



Delegation to Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Nov. 18, 2020

Re: Report 20 - 105

Dear PIC Chair, Members of PIC, Director and OCDSB Chair.

We are writing with significant concerns about the content of the Report 20-105 posted for the PIC agenda of the meeting of November 18, 2020. As published on Friday, November 13, 2020 the report contains fundamental inaccuracies and representation of our organization, our constitution, and our representation of parents at PIC.

The discussion and interpretation of the OCASC constitution is incorrect and to allow it to be discussed or presented would be a disservice to members of PIC and OCASC. We request that it be removed from the Agenda for this meeting or the report be significantly revised to remove references to the inaccurate analysis and inequitable motion regarding our organization.

The report presents analysis and a recommendation based on an understanding of our PIC membership and involvement of Officers that is incorrect. The report asserts that Officers (named under Article V of our Constitution) are restricted to one year terms and therefore should never be eligible to stand as Chair of PIC as it would create a legal concern against the Regulation that governs PIC. However, OCASC Officers do not serve on PIC as a result of being Officers, conversely PIC representatives are not by definition Officers of OCASC. An individual may hold an Officer position, but that would be in addition to their representation on PIC.

You will be relieved to note that the concern about a limitation of a one year term does not apply to OCASC's delegates to PIC or any committee for which there is an OCASC representative. There are no term limits to members, so there is no legal concern.

Accordingly, there is no need to take PIC's time to discuss and there is no need for this motion. The motion as presented that would create an inequity with parent engagement of PIC membership and it is unnecessary to create such an inequity.

It is correct that OCASC Officers are in fact confirmed on an annual basis at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Officers form the executive of OCASC and are the only positions that are confirmed annually. The Officers at present are two Co-Chairs, Recording Secretary/Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Communications Officer. The full details regarding Officers can be found in Article V: Officers at <https://ocasc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/Constitution-old-recreated.pdf>

However, the delegates to PIC are not Officers of OCASC - they are not among the named officer positions contemplated by the constitution and PIC members from OCASC are not ratified Officers of OCASC. An individual may hold an Officer position, but that would be in addition to their representation on PIC. If that person didn't retain their Officer position they would still be eligible to sit as a PIC representative for the reasons explained below.

OCASC sends representatives to committees such as PIC and SEAC, etc as per the needs of the activity. Parent Members at PIC that are presented by OCASC are not appointed for a set term from OCASC's perspective. These parent volunteers are appointed under a different section of our Constitution than Officers, they are appointed under Article X: Official Observers and Committees, specifically under sub-sections 1 and/or 5 which read as follows:

*1. The Assembly shall assign delegates or school council chairs to attend meetings of the Board and its committees and to report on these meetings to the Executive and to the Assembly.*

*5. The Assembly or the Executive may appoint any person to perform a task on its behalf. The terms of reference of the task and the person appointed to perform it shall be approved by vote at a general meeting.*

OCASC representatives to PIC are not bound by term limits and can sit as long as appointed to their role from the perspective of OCASC membership. Appointments

under Article X are only limited if there is something detailed at appointment, i.e. unless “the terms of reference of the task” include the limitation. No such limitations apply to the current members of PIC or any other representatives. The purpose of this allows for continuity and prolonged engagement from parent volunteers. The effect is that we have many volunteers who serve on these committees for a number of years to support the parent community and foster engagement.

Unfortunately our organization was not provided with a draft of this report for review or informed that this interpretation of our constitution was happening. Otherwise we would have clarified this and avoided needing this report at all. We note that PIC by-laws encourage decision by consensus, accordingly a consensus position should be sought.

In the future, if there is a concern with an interpretation of our Constitution, please engage us to discuss before undertaking a report. We recognize that our Constitution predates PIC and current regulations and confusion may arise. We would be pleased to revisit issues with our membership if there was a legal conflict or concern. However, reasonable notice means that we need sufficient opportunity to notify our membership. Under our Constitution section Article XIV: Amendments sets out clear terms for a minimum notice as follows: *1. At least 28 days’ notice shall be given for any motion to amend the constitution.* Accordingly, even if there was a legal concern, there would not have been adequate notice given to allow for member discussion or changes to meet the consensus goals of PIC.

Signed

The Officers of OCASC