

Parent Involvement Committee Minutes

Date: Oct. 29, 2012
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
Stan Cameron, Trustee representing Caledon
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Meredith Johnson, Trustee representing Mississauga
Harinder Malhi, Trustee representing Brampton
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Shan Rai, Parent representing Mississauga
Kelly Ralston, Parent representing Mississauga
Sukhjit Singh, Parent representing Mississauga
Lisa Thompson, Parent representing Brampton
Dan Wilkinson, Parent representing Brampton

Regrets:

Lori Holloway, Parent representing Caledon
Janace King-Watson, Parent representing Brampton
Lisa Skeete, Parent representing Mississauga

Resource:

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer
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 from the Sept. 24 meeting.

Direction for the year

Tony provided an overview of the role of the committee. He explained that Parent Involvement Committees are advisory. The main role of the committee is support the work of school councils and to provide suggestions to the director and board about how to enhance family engagement. The staff members act as a resource to the committee. The committee should set its own agenda and has its own budget, which it advises the board on the use of.

Election of Co-chair

Lisa T. and Kelly put their names forward for the co-chair position. The committee voted and the votes were tied. The committee will conduct an online vote with the members who were unable to attend the meeting to determine the co-chair position. Lisa and Kelly will send Alison information to send to the committee members to help them make their decision.

During the co-chair dialogue, Dan suggested the creation of a secretary position to give other members who are interested in a role a way to participate. No decision was made.

2012-13 budget

The budget for the 2012-13 year is approximately \$24,000. Committee members will meet on Dec. 4 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss their goals for the year and bring recommendations for the use of the funds to the January meeting.

Welcome folders

In the past the committee funded the development and printing of welcome folders for schools to order to create welcome kits to give out to new families, at orientation events, etc. The folders have run out and there are additional orders waiting to be filled. The committee agreed to order another 10,000 folders, which will be made available to schools. The estimated cost is up to \$5000.

The committee also discussed the value of having sessions for parents. Salha expressed that she received very positive feedback about the two sessions the committee supported at mosques last year.

Parent's guide to high school

Last year, the committee helped create a Parent's Guide to High School (www.peelschools.org/parents/helpyourchild/parentguide), which was provided to parents of every grade 8 student in the term three report card. The committee agreed to fund the production of the guide again this year, which will be provided to parents in the term two report card. The Communications Department is exploring ways to reduce printing costs. The estimated cost is up to \$10,000. An online survey will be created and the URL added to the guide to allow parents to provide feedback. This will help the committee determine how the guide can be improved for future years. Tony will contribute a \$25 Chapters gift card as an incentive for parents to complete the survey. The committee also discussed attending secondary school info nights next school year to speak directly to parents to gather feedback.

School council event – November 29

The *Great Start* orientation event for school council members has been moved to November 29 at West Credit Secondary School. The committee will have a booth at the event. In addition, Lisa

T. is facilitating a session on PRO grants with Jay. Anthony will facilitate a session with Alison. Details of the event are available here: www.peelschools.org/parents/schoolcouncils/orientation

New business/additions to the agenda

Anthony shared an email he received from People for Education about a survey to do with healthy eating/lifestyles. He circulated the email to the committee.

He also shared an email from an individual promoting a GPS product for parents. The committee agreed it's not appropriate to share the information.

Next meetings

The committee set the following dates for future meetings:

Jan. 28

Feb. 25

March 25

May 27

The committee had originally selected Nov. 26; however, there's a major board event that night so Tony, the trustees, Carla and Alison will be unable to attend.

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.