

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

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

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

**PIC Members:** Barry Bedford, Gurleen Saggu, Peter Ackie, Arshi Ali, Patrick Symister,

**DDSB Staff:** Superintendent Kandis Thompson, Alternate Trustee Kelly Miller, Mitzi Hussett, Tara Bryan, Nadia Nembhard-Hunt, Nadia Baby

**Regrets:** Arun Raj, Trustee Michelle Arsenault, Huma Choudhary, Lori Dunn, Nigel Hunter, Rupal Patel, SensaRAneb Burrell, Shirley Ostertag, Angela Mastrangelo, Tarun Chaudhary, Trecia Facey

**Guest Speakers:** Juliet Young, Sean McCormack, Samya Hassan from Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) & Jenna from National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Welcome and Land Acknowledgment	Peter Ackie read the Land of Acknowledgement and the Indigenous and Human Rights.
Agenda Approval	Moved by Gurleen Saggu and seconded by Arshi Ali
Minutes Approval	Moved by Gurleen Saggu and seconded by Arshi Ali.
Sub-Committee Updates	<p><b>PIC Newsletter</b> Mitzi Hussett summarised the three newsletters that were produced in the 2023/24 year with the goal of fostering engagement throughout the DDSB community. Kandis Thompson spoke to plans to leverage other platforms for future communication growth.</p> <p><b>Parent Engagement Speaker Series</b> Nicole Brown spoke to the two sessions run in the 2023/24 year – the first being Parenting in the Age of Social Media, hosted by the DDSB Positive School Climate team. The second series will be held on Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – Guest Speaker Ian Brown will be speaking to the <i>Lighter Side of Mental Health</i>.</p> <p>Kandis Thompson mentioned Mental Health Supports for Gr 7/8s is being made available from the DDSB. It was suggested and agreed upon that this would be a beneficial topic to bring to one of our early PIC meetings in 2024/25.</p>

	<p><b>Regional SCC</b> Gurleen Saggu summarised the event, sharing that 101 people attended representing all areas from across the DDSB. Feedback received was positive and there will be more Regional SCC support moving into 2024/25 to increase engagement.</p> <p><b>PRO Grants</b> Gurleen Saggu advised that 43 schools were approved for PRO Grants this year, PRO grants help parents to identify barriers to parent/guardian/caregiver engagement in their own community, and find local solutions to get more parents involved. PRO Grants will be offered again in the 2024/25 year. Question was asked to find out what non-PRO Grant events are taking place in the schools for family engagement, and why are they not accessing PRO Grant funding for it.</p> <p><b>Engaging our Diverse Communities</b> Tara Bryan spoke to the committee currently developing an easy to understand parent-facing resource to help guide processes to ensure all students and families can engage in the event or activity being run within our school communities. This document will be available to SCCs in the 2024/2025 school year.</p>
Launch of Parent's Guide to Ontario's School System	Kandis Thompson highlighted the newly launched page that provides general information for families such as Safe and Accepting Schools, Healthy Schools, Special Education and Pathways to Learning and specialized programs like OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) and Specialist High Skills Majors.
DDSB Central Department Information Sharing	<p><b>Math Curriculum</b> Juliet Young summarized the Road Map for Mathematics Excellence: Aligning Strategies for Enhanced Math Achievement. The plan outlines the board's concrete, visible, and measurable strategies as well as key performance indicators at the board, school, and classroom level under the following areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Curriculum Fidelity</li> <li>- Math Content Knowledge for Teaching</li> <li>- Knowing Your Student</li> </ul> <p><b>Anti-Oppression</b> Sean McCormack spoke to the departments goals of removing barriers and recognizing power imbalances that prevent some individuals and families accessing equity. Goal of department is to dismantle racism and discrimination in all forms.</p> <p>Sean McCormack introduced Samya Hassan from Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) &amp; Jenna from National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) who the Board are working closely with. Focus groups will be taking place with parents, students and educators over the next 6 months, in regard to what they are seeing in schools and what they would like to see in the strategy.</p> <p>Questions were asked to the committee for their experiences and feedback, and QR code was shared for everyone to continue to provide feedback.</p>

DDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan	<p>Kandis Thompson provided background that the Ontario Education Act requires that every school board develop a Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) spanning a minimum of three years. The purpose of the MYSP is to help school boards articulate shared values, set long-term commitments, and establish strategic priorities. It is a compass that guides collective actions for ongoing improvement across the learning organization.</p> <p>The new DDSB Ignite Learning Multi-Year Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in January of this year. This plan sets the direction for the work of the DDSB and guides our collective actions for ongoing student-centered improvement and success.</p> <p>One of the Strategic Priorities is “Connected Communities” which identifies the need to: Engage students, families, staff, and community; Build trust and Foster Opportunities to meet, learn from, and inspire each other.</p>
PIC Year End Report	Peter Ackie advised the PIC Co-Chairs will present the Annual Parent Involvement Committee Report on behalf of the Parent Involvement Committee to the Board in early June at their final Board meeting. The report will outline the work completed throughout the year.
2024/25 PIC	<p>Peter Ackie spoke to the PIC 2024/25 Plans – including further Regional SCC engagement, and supporting schools in drawing their community through the doors to engage.</p> <p>Peter Ackie reminded the PIC of the Member Expectations, including attendance at meetings, active involvement in sub-committees, liaising between PIC and SCCs, and supporting their area SCCs.</p> <p>Peter Ackie also spoke to upcoming vacancies and encouraged PIC and viewers to share the information for applications.</p>
2024/25 PIC Meeting Dates	<p>Peter Ackie shared proposed dates for the 2024/25 PIC meetings as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First meeting: October 22nd</li> <li>• November 26th</li> <li>• January 21st</li> <li>• March 25th</li> <li>• Final meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
Thanks to Members	Peter Ackie thanked all our PIC Members for their dedication to PIC this year and acknowledged those who are completing their term this year.
Meeting Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.