

Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025

PIC Members: Gurleen Saggu, Sayeka Hasan, Huma Choudhary, Emily Will, Katherine Taylor, Arshi Ali, Bee Quammie, Alissa du Hasky, Ashley Lane, Chantel Walker-Hinds, Jennifer McLaughlin, Kerri-Lee Wier

Trustee: Trustee Stephen Linton,

DDSB Staff: Superintendent Kandis Thompson, Superintendent Margaret Lazarus, Nicole Brown, Pennie Marchione, Jo Anne Baker, Patrick Symister, Omotola (Omo) Olatunji, Kim Hutt, Sara Forbes, Emily Pantaleo, Afraa Yusuf, Christie Low, Lanya Lewis, Nadia Nembhard-Hunt, Charmyn Lawton

Regrets: Peter Ackie, Frank Samuels, Chris Zarras

Guest Speakers: Monique Muller, Kuldeep Chahal, Superintendent Stephen Nevills, James Klodnicki, Superintendent Margaret Lazarus, Steffanie Pelleboer

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

Item	Discussion
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Gurleen read the Land Acknowledgement.
Approval of the Agenda	Moved by Arshi Ali and seconded by Patrick Symister
PIC Reminders	<p>Gurleen went through the below information highlighting the need to co-create Norms for our PIC meetings. We will collect information and feedback to share with members to craft our Norms together.</p> <p>The role of PIC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing advice to their school board on parent engagement and ways to communicate with parents. • developing strategies and initiatives the board could use to effectively engage parents in improving student

	<p>achievement and well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing information with and supporting the work of all the school councils in the school board. <p>Reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a live-stream and recorded public session. • If you are joining us via Zoom, we ask that you have your cameras on during our meeting. • We adhere to our by-laws, particularly Section 9 relating to demonstrating decorum and respect for other members of the PIC. • Please do not share individual student/teacher/school concerns or information in this public forum (if you have individual questions, we can support offline). <p>By way of email, we will be reaching out of you for your input to develop PIC Norms.</p>
<p>System Presentations</p>	<p>1. Student Success, Monique Muller, Kuldeep Chahal and Superintendent Stephen Nevills</p> <p>Presenting two (2) new strategies to support student success.</p> <p>A. Discussion of the new 30 Credit my way, found at: https://www.ddsb.ca/en/programs-and-learning/30-credits-my-way.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This new promotion aims at supporting all students to be successful with flexible strategies for the unique student experience. • Reinforcing transparency and consistency for all programs as a student in Ontario. • Webinars and in person events are being planned for family and student engagement with all information available through the website. • Promotional material will be sent through schools, various newsletters, and will encourage students and families to check the website often as it is being updated frequently. • Diversity and experiences may change expectations of parents of the schools, this strategy is to empower everyone. <p>Some examples shared in the 30 Credits my Way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RELC – Recognition of Experiential Learning Credit, • OYAP – Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, • SHSM – Specialized High Skills Major, • ASAD – Academy for Student Athletic Development,

- CFS – Regional Centre for Success,
- SAL – Supervised Alternative Learning.

B. Discussion of the new Grade 7 and 8 Student Success Teachers:

- Six (6) new Student Success teachers have been hired and attached to family of schools to assist with transitions to secondary schools.
- They will connect students to resources to support the student's success into high school and beyond.

2. Anti-Oppression Strategy, Superintendent Margaret Lazarus, James Klodnicki, Principal of Donald A. Wilson Secondary School

Presenting a Compendium of Action to Support 2SLGBTQIA+ Students, Staff and Families

- This three (3) year compendium of action reaffirms DDSB's commitment to dismantling homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and discrimination to offer safer spaces for students, staff and families.
- Creating learning centered human rights commitments in safe and inclusive environments.
- Link to this information will be shared in the meeting package for a fuller opportunity to appreciate the information.
- This will reinforce DDSB's commitment to creating inclusive and safe environments for all students.

Egale school climate survey– Canadian based survey 2021

<https://egale.ca/awareness/still-in-every-class/>

DDSB based school climate survey 22-23

<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/school-climate-and-well-being-survey.aspx>

3. Positive School Climates, Steffanie Pelleboer

A proposal was set forth for a learning series with Dr. Jean Clinton, MD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster, division of Child Psychiatry.

- To have Dr. Clinton present to our PIC, leaders in the SCCs, regarding relationships and supports for student well-being, with themes around learning discussion, and

	<p>collectively strengthening welcoming spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and ideas required for parents and caregivers for student well-being and mental health. • Learning series with Family and Community Engagement (FACE), with Mental Health and Dr. Jean Clinton, author of <u>Love Builds Brains</u> book. • Dr. Jean Clinton will promote learning and relationships, wellbeing, aligned with our strategic plan • After a more fulsome Parent Conference/Symposium (hybrid event) we would then have the opportunity to bring Dr. Clinton to debrief.
<p>Sub-Committees</p>	<p>Regional SCC Meetings, Christine Low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year, rather than having one (1) large SCC meeting, we had three (3) separate regional sessions for Ajax/Pickering, Whitby/Oshawa, and for the Northern region. • A survey link was shared at each event to capture some feedback from our families, please see the graph on the first slide for the information. • The second graph asked for a general rating of school engagement, which offers room for improvement, please see the graph on the second slide • Discussed barriers and feedback from the survey • Discussion around SCCs training, rules and regulations as well as updating communication for the support of the SCCs. • A request was made to have PIC members think about the missing pieces and please share feedback to engagement@ddsb.ca . • Trustees interested in getting into the community and to the schools, are invited and welcome. <p>Engagement Speaker Series, Charmyn Lawton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second speaker event will feature Roland Acheampong, and schools will have the opportunity to host in-person watch parties to bring their community together. • January 30th Overcoming Obstacles, 7:00 – 8:00 pm online or with watch party at your school. • There are giveaways and refreshment stipends provided to support schools in encouraging families to attend. • Watch parties are a great way to connect with families and it is encouraged to combine a Watch Party with an SCC meeting. <p>Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants, Sayeka Hassan</p>

- PRO Grants are funded through the Ministry of Education to work with PIC and SCCs to host parent and family engagement events.
- To date we have received 43 proposals.
- 10 have been approved, committing just under \$28,000.
- As an example, Donald A. Wilson Secondary School (DAWSS) have partnered with their family of schools (Meadowcrest, Brooklin Village, Captain Michael VandenBos, Jack Miner, Williamsburg) to submit a grant proposal around transitioning into high school and out of high school.
- The second slide shows photos from a PRO Grant funded event at Dr. Roberta Bondar, hosting the Arts on Fire organization to engage families.
- We encourage you to ensure that your schools have submitted a proposal for a PRO Grant to engage with parents and caregivers.
- We have been able to offer more flexibility around the deadlines this year.
- This sub committee will send out the ideas of past events to the PIC.
- Discussion around building a repository of organizational links that were previously used and worked well. Once created, the Communication Sub-Committee will promote this resource to PIC.

Communication, Nadia Nembhard-Hunt

- Brief surveys, aligned with our Multi Year Strategic Plan, will be shared at school events for information gathering.
- Investigating using outdoor signs for key information.
- Please use the QR code in this slide to share your ideas and feedback.
- Winter Newsletter will be available by the end of the month.

Engaging our Diverse Communities, Sara Forbes and Lanya Lewis

- A new opportunity to utilize our HUB spaces in six (6) of the secondary schools, to support our families in these spaces.
- Discussed Hubs:
 - Ajax High School
 - Brock High School
 - Eastdale Collegiate and Vocational Institute
 - G.L. Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute
 - Henry Street High School

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ R.S. McLaughlin Collegiate and Vocational Institute ● Ideas for engaging families included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immigration –supporting the navigation of information, ○ Technology navigating, ○ Navigating the education system for student success, ○ Parents in the Know program, ○ Intergenerational spaces and the hubs, ○ Fostering connections – brainstorming for next year. ● Negotiations are underway to create and support a Pickering location ● Looking at feedback from the hub communities for opportunities, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GL Roberts offered an event to support applications for Social Insurance Numbers (SIN), ○ Food Safety Handler Certifications for families in the hub, ○ Job Fairs.
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	<p>Consultation Request, Superintendent Kandis Thompson</p> <p>The DDSB is seeking participation from our PIC and others on items in development.</p> <p>Should you choose to participate, you have an opportunity to provide input on the following items:</p> <p>A. School year calendars for the regular and modified elementary and secondary school dates – The Ministry requirement for school year calendar is to engage in a consultation process for the 2025-26 school year calendar. Please provide your feedback via the consultation links provided by January 31, 2025.</p> <p>Please use links below to participate.</p> <p>Elementary Regular Calendar (2025 - 26)</p> <p>Elementary Modified Calendar (2025 - 26)</p> <p>Secondary Regular Calendar (2025 - 26)</p> <p>Secondary Modified Calendar (2025 - 26)</p> <p>B. Learning Material Reconsideration Committee.</p> <p>A Learning Resource Committee will be looking for new members, overseen by Lauren Bliss, Superintendent of Equitable Education.</p> <p>More information will be come on how you can be involved in participating in the other committees.</p>
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	We thank you in advance for your time and contributions.
Meeting Dates for 2024/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday May 27, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at: 8:10 pm