

MINUTES*

Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

19 January 2017

Date: Thursday, 19 January 2017

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Caledon Room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga

In Attendance: Indra Maharjan, Co-Chair, Parent Representing Brampton
Daniella Balasal, Co-Chair, Parent Representing Brampton
Harpal Kalsi, Ex-officio, Parent Representing Mississauga
Jagdev Bahra, Parent Representing Brampton
Barb Cyr, Representing PDSB Special Education Advisory Committee
Anju Dhawan, Parent Representing Mississauga
Kuldeep Kanda, Parent Representing Brampton
Heather Munich, Parent Representing Caledon
Jo-Anna Ravelo, Parent Representing Brampton
G. Paul Renwick, Parent Representing Caledon
Harsh Thakkar, Parent Representing Mississauga

Robert Crocker, Trustee Mississauga
Tony Pontes, Director of Education
Kathy McDonald, Trustee Brampton
Varsha Naik, Community Liaison Co-ordinator
¹Ryan Reyes, Manager of Community Relations

Regrets: Stan Cameron, Trustee Caledon
Salha Jeizan, Representing Multicultural Inter-Agency Group of Peel
Bill MacGregor, President, PPVPA
Lorretta Neebar, Parent Representing Mississauga
Kayla Tishcoff, Communications Officer
Sonja Williams, Parent Representing Mississauga

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began at 5:31 pm. Co-Chair Maharjan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Trustee Robert Crocker was welcomed to the Committee. Co-Chair Balasal had everyone participate in an 'ice-breaker' conversation.

* These Minutes were taken by the PIC Secretary, G.P. Renwick.

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

MOVED by Barb Cyr to approve the agenda.
SECONDED by Daniella Balasal
MOTION CARRIED without dissent or discussion.

MOVED by Heather Munich to approve the Minutes from the 29 November 2016 meeting.
SECONDED by Barb Cyr
MOTION CARRIED without dissent or discussion.

2. TRUSTEE UPDATES

Trustee Crocker advised that the first steps are taking place with respect to the Britannia Farm project. On 12 December 2016, the PDSB approved the Britannia Farm Master Plan Refresh, which recommends:

- student focused environmental and agricultural programs;
- the establishment of landscape zones;
- a development parcel (32 acres); and
- phased public access in partnership with the City of Mississauga.

The Trustee also advised that the pupil accommodation review for southeast Mississauga is underway and almost completed. Trustee Crocker spoke about the generosity of students who donated to a local foodbank during their Holiday Concert. Lastly, Trustee Crocker is encouraged by the many schools participating in the active transportation program.

Trustee MacDonald updated the Committee about the upcoming community consultation meeting for “We Rise,” at Turner Fenton SS on 21 January. With respect to the discussion at our last meeting, Trustee MacDonald also advised that a representative has agreed to come to an upcoming meeting to discuss Active Transportation in Brampton.

3. DIRECTOR UPDATE

Director Pontes advised that the Future We Want (curriculum support report) is currently being updated. There are plans to update the curriculum so that all of our students feel valued. Similarly, the PDSB has already had school logos/mascots that are hurtful to indigenous communities renamed. There are projects to assist our LGBTQ students in addition to the We Rise program for our African Canadian youth.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Co-Chair Balasal updated the Committee on upcoming PRO Grant events; Math Night will be held at Bramalea SS on 28 February 2017. This year the focus is on high-need neighbourhoods; all schools in the catchment area are invited to attend; last year's Numeracy Conference speaker has agreed to speak, in addition to others. There will be workshops and an Information Fair with Community Information Booths. Bussing and babysitting options are being considered to encourage wide parent attendance and participation.

Co-Chair Balasal also advised that there are discussions underway to host a workshop for 21st Century Learning/Education, which would take place in Caledon. Mayfield SS is a possible location. The event would last an hour and take place in March.

Another Workshop in April or May could take place in Mississauga; another math or literacy event.

Director Pontes apologized that he cannot attend Math Night on 28 February (this is also the night of the regular PDSB Meeting) but he will ask the Superintendent to attend on his behalf.

Ms. Kanda spoke on behalf of the Events SubCommittee about the anticipated Family Affair Event, for School Council Chairs/Members. Last year, the event was quite successful and there have been several requests for this to occur again this year. The Event is anticipated to have a key-note speaker, break-out sessions (likely to include: Student Well-Being, Parent Engagement in Schools, and the PRO Grant Application Process); it is thought that high-school students may be able to assist. This event is proposed for a date through 09-11 May 2017 at Rick Hansen, West Credit, or John Fraser Secondary School. Volunteers are still required. Director Pontes advised that there is a food preparation program at Rick Hansen. There was consensus that Rick Hansen SS may be the most appropriate location.

Secretary Renwick addressed the Committee on behalf of the Communications SubCommittee. The next edition of the PIC Newsletter will be prepared for distribution in March. Submissions and ideas for content are welcomed.

5. PIC BUDGET

The PIC Treasurer Mr. Bahra spoke about our current budget of \$28,600. Proposed expenditures for the year are as follows:

\$13,000 is anticipated to be spent on the Family Affair Event; PIC T-Shirts for Conferences, etc., \$1000; PRO Grant Event Support \$7000; Math Learning \$1000; Members' Training/Conference \$1500; Other expenditures \$1000. We would have \$2600 remaining in our budget after these expenses, which could be spent on replenishing our inventory of newcomer packages, bags, and other general supplies.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Tishcoff will advise the PIC Co-Chairs and Treasurer about our inventory of supplies.

MOVED by Barb Cyr to approve the PIC Budget.

SECONDED by Harsh Thakkar

MOTION CARRIED without dissent after discussion.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Mental Health Advisory Committee has sought a PIC Member; Ms. Heather Munich has agreed to participate.

b) Co-Chair Balasal spoke about hosting the annual Conference in October rather than May to provide more guidance to School Councils at the start of the school year. This may require extending Members' terms, or having meetings during the summer, and possible overlap of terms between outgoing and incoming PIC Members.

c) Ms. Naureen Khan has resigned from PIC. Co-Chair Maharjan suggested returning to the selection roster for the prior vacancies. Everyone agreed that the Selection Committee can use the existing roster of applicants to replace the Brampton Parent Representative.

d) Mr. Ryan Reyes advised that on April 1st the Parent Numeracy Conference will be held. Registration opens February 1, 2017.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions were asked at this time.

Next committee meeting date: 23 March 2017 – 5:30 pm, Caledon Rm

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.