

## **Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee**

**Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee was held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024

**PIC Members:** Peter Ackie, Gurleen Saggu, Arshi Ali, Alissa du Hasky, Chantel Walker-Hinds, Kerri-Leigh Weir, Emily Will, Jennifer McLaughlin, Chris Zarras, Huma Choudhary, Bee Quammie, Ashley Lane,

**DDSB Staff:** Nicole Brown, Superintendent Kandis Thompson, Pennie Marchione, Louise Vukas, Charmyn Lawton, Sara Forbes, Emily Pantaleo, Frank Samuels, Christie Low, Lanya Lewis, Trustee Stephen Linton, Trustee Shailene Panylo, Afraa Yusuf, Conor Jinkinson, Kim Hutt, Patrick Symister, Omotola (Omo) Olatunji, Nadia Nembhard-Hunt,

**Regrets:** Sayeka Hasan, Katherine Taylor,

**Guest Speakers:** Trustee Michelle Arseneault, Conor Jinkinson,

The Parent Involvement Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item	Discussion
Welcome and Land Acknowledgment	Peter Ackie read the Land of Acknowledgement
Agenda Approval	Moved by Trustee Arseneault and seconded by Arshi Ali
Welcome	Co-Chair Gurleen Saggu welcomed new members: Trustee Stephen Linton and Trustee Alternate Shailene Panylo Chris Zarras - North Secondary PIC Representative Katherine Taylor - Oshawa Elementary PIC Representative Jennifer McLaughlin – SEAC PIC Representative Acknowledged that Sayeka Hasan appointed Treasurer Welcomed outgoing Trustee Michelle Arseneault
DDSB Department Presentations	<b>Ignite Durham Learning Foundation</b> – Trustee Michelle Arseneault. IDLF empowers students and families to allow them to reach their full potential. IDLF strategic pillars are Impact, Stewardship and Cultivation, and Visibility. Trustee Arseneault encouraged everyone to view the website to see all ways that people can help. IDLF offers multiple food programs – breakfast programs, snacks in classrooms, food hampers, and more. IDLF also offers winter clothing for students and families in need. Back to school backpacks –

either full or empty for students to pick up, and the opportunity to fill backpacks with things they need. Bus passes can be provided to students to support them access education centres and extra curriculums. IDLF also assists students with college applications, to support them access funding that may be available for their programs in post-secondary.

Choo-choo Train donation is currently running – sending breakfast donations to schools. HOPE gift guide is available for the holidays where you can donate for items that students are in need of.

IDLF is passionate about helping the students of Durham and we welcome all help.

Superintendent Thompson added that the PIC Communications sub-committee will be supporting IDLF by sharing information and needs to SCCs throughout the Board. Conor Jinkinson shared the impact that IDLF has on schools that it supports, having led one of those recipient schools in the past. Acknowledged the tireless efforts of the staff and volunteers within the foundation.

**Curriculum** – System Lead Lanya Lewis shared the language curriculum for Gr 1-9 was updated in 2023. It was explained that there are now 4 Strands that contribute to the overall grade - a) Literacy Connections and Applications, b) Foundations of Language, c) Comprehension - understanding and responding to texts, d) Composition – expressing ideas and creating texts.

Engage with your child in reading, oral communication, building those key skills to help their language mapping development.

There is a parent section on the Ministry of Education's website which delves deeper into each strand.

Acadiance Screener was discussed. Co-Chair Gurleen Saggu asked about how frequently the screening takes place, and the process to support students who do not meet benchmark.

Lanya Lewis advised that if students meet benchmark, they are not re-screened until the next year. If they did not reach benchmark, they are intentionally engaged to build those skills and re-screened in March.

Emily Will asked how do we bridge the gap in the younger grades with large classes, where some learners are meeting benchmark and some are not. Lanya Lewis clarified the focus is different on different groups of students within the classroom depending on their learning skills.

Chantel Walker-Hinds asked how are we ensuring teachers are receiving the knowledge of the curriculum changes equally so all teachers are implementing the changes the same.

Lanya Lewis advised there are literacy coaches working in the schools to support the implementation of the new curriculum and there are also Literacy Days for teaching staff where this information is shared and questions are answered.

	<p>Trustee Linton asked how we support newcomers in the curriculum. Lanya Lewis answered that the curriculum talks about newcomers lived experiences and that we can Multi-Language Learners (MLL) coaches in the system who works alongside the newcomers.</p> <p><b>Inclusive Student Services</b> – Conor Jinkinson  Who – ISS has 15,000+ students accessing 1 or more service (the board has ~80,000 students). There is an ISS team at each school throughout the board. Recognizes each student has their own pathway through education. How we foster independence and success for each student and what this looks like for each student.  How – Look to the student – what are their interests, strengths and needs. Then we can look to serve towards them and look at learning considerations to support them. Who is providing the service – SERT, Classroom teacher, school leaders, ISS team. Encourages parents to ask questions – you know your child best, you are a valuable partner in the process of supporting them through their education journey.</p>
<p>Provincial PIC Meeting</p>	<p>Co-Chair Gurleen Saggu attended a Provincial PIC chair meeting.  November meeting’s focus was on bullying. Provided online resources to PICs – one of note was “Your Child’s Education” – introduction to school system.  Presentation by Cyber Security Awareness and Media Smarts giving parents tips on conversations they can have at home and shared statistics and information.  Media Smarts is available to do presentations in schools to students.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Updates</p>	<p><b>Communications</b> – Frank Samuels and Nadia Nembhard-Hunt  Looking to streamline common use of outdoor signs at schools, investigating digital forms for communication and reexamine the use of traditional newsletters.  Engagement are looking to provide updates to SCCs on a regular basis from PIC, and share slide deck to Principals to share to their SCCs.</p> <p><b>PRO Grants</b> - Kim Hutt  PRO Grant applications opened in September.  A reminder was sent to all SCCs in early November.  Applications are being reviewed as they are submitted, and schools are being notified.  We encourage all schools to take advantage of this opportunity to receive funding to host family engagement events.</p> <p><b>Engagement Speaker Series</b> - Charmyn Lawton  Feedback was shared for the first Speaker Series event held on November 21. Extremely positive attendance and feedback from those</p>

	<p>attended. 100% of respondents said they would join a future speaker event. 100% of respondents said they were very satisfied with the speaker. 99% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the value of the information shared. 99% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the virtual format of the event, including watch party attendance The next planned speaker event is in January with Roland Acheampong.</p> <p><b>Regional SCC</b> - Christie Low Feedback was shared regarding the Regional SCC meetings that were held in October/November. 65+ schools attended – both SCC members and Administrator representation. Positive feedback from attendees, valuable information shared from Engagement and from DDSB teams.</p> <p><b>Engaging our Diverse Communities</b> – Sara Forbes and Lanya Lewis The purpose of the Engaging Diverse Communities(EDC) sub-committee is to ensure that there is a well-balanced representation of program initiatives and engagement opportunities that accurately reflect our diverse student-body. Leveraging community connections to maximize opportunities within our Youth Hub spaces is the general objective of this sub-committee. We will be looking at who’s voice is <i>not</i> at the table. Committee will be surveying communities to determine needs, engage with local organizations for programing and engagement opportunities and leverage their networks within those areas.</p>
Upcoming Meetings	<p>Remaining meetings for the 24/25 year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Final meeting: Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
Meeting Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.