

Parent Involvement Committee – Meeting #4 Minutes | March 23, 2017

In attendance:

Jovana Bailey, Parent representing Brampton
Anju Dhawan, Parent representing Mississauga
Daniella Balasal, Parent representing Brampton (co- chair)
Salha Jeizan, representing Multicultural Inter- Agency Group of Peel
Harpal Kalsi, Co-chair, Parent representing Mississauga
(ex-officio)
Heather Munich, Parent representing Caledon
Loretta Neebar, Parent representing Mississauga
Harsh Thakkar, Parent representing Mississauga
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator
Stan Cameron, Trustee Caledon
Robert Crocker, Trustee Mississauga
Kathy McDonald, Trustee Brampton

Regrets:

Kuldeep Kanda, Parent representing Brampton
Barbara Cyr, community member representing the board's Special Education Advisory
Committee
Susan Hallsworth, Parent representing Caledon
Jagdev Bahra, Parent representing Brampton
Indra Maharjan, Parent representing Brampton (co- chair)
Jo-Anna Ravelo, Parent representing Brampton
Ryan Reyes, PDSB
Walid Mahd, Student Member, PSPC

Agenda – approved

Minutes – approved

New members

Co-chair Daniella Balasal welcomed PIC's newest member, Jovana Bailey parent member representing Brampton.

Trustee updates

Robert Crocker

- There have been Walk-to-School presentations at superintendency meetings to encourage a walk-to-school program in schools. Nine family of schools already took place; a couple more happening in April. The aim is public health and resolving traffic in front of schools in the morning.

- Volunteer MBC: matches those looking to volunteer with people who are looking for volunteers. There will be a booth at the Parent Numeracy Conference on April 1, 2017.

Stan Cameron

- Caledon now has a Traffic Safety Council – both school boards in Peel are represented
- handed out two documents:
 1. Eight Peel board schools have received funds from the Town of Caledon’s School Green Fund. The fund provides funding for both public and Catholic schools in Caledon to support environmental projects that address climate change.
 2. “Let’s Get Together!” Parenting Workshops: Helping Our Children Succeed. Herb Campbell Public School’s school council invites all parents for an interactive and informative evening at school on Monday, April 3.

Kathy McDonald

- Northwest Brampton – Special Olympics currently being organized
- Updated the committee on Religious Accommodation concerns and misinformation currently being shared in many communities. The board has developed a key fact sheet to dispel many of these myths. This fact sheet has been shared with PIC and all school council chairs.

ParentConnect presentation by Neal Larsen

This is a brand new initiative currently being piloted in three schools – Meadowvale Secondary School, Lisgar Middle School and Kindree Public School. ParentConnect is a secure website that acts as a one-stop, single point of access to all electronic services provided to parents and legal guardians of Peel parents. This project will be launched by gradual rollout by this June, and will provide attendance information and SafeArrival, past report cards, transportation (bus) details, current and future course selections, diploma requirements and status, school calendars and upcoming news/events. SchoolCashOnline will be a phase 2 deliverable.

Site will be available at parent.peelschools.org. Parents will need security access to view student information on account.

Subcommittee updates

It’s a Family Affair – May 16, 2017 at John Fraser Secondary School

- Looking to select a keynote speaker soon (one option is a keynote on personality tests)
- Giveaways currently being discussed

Communications subcommittee

- School council email accounts – can IT department check what has opened?
- Provided a draft copy for edits

PRO grants—Bramalea Math Night:

- The event was very successful and received positive feedback from attendees. General concern was the timing of the event. Next year, the group will try to provide more time for the workshops, less time for dinner.

- Close to 70 attendees + PIC and community reps
- For future workshops, parents are mostly interested in math workshops.

Upcoming PRO grant events—Caledon Event

- March 30, 2017 – 6:30 to 8 pm at Mayfield Secondary School
- 21st Century Learning and Teaching workshop with Lawrence DeMaeyer

Upcoming PRO grant events—Malton Math Night

- April 10, 2017, 6 to 9 p.m. at Morning Star Middle School
- Similar format and same speakers as Bramalea
- Committee shared concerns about equitable access to registration if it is only available online. They discussed the possibility of a generic voicemail set up for PIC, accessed and maintained by the PIC co-chairs. Kayla will investigate this option; however, the committee will determine alternatives for Malton event.

PRO Grant proposal for 2016-17

Committee to think of proposal PRO grant initiatives for next school year. Daniella will send a call for ideas in the near future. The deadline to submit the proposal to the Ministry is May 25, 2017.

Parent Numeracy Conference

The parent conference will be held on April 1, 2017 at Mississauga Secondary School. PIC will have a booth, staffed by PIC volunteers. Indra and Heather will take on first two shifts Dr. Salha volunteered to staff the booth from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Regional PIC Symposium

Daniella and Jagdev will be attending on behalf of PIC. There are 7 additional spots left for school councils. The deadline to register is March 31, 2017.

Year End Dinner

The committee is working on tentatively setting a date.

Input on Board's Budget Process

Members are encouraged to provide feedback online at www.peelschools.org

Parent Involvement Applications

Applications for new PIC members will go live in April. Co-chairs to discuss launch time with Kayla.

Mental Health Committee (update by Heather)

There has been two meetings with the Mental Health Strategy Review team. The review is building on the board's mental health strategy from 2012. Now in its second stage, the group is attempting to enhance the board's understanding on how the mental health initiatives are being used in school and next steps. The committee has reviewed surveys to distribute to schools.

Other Business

Loretta mentioned a potential volunteer opportunity for high school students. The GTA is hosting the North American Indigenous Games on July 16 to 23 for ages 14 to 19—all indigenous athletes. She will send the link to the committee.