

Parent Involvement Committee

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009

Time/Place: 4 to 6 p.m.

HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga
Location: Trustees' Area (Mezzanine Level)

Committee Savi Khanna, School Council Chair representing Brampton, Co-chair

Members in Karen McDonald, School Council Chair representing Caledon, Co-chair

Attendance: Ashis Basu, Parent Member

Sally Drew, School Council Member

Alison Farbar, School Communications Specialist

Jim Grieve, Director of Education

Dr. Salha Jeizan, Parent Member representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel

Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing the diverse community

Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator, Communications & Strategic Partnerships

Suzanne Nurse, Trustee representing Brampton

Debanjali Paul, Parent Member representing the diverse community

Carla Pereira, Communications Officer

Allison Van Wagner, Trustee representing Mississauga

Regrets:

Valerie Arnold-Judge, Trustee representing Caledon

Deanna Henderson, Parent Member representing the Special Education Advisory Committee

Guests:

Christine Frank, Christine Frank & Associates Research and Evaluation

Sylvia Link, Communications Manager, Communications & Strategic Partnerships

Overview of the year ahead

Jim Grieve provided a brief summary of the board's focus for the upcoming school year. He spoke of the board's focus on building positive places to learn and work. He also shared copies of the Starting Point video that was shown at the event in late August.

Parent involvement research report and recommendations

Christine Frank presented an overview of the findings and recommendations in the Parent Involvement Report, which was commissioned by the Peel District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee in the fall of 2008. Eighteen focus groups were held with parents. To ensure that the diversity of Peel Region was represented and that newcomers were included, 12 groups were conducted in languages other than English: Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Punjabi, Tamil and Urdu. Three focus groups were also conducted with principals of elementary/junior schools, elementary/middle schools and secondary schools.

A decision was made by the committee to reconvene on Oct. 21 at 3:30 p.m. to further discuss the recommendations in the report.

Update on Great Start 2009 – school council event

Great Start: an orientation and training evening for school council members will take place on Monday, Oct. 26 at West Credit Secondary School. The PIC co-chairs will facilitate a workshop with Alison Farbar called *Encourage parent involvement at your school*. Feedback from the workshop will be provided at a future PIC meeting.

Letter shared regarding Islamic Heritage Month

The committee reviewed the board's response to the Canadian Islamic Congress regarding a request to consider Islamic Heritage Month.

Action items

- Committee members to review Parent Involvement Report and send their feedback to Carla Pereira prior to Oct. 21.
- Carla Pereira to speak to Communications staff regarding the idea of holding an event/meeting for secondary school council representatives.

Next meeting

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009 between 3:30 and 5 p.m. Please let Carla know if you are unable to attend. Refreshments will be provided.