 be approved.**

**Carried**

3.1 Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

#### 4. Action Items

##### 4.1 2019-2020 PIC Work Plan

Mr. Reid introduced the PIC workplan. He emphasized that many meetings have been consumed with talking about the process of the development of a workplan and the mandate of a Parent Involvement Committee. The 2019-2020 PIC workplan was deemed practical by the PIC workplan subcommittee. It is anticipated that the PIC will utilize the 20 May 2020 meeting to begin discussion on the wokplan for 2020-2021.

**Moved by Martyn Reid,**

**A. THAT a workplan subcommittee be established to draft the 2020-2021 workplan; and**

**B. THAT governance of this sub-committee is to be decided in the 15 April 2020 meeting.**

**Carried**

In response to questions the following points were noted:

- Members requested addition of a budget consultation in the spring;
- The addition of school dress code and code of conduct was requested. Staff explained that the safe schools consultations scheduled for March 2020 will include discussion of these topics; and
- In the establishment of the workplan subcommittee, considerations will be made on mandate and the timing of reporting.

##### 4.2 Report 20-008, Proposed Revisions to Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws and Standing Rules

Your Committee had before it Report 20-008, with proposed revisions to the Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws and Standing Rules.

Policy Analyst Masieh reviewed the report, highlighting revisions in the following sections: Community Representatives, Appointment of Non-voting Members, Parent Member Term of Office, Appointment Process, Election of Chair and Vice Chairs, and Quorum.

In response to questions, the following points were raised:

- In reference to term limits, in years previous, when a term is expired, the existing candidate can be automatically renewed into a new term if any interest is shown. This should be specified in the by-laws or alternatively, language can be added which stipulates the former member will be required to re-apply for the vacancy;

- The appointed volunteer member may have cause to leave the committee before the fulfillment of a two-year term;
- The two candidates on the wait list for appointment to the PIC are not ranked;
- The committee requested that staff prepare a PIC membership list with term limits; and
- The committee recommended the use of gender neutral pronouns throughout.

**MOVED by Jennifer Hood,**

**THAT proposed changes to PIC By-Laws and Standing Rules, as outlined in Appendix A to Report 20-008, be approved with the following amendment to Term of Office:**

**The eight (8) parent members of the committee shall be appointment to serve a term of office of either one (1) or two (2) years and, wherever possible, members shall be appointed for a two year term.**

**Carried**

## 5. Key Initiatives

### 5.1 From Parent Involvement to Parent Engagement Presentation

Associate Director Reynolds delivered a presentation on the evolving role of parents in education: from parent involvement to parent engagement. He reviewed Joyce Epstein's framework of six types of involvement for school-family community partnerships: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. By eliminating the barriers to involvement, parent engagement improves. Overcoming barriers such as time, newness to Canada, language, not feeling welcome, personal experience with the school and family responsibility brings more voices into the school community to further the common goal of student achievement and well-being.

A group activity was led by Associate Director Reynolds where barriers of engagement were matched with strategies and tools to overcome the barriers.

A summary on outcomes of the exercise will be collated and presented at the meeting of 15 April 2020 for further discussion by the committee.

## 6. Information Items

### 6.a Chair's Report

Chair Khan reported on International Mother Language Day (IMLD), a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February 2020 to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The day was first announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999 and was the initiative of Bangladesh and the Bengali Language Movement that made substantial efforts to preserve the Bangla language. UNESCO considers mother languages to be an essential part of culture and identity, values and knowledge and to be vital in the preservation and spread of traditions, rituals and forms of expression that make lives richer.

Chair Khan noted the District's display in the front foyer celebrating Black History Month in February. He highlighted that over the course of the last four centuries, people of African and Caribbean descent have shaped their own identities in Canada while making important contributions to Canadian society. He invited the members of the committee to take the opportunity to learn more on Black history and heritage and respectfully highlighted the names of a few individuals who made a difference in strengthening the Canadian nation: Lincoln Alexander, Donovan Bailey, Willie O'Ree, Rosemary Brown, William Hall, Donald Oliver, Carrie Best, and Michaelle Jean.

As a new Chair is due to be elected after 30 November 2020, Chair Khan urged the members to consider the role and indicate their level of interest to Board Services.

6.b Director's Report

Associate Director Reynolds reported that ongoing communication on the labour action is available on the District's website. At this time there is no consideration of extending the 2019-2020 school calendar year. In response to a query as to whether the District's Board of Trustees have a role in rectifying the labour action, Trustee Scott volunteered that the central table includes representatives of the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) representing the employers, who receive input from the OPSBA Board of Directors, which includes two OCDSB trustees. She noted that The Council of Ontario Directors of Education also meet on a regular basis to provide feedback on some of the main issues that are being raised. The Education Relations Commission is monitoring the situation across the province, and this governing body provides advice to the Lieutenant Governor in Council as to whether the continuation of a strike by school board employees or of a lock-out of school board employees will, in the opinion of the Commission, place in jeopardy the successful completion of courses of study by the affected pupils. She added that the curriculum is flexible and there are many ways to fulfill the requirements of the school year curriculum.

Mr. Reid reported that through his involvement on the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC), school councils have asked if they are allowed to voice their opinion on the strike. Trustee Scott responded that as a board, they have communicated their positions on class sizes and e-learning publicly; however, as the employer, the District does not take public positions on labour negotiations. She advised that school councils exist under a provincial regulation as well as board policy, and should consider their mandate in deciding on any action as school councils. Individual parents are always able to write letters to the Minister of Education and the Education Relations Commission.

1. Report 20-007, Allocation of 2019-2020 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Your Committee had before it Report 20-007, Allocation of 2019-2020 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant providing a recommendation on an allocation strategy for funding. Associate Director Reynolds reviewed the three options detailed within the report and concluded with the recommendation.

Ms. Hendela noted that the 16 January 2020 OCASC meeting was dedicated to the question of the spending of the PRO grant funding. She reported that concerns came forward where the parents from the Resource Allocation Index based on Socioeconomics (RAISE) school communities may not necessarily know how to plan a parent engagement night. Secondly, measuring the results of the success of the engagement night could be intimidating. She proposed a collaboration between schools with highly engaged councils and the RAISE school councils to aid with the development of toolkits to build mentorship opportunities

**Moved by Diana Mills,**

**THAT the 2019-2020 PRO Grant funding be used to develop toolkits which will facilitate schools offering “Family Nights” in the areas of math, science and student readiness to learn, with a priority given to offering these opportunities to school with a RAISE value of 1.0 and above.**

**Carried**

6.c 21 November 2019 Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) Report

Ms. Hendela reported that many school council agendas are focused on the labour dispute. Some councils have chosen to write to the Ministry directly. She announced that on 20 February 2020 OCASC is hosting all seven of the local Ontario Secondary School Teacher's Federation (OSSTF) union heads and a representative of the Ottawa Carleton

Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (OCEFTO) will be in attendance. OCASC intends to discuss prom organization and internet availability in schools.

6.d PIC Correspondence Register

The PIC register was presented for information.

Ms. Hendela suggested that the information be presented to illustrate the timeliness of the responses to external questions arriving by email. Staff responded that the responses are triaged and every concern or inquiry is addressed as described in the "follow-up" column of the register.

7. New Business

Policy Analyst Masieh distributed information cards on the upcoming consultations on safe schools policy and school code of conduct scheduled to be held on Monday, 2 March 2020 at Merivale High School, Wednesday, 4 March 2020 at Ottawa Technical Secondary School, and Monday, 23 March 2020 at Earl of March Secondary School; all meetings are from 6 to 8 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Chair Khan announced there was no meeting scheduled in March due to March break. The meeting adjourned at 8:44p.m.

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Mostafizur Khan, Chair, Parent  
Involvement Committee