

Parent Involvement Committee Minutes

Date: May 27, 2013

Time/Place: 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Trustees' Area, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Anthony Blair, Parent representing Brampton, Co-chair
Kelly Ralston, Parent representing Mississauga, Co-chair
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Meredith Johnson, Trustee representing Mississauga
Janace King-Watson, Parent representing Brampton
Harinder Malhi, Trustee representing Brampton
Marilyn Matis, Parent representing Caledon
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Shan Rai, Parent representing Mississauga
Sukhjit Singh, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Skeete, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Thompson, Parent representing Brampton
Dan Wilkinson, Parent representing Brampton

Regrets:

Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon

Resource:

Jay Fedosoff, Leader, Parent and Family Literacy Centres
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator
Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications

Approval of minutes

The committee approved the minutes of the March 25 meeting.

Wireless Access Presentation

Deferred

Budget

There is \$29,000 left and this must be spent by June 30, 2013. Since the last meeting, PIC funding was spent on the SPARK event and meeting refreshments.

The board is rolling out a brochure related to BYOD—Bring Your Own Device for parents. The brochure will outline the BYOD model for parents, and how parents can partner with the board to support student success. Tony reviewed the BYOD program and the advantages to it. The cost to print this is \$24,000 and there is a request from the board for a \$10,000 contribution from PIC.

The brochure will also be translated into the top 10 languages in Peel for the website. The board is also requesting \$4,000 for translations of eight of those languages. Radio and print ads are also an option.

Other suggestions: Welcome folders for parents; board briefcases for all PIC and School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs with information about PIC. Another suggestion was to put out a major print ad or a feature story in the mainstream and/or ethnic media. This could place Peel PIC as a leader in this area. Discussion held.

A motion was made for the Committee to allocate \$15,000 towards advertisement in ethnic newspapers. Carla will explore options for ads in the English newspapers. A vote was held: 9 members were in favour and 2 members abstained. Motion carried.

Remaining \$29,000 will be dedicated to:

- \$10,000 – to support printing of parent BYOD brochure
- \$4,000 – to translate parent BYOD brochure into eight languages
- \$15,000 – on print ads – ethnic media, and English local papers if money is available – Communications to develop an ad and advertising plan, with associated costs

An idea was raised about reaching out to parents with children on an IEP. Varsha stated that this already exists. However, a plan would be considered for next year (see below).

Follow up for next year: (1) There was a plan to consider having sessions on how to navigate the educational system for parents with children on an IEP.

(2) Review the SPARK Discussion Group Responses and consider following up especially for best practice ideas.

Spark!

The evaluation results for the SPARK event were reviewed. The event was positively received. SPARK discussion group responses were also reviewed. The two success stories presented at the SPARK event will be posted on the PIC website.

PIC Selection Sub-Committee

The PIC Selection Sub-Committee met on May 2, 2013, to select PIC members to serve from Sept. 2013 to June 2015. The following parents have agreed to become members:

Laura Corbett – Mississauga
Kathleen Robinson – Brampton
Daniela Schulze – Mississauga
Shikha Sharma – Brampton

Correspondence Received

All correspondence had been forwarded via email. The Chair will continue to send out correspondence via email.

New Business

- PIC will have a farewell dinner on Monday, June 10, 2013 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Atmosfera Restaurant, located at 6781 Hurontario St in Mississauga. Current and new members will be invited to attend.
- Varsha reported on the The Diversity and Inclusion Charter. The board has endorsed it and it is being implemented across the system. This was a huge step for the region as many organizations and agencies are on board. Dufferin-Peel Board has also endorsed. More information can be found at www.regionalroundtable.org.
- June 27, 2013 is the first Regional Diversity Conference
- Antiracist Multicultural Education Network Ontario will be having an event May 29 at UTM. The registration fee is \$100 per person. If there is financial need, the organizers will subsidize.
- May is Asian Heritage Month.
- The Chair gave his final remarks as Chair and departing member. He encouraged members to remain involved. Departing members also gave their farewell remarks. Some will make an effort to attend some meetings as public members.

Public Questions

None

Next meeting

PIC's next meeting will be held in the new school year. Date is TBD.

All meetings will start at 5 p.m. and take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street in Mississauga.