

## Parent Involvement Committee

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 20, 2010

**Time/Place:** 4:30 to 6 p.m.

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

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Savi Khanna, School Council Chair representing Brampton (PIC co-chair)  
Karen McDonald, School Council Chair representing Caledon (PIC co-chair)  
Ashis Basu, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Barbara Cyr, representing the board's Special Education Advisory Committee  
Vijai Dasrat, Parent Member representing Brampton  
Lucy Ding, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Dr. Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel  
Rabia Khedr, Parent Member representing Mississauga  
Kathy Parris-McDonald, Parent Member representing Brampton and French Immersion  
Tony Pontes, Director of Education  
Allison Van Wagner, Trustee representing Mississauga

**Resource:**

Alison Farbar, Acting Communications Officer  
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator  
Carla Pereira, Acting Manager of Communications

**Regrets:**

Velvet Dodge Matinna, Parent Member representing Caledon  
Valerie Arnold-Judge, Trustee representing Caledon  
Suzanne Nurse, Trustee representing Brampton

### **Input from the committee**

Karen reported on comments she received at a presentation she made to new principals and vice-principals. The participants suggested the committee develop strategies to reach out to fathers.

### **Board approves new Equity and Inclusive Education Policy**

Mary Samuel, equity officer with the Peel board, provided an overview of the Peel board's Equity and Inclusive Education Policy, which was approved by the board on Aug. 24. Mary highlighted that the School-Community Relationships section may help to guide the work of the Parent Involvement Committee. A full copy of the policy is available at [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org) by clicking on 'Policies' in the 'Get the Facts' section.

### **Director welcomes committee, shares start-of-year message**

Director of Education Tony Pontes wished the committee a "Happy New Year" and thanked the committee members for their interest in parent involvement. He told the committee about his start-of-year address to the system and provided an overview of his messages:

- We need to always share our pride about all of the positive things that go on in schools.

- We need to continue to focus on building authentic relationships.
- We need to recognize that each of us, in our own small ways, can have a huge, lasting impacts on the lives of others.

### **Parent Involvement Committee encourages school council members to attend *Great Start* on Oct. 27**

The committee will present a workshop at *Great Start*, an orientation event for school councils. The event takes place on Wed., Oct. 27 at Mississauga Secondary School. The committee discussed sponsoring the buffet dinner for school council members who attend the event. A decision was not made at this meeting.

During this discussion, the suggestion was made to hold a planning meeting for the committee to develop new ways to implement the recommendations made in the Parent Involvement Report commissioned by the committee. A decision was not made on how to move forward with this.

More information about the event will be available in the 'School Council' section of [www.peelschools.org](http://www.peelschools.org).

### **Changes to criminal record check process for school volunteers in Brampton and Mississauga**

Peel Regional Police now require that principals interview potential volunteers prior to providing the record check form. An authorization letter from the principal will need to be submitted to Peel Police, along with the form.

### **Change to terms and election of new Co-chair**

On Sept. 1, the Ministry of Education filed a new regulation that affects Parent Involvement Committees. The regulation outlines the formation and structure of committee. The Peel board's committee already meets many of the requirements. In order to ensure the committee is following the regulation, members decided to change its terms from two and three years, to all two year terms. The committee will also be creating bylaws as required in the regulation.

Savi Khanna, co-chair, announced that she is stepping down from her role as co-chair because she is now employed with the board. In the committee's terms of reference, chairs must be parents members and cannot be board employees. A new co-chair will be selected at the next meeting. The co-chair needs to be a member who has two years remaining in his or her term. Committee members interested in this opportunity will inform the committee at the next meeting.

### **Discussion on Parent Involvement Report deferred to next meeting**

The committee decided to defer the discussion on new additions to the Parent Involvement Report until the next meeting. The report now includes input from teachers, in addition to parents and principals. Committee members will submit their feedback/ideas to Alison Farbar, Communications Officer (acting), at [Alison.farbar@peelsb.com](mailto:Alison.farbar@peelsb.com) prior to the next meeting so the comments can be compiled and shared with the committee for discussion.

### **Dates set for future meetings**

The committee is required to meet four times per year. To ensure this requirement is met, the committee set dates for the entire year. These dates are: Nov. 22, 2010, Feb. 28, 2011 and May 16, 2011. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will take place in the Trustees' Area of the HJA Brown Education Centre, located at 5650 Hurontario St. in Mississauga, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Additional meetings may be added as needed.

### **Next meeting:**

The next Parent Involvement Committee meeting will take place in the Trustees' Area at the HJA Brown Education Centre on Monday, Nov. 22 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Please let Alison Farbar know if you are unable to attend. Refreshments will be provided.