

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**13 January 2021**

### **Report No. 21-001**

## **Approval of the Allocation of 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant**

Key Contact: Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services, 613-596-8211 ext. 8310

### **PURPOSE:**

1. To seek approval for the proposed allocation of the 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant funding.

### **STRATEGIC LINKS:**

2. The effective allocation of PRO grant funding supports the District's commitment to building parent engagement, removing barriers to access opportunities and supporting engagement within our community to achieve a culture of social responsibility.

### **CONTEXT:**

3. The Ministry of Education has allocated \$39,986 in 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant funding to the OCDSB. This funding supports school boards in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their school communities and finding solutions in support of parents' engagement in their children's education.

At its 18 November 2020 meeting, the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) discussed several strategies for the use of these funds including:

- Developing toolkits that include information on hosting a (virtual) workshop, planning tips and guidelines, instructional materials, examples of interactive activities for families, and other necessary steps to promote and host an evening. Suggested themes included math and science nights;
- Paying for platform fees for school councils that decide to use meeting sites other than Google Meet; and
- A Speaker Series with subjects on topics of interest to parents related to student learning and well-being, including possible presentations on scholarships for grade 12 students, kindergarten registration nights, grade eight parent registration nights, and university nights.

- The Committee discussed a range of ideas and staff committed to reviewing those ideas and developing a consolidated plan for the January meeting which could be ready for implementation as soon as possible.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

### 4. School Council Speaker Series

Based on the discussions to date, it is recommended that the District create a format and menu for school councils to host speaker series workshops for their community. Below is the proposed model for approval by the PIC members:

- A consolidated list of speakers (by topic) would be developed and shared with school councils. Each council would be able to choose a session which they could offer based on their local needs.
- Where possible, school councils could work collaboratively with other school councils to host a virtual night with a speaker that would serve both/all communities. School councils would be responsible for promoting the session and would be required to provide a simplified report about the event to the District so that the District could complete the required Ministry reporting.
- The speakers would be booked by the District using the District procurement process. Each speaker would be booked for a fixed number of sessions. They would be available for scheduling by councils on a first come first served basis.
- Central staff will schedule the Zoom meetings and the Youtube livestream and will provide school council leads with the necessary account credentials to conduct the Zoom and livestream along with a tutorial video;
- School Councils will be responsible for the promotion of the event with support from the District on an as needed basis.
- Any parent from the participating schools could attend the speaker night.
- Central Staff will compile school council reports and report to the Ministry in compliance with the TPA.
- The booking of speakers and number of available sessions will be subject to budget availability. Ideally, each school community would be able to select one session. If school councils collaborate, that could increase opportunities. Where there is significant demand for a particular speaker/topic, we could look to host a district wide session.

## 5. Suggested Speakers/Topics

A list of possible speakers and topics has been developed for discussion at the meeting and includes the following:

<b>General Topic</b>	<b>Area of Focus</b>	<b>Possible Speaker</b>
<b>Technology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing Screen Time</li> <li>• Social networking and online safety</li> <li>• Teens and Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Michael Cheng, CHEO</li> <li>• Paul Davis</li> <li>• Youth Services Bureau</li> </ul>
<b>Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Your Child's Mental Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crossroads</li> <li>• CHEO</li> <li>• OCDSB</li> <li>• OPH</li> </ul>
<b>Equity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding Equity in Education</li> <li>• Your Voice Matters - Advocating for Black Student Success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents for Diversity</li> <li>• Parents for Diversity</li> </ul>
<b>Indigenous Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Education - Understanding Truth and Reconciliation</li> <li>• Supporting Indigenous Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCDSB Indigenous Education Team to recommend</li> </ul>
<b>Special Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting Special Needs Children panel discussion</li> <li>• Understanding the IEP</li> <li>• Speech and Language Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents, Educators, CHEO and SEAC</li> <li>• OCDSB Learning Support Services</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the New Math Curriculum</li> <li>• Supporting Remote Learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCDSB Program and Learning</li> <li>• OCDSB Business and Learning Technology</li> </ul>
<b>Parenting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy Eating for Children and Youth</li> <li>• Understanding addiction</li> <li>• Early Childhood Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ottawa Public Health</li> <li>• Youth Services Bureau</li> <li>• Rideauwood Treatment Centre</li> </ul>

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6. Reporting

School boards are required to submit a final report on the use of grant funding by completing the Ministry's reporting template. The final report must include a financial summary and an evaluation of the outcomes based on project(s) objectives, the number of other participating parties, and the impact on parent confidence as well as direct feedback from parents on the merits of the project(s).

To reduce the burden of reporting, this model seeks to structure the reporting in such a way that participating councils have to complete a short summary report only. These will inform the Ministry report which will be prepared by staff.

A google form will be created to assist school council leads in providing feedback on the events. Upon submission, central staff will compile the input for inclusion in the final report.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

7. During the 2020-2021 budget process, the Board allocated \$150,000 to support the funding of effective school councils across all schools and the work of an engaged Parent Involvement Committee to ensure it meets its obligation of communicating with school councils and undertaking activities to help parents of pupils of the board support their children's learning at home and school. This funding could be used to offset any costs that extend beyond the PRO grant.

## **COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

8. The 2020-2021 Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) encourages consultation with other advisory committees of the Board. We have consulted with the staff leads for other advisory committees and will be asking them to share the list of topics and speakers with the advisory committee members for input.
9. A communications strategy will be created to ensure school councils are informed of the allocation of 2020-2021 PRO funding. Communication will include information on the initiative, a list of topics and speakers, an application form to host a speaker. The recipients of the grant will receive a tutorial video on how to set up and conduct the Zoom meeting as well as a link to a simple google form to complete the necessary reporting requirements. School councils may use their own local networks to promote the event.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant be used to facilitate school council speaker nights as outlined in Report 21-001.

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Michele Giroux  
Executive Officer, Corporate Services

Camille Williams-Taylor  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board