

Parent Involvement Committee

Date: September 25, 2013
Time: 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Caledon Room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

Laura Corbett, Parent representing Mississauga
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee
Lori Holloway, Parent representing Caledon
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Janace King-Watson, Parent representing Brampton
Harinder Malhi, Trustee representing Brampton
Marilyn Matis, Parent representing Caledon
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Kelly Ralston, Parent representing Mississauga
Kathleen Robinson, Parent representing Brampton
Daniela Schulze, Parent representing Mississauga
Shikha Sharma, Parent representing Brampton

Regrets:

Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon
Meredith Johnson, Trustee representing Mississauga
Sukhjit Singh, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Thompson, Parent representing Brampton

Resource:

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

Call to order, welcome and introductions

Co-chair Kelly Ralston introduced herself and welcomed new and returning members. Each member took a moment to introduce themselves.

Welcome, overview and direction for the year

Tony Pontes gave a brief overview of the Peel board's direction for the year, including a focus on:

- 21st Century Teaching and Learning – Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- an equitable hiring plan - The Journey Ahead Action Plan

- the board's efforts to combat a decline in enrolment

Election of co-chair

New parent members were invited to self-nominate for the role of co-chair. Kathleen Robinson was the only member to put their name forward, and was named co-chair.

Update on BYOD materials

Last year, the PIC funded the printing of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) parent guide that provides parents with information about the BYOD initiative. The guide was printed and distributed in June 2013. Feedback from parents and school staff has been very positive.

Schools are asking to have the guide made available online in other languages. Carla proposed the PIC fund the translation of the BYOD brochure in 8 top languages: Punjabi, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi, Arabic, Gujarati, Vietnamese and Simplified Chinese. The brochure would also be made available at www.peelschools.org/byod and on school websites. Schools would be responsible for printing their own copies. Carla will send the estimated cost of translation to the budget sub-committee to consider.

Update on parent involvement materials

Last year, the PIC funded an advertisement campaign to boost parent involvement and promote the PIC by directing parents to the PIC website on peelschools.org. Kayla presented the completed ads to the committee. She proposed the possibility of running the advertisement campaign this year to further encourage parent involvement. She also suggested redesigning the ads into posters for classrooms. These options will be discussed at the budget sub-committee meeting.

The suggestion was made to convert the ads into posters and make them available to faith leaders and community partners. It was also suggested that the ads be combined into one poster, and be adjusted to be more representative of all Peel parents.

ESL/ELL resource package update

Varsha updated the committee on the development of an ESL/ELL resource package to help increase awareness among parents of the benefits of the ESL/ELL program. The PIC funded the creation of the resource last year. The resource package is geared towards the elementary levels, and includes handout materials for parents and a PowerPoint presentation with speaking notes that can be delivered by a facilitator. The plan is to offer presentations at schools, the We Welcome the World Centres and other locations in Peel where families gather, including faith centres.

The package has had to undergo revisions to reflect curriculum changes by the Ministry of Education. It has since been reviewed by a parent focus group, and will be revised based on their suggestions.

Daniela asked what percentage of Peel students are ESL/ELL learners. Varsha will send an email to the committee with the statistic.

School council event – Nov. 28

The *Great Start* orientation event for school council members is on Thursday, Nov. 28 at West Credit Secondary School in Mississauga. In past year, PIC has staffed a table and facilitated a workshop on parent engagement. PIC members interested in staffing a PIC booth or facilitating the parent engagement workshop at the event should contact Carla (carla.pereira@peelsb.com). Salha volunteered to help staff the booth.

Barb and Daniela expressed concern that councils were not aware of Great Start. Carla will communicate this message to the event lead, but said the event is usually full and cannot accommodate more than two school council members from each school. Barb asked if mass emails sent to school council chairs could also be sent to PIC members. Carla confirmed that this would now be regular procedure.

Barb asked if SEAC can have a booth at the event. A booth will be available for the group.

PRO Grants

All successful PRO Grant recipients were contacted at the beginning of September. Of 240 Peel schools, 113 applied for a PRO grant this year and all applications were successful. Each school will receive a \$1,000 grant for their event or initiative.

PIC correspondence

It was decided that Kelly will email materials from the general PIC email account to all committee members prior to each PIC meeting. Kelly will respond directly to parent questions and concerns.

New business/additions to the agenda

2013-14 budget

The budget for the 2013-14 year is approximately \$29,000. A budget sub-committee was formed, and will meet on Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. to discuss recommendations for the use of the funds. Recommendations will be brought to the October meeting. A list of past uses of funds will be distributed to sub-committee members, and brought to the October PIC meeting.

Budget sub-committee members are:

- Salha Jeizan
- Janace King-Watson
- Daniela Schulze
- Barb Cyr

Set meeting dates for 2013-14

Meetings have been tentatively set for the following dates:

Oct. 28, 2013

Jan. 27, 2014

Feb. 24, 2014

April 7, 2014

May 26, 2014

All meetings will start at 5 p.m. and take place in the Caledon Room at the HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario St. in Mississauga.