

Parent Involvement Committee

Date: January 27, 2014
Time: 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Caledon Room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee
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
Kathleen Robinson, Co-chair, Parent representing Brampton
Daniela Schulze, Parent representing Mississauga
Sukhjit Singh, Parent representing Mississauga

Regrets:

Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Shikha Sharma, Parent representing Brampton
Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications
Kelly Ralston, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Thompson, Parent representing Brampton

Resource:

Jay Fedosoff, Leader, Parent and Family Literacy Centres
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator
Kayla Tishcoff, School Communications Specialist

Fix the Formula

Chair of the Board, Janet McDougald, gave an overview of the Fix the Formula campaign, which aims to fix a flawed funding formula for special education students. The current formula is unfair, inequitable and based on outdated data—resulting in a \$14 M budget shortfall. This campaign affects *all* students, as other departments have had to take budget cuts to make up for the shortfall.

The board is asking PIC, school councils and parents to reach out to their MPP and the Education Minister. Materials will be distributed via email and are also available on www.peelschools.org/fixtheformula.

Technology Survey

Aimee Wolanski, research officer at the Peel board, asked for the PIC's feedback on a potential technology survey and focus group questions for parents. The purpose of the research is to obtain feedback regarding technology use within the classroom. A similar survey will also be distributed to teachers and students. The survey is scheduled for a November 2014 launch, and would be made available online.

The committee agreed that online and in-person surveys were necessary. However, the committee was concerned about the possible accessibility barriers with a paperless survey—would it reach all parents? Members also asked if there would be a language barrier using an online survey. Barb suggested using Fluidsurveys, which translates into many languages. Daniela suggested phone interviews in addition to online and focus group questions. There was also some concern over the technicality of the survey terms—some parents may not understand the survey's content.

Aimee will take these comments into consideration and return with a revised set of survey and focus group questions.

Annual PIC Symposium

An invite to the Annual PIC Symposium in Toronto was distributed to all members. In past years, the committee has sent the two co-chairs. The symposium's agenda is not yet available. The committee discussed the possibility of sending a first-year PIC member, rather than a member who will not be sitting on PIC next year. Daniela expressed interest in attending.

Members interested in attending the Annual PIC Symposium in Toronto should email kayla.tishcoff@peelsb.com. Please indicate if you are available to attend April 25 and/or April 26.

Parent Literacy Conference

The committee approved the allocation of an additional \$1,500 to the Parent Literacy Conference. This money will go towards the printing of bags. PIC's logo will be placed on the bag.

Members interested in staffing a Parent Involvement table at the event on March 27 should email kayla.tishcoff@peelsb.com.

Other business

Spark!

Last year, the committee hosted *Spark!*, an evening for school council members to share success stories and network. The committee decided a *Spark!* sub-committee should be created to begin the planning process. The committee discussed keeping the same timeframe as last year (May) or aligning the event with *Great Start* (October).

Members interested in joining the *Spark!* Committee, please email kayla.tishcoff@peelsb.com. A subcommittee meeting date will be decided once the committee is formed.

Future agenda items

Daniela suggested adding Regional Programs to the next PIC agenda. Peel board staff will put on a brief presentation to explain the programs, and will also provide a walkthrough of the regional programs website.

Next meeting date: February 24, 2014