



# Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Virtual Meeting

April 14, 2020



## MINUTES



Present: Ted Foster, Michael Bowman, Kavita Kanavalli, Heather Mundy, Valrie Estridge, Derek Mereweather, Margaret Ogunkoya, Stephanie Spencer, Adriana Fajardo-Chadha, Scott Templeton, Patricia Clark, Sarah Khatab, Nigel Hunter, Tiffany Sherwood, Jennifer McLaughlin, Mayline Brown

### **Call to Order**

Valrie Estridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment**

Valrie Estridge read the land acknowledgement

### **Motion to Approve Minutes for February 11, 2020**

1<sup>st</sup> Scott Templeton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kavita Kanavalli

### **Motion to Approve Agenda**

1<sup>st</sup> Ted Foster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Clark

### **Update on Parents as Partners**

- Due to COVID-19, our symposium that was scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> has been postponed.
- Online sessions has been offered from the Keynote speaker and a few of our presenters. Committee liked the idea of having access to the video (youtube link) that parents could watch on their own time. Superintendent Mundy to further investigate this possibility.

### **Update of PROGrants**

- Very few schools were able to complete their PRO grant event. Most schools did not get the opportunity to host their event due to current situation of COVID-19.
- We have not heard from the Ministry to see if we can use the money for next year. Our hope is we can move it to next year.
- Some of the events could be offered virtually, if we continue to be in a similar situation come next year.
- Ted Foster spoke about the Pickering PRO grant event that was held in February. It was well attended and feedback proved it was a great success. The planning committee hopes to offer it again next year.

### **Sub-Committee Update**

- The sub committees have not been able to meet but will look at virtual meetings as appropriate moving forward. Google hangout meetings can be set up for the sub committees. Sub committees can move forward with initial planning.

- **PRO grants** – The events that were completed and reports submitted will be reviewed and schools will be reimbursed. Suggestion to send a letter to the ministry to consider allowing funds to be used for next year was proposed.
- **Regional SCC** on held February 25, 2020. It was a great event and received positive feedback. Committee to connect in May/ June to discuss future Regional SCC's as the format may look different depending on the pandemic situation for next school year.
- **Volunteer of Distinction** (October 22, 2020) is a large event. As a district, talks will take place regarding moving it to another date or possibly in a different format. Input from Durham Health will be critical in the decision. Committee to connect in May/June to discuss next steps.
- **Parents As Partners Symposium** – will look into the possibility of a virtual event. Co-chairs will meet to review options. Committee will be contacted to provide feedback.
- **Welcome to DDSB Resource Committee** has not been able to meet as focus has been on Distance Learning.
- **Communication Committee** – We had a great initial meeting in February. Committee started planning the idea of a newsletter that would be shared on a regular basis. Interim Executive Officer of Communications, Robert Cerjanec has recently joined the DDSB Communications Department. Priority for this committee to meet soon, as communication at this time is important.

### **Mental Health and Well-Being Resources**

- Superintendent Davis joined our meeting to discuss the resources that are now available to our school communities during COVID-19 to support our distance learning.
- Resources have been created with weekly tips to maintain and support our individual and collective mental health and well-being.
- Resources have been streamlined and broken into themes.
- They began with a focus on **self-care** and **connections** because this will provide the foundation for the distance learning.
- Superintendent Davis walked us through the resources and touched on each topic. Please click on the link below to view these resources.

<https://www.ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/your-well-being-matters.aspx>

- Each week a new theme will be added.
- Superintendent Davis asked the committee on feedback on how they can continue to support in any way they can.
- The committee felt that a variety of methods is needed to share information with parents/guardians. School messenger (voice/email) is very effective to reach every family.
- A question was asked related to ensuring that all student have engaged in distance learning and have appropriate technology. SO Davis explained how they are working with Inclusive Student Services, Student Success and school leaders to gather this information. With this information, they can identify the family/student needs and create a plan of support.
- Over 34, 000 chromebooks have been provided to students as well as over 400 internet devices.
- Questions were raised around access for students to gather personal items from schools. Superintendent Mundy stressed that we have to follow the guidelines from Durham Health but that consideration will be given to this request.

## **Distance Learning**

Superintendent Heather Mundy shared resources that are available for our distance learning. On our main page, please click on Distance learning. <https://www.ddsb.ca/en/programs-and-learning/distance-learning.aspx>

## **Distance Learning Plan**

- We cannot replicate what normally happens during a regular school day. Our goal is to provide ongoing learning and support student mental health and well-being as a priority during this time.
- K-8 is formative assessment meaning that the focus is on providing feedback and support to help grow the learning but student work will not be evaluated and marked.
- Grades 9-12 will be evaluated. Currently working with the Curriculum Department and defining what that means for students. Expectations will be adjusted as our focus is that no student will be disadvantaged through this process and we want to prepare them for next year and beyond.
- Superintendent Mundy highlighted the different links available on the Distance Learning page:
  - Contacting your Student's Teacher
  - Suggestions for families – eg Tips on how to manage a routine while distance learning
  - Assessment, Evaluation and Report cards
  - Assessing Technology, ie how to access Student Mobile Campus,
  - FAQ on technology – videos on google classroom/ read and write – walks parents through on how to access these programs
  - Technology Troubleshooting
  - Additional Learning Resources
- The use of google classrooms has doubled over the last few weeks from 3000 to 7000 users.
- Parents indicated that live video and lessons that involve specific instructions are most beneficial during Distance Learning.
- Principal Spencer wanted to share her recent experience where she has received many positive emails from parents, thanking the staff for reaching out to the families. Parent voice back to the teachers is so important and appreciated. This re-energized her staff and reconfirmed that together we can do this.
- EQAO/Literacy tests have been cancelled. Grade 12's who needed to write the Literacy test to graduate will be exempted.
- Grade 8 and Grade 12's will graduate but we cannot confirm ceremonies at this time.

## **Other Business**

- Next Meeting Date, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Virtual Link will be provided.
- Extending the Pro Grant Funding – The PIC committee all agreed that a letter will be sent to the ministry requesting an extension on the PRO grant funding. The Co-Chairs will complete the letter and it will be shared with the committee.

## **Adjournment**

Tiffany Sherwood adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

To view the livestream of this meeting, please visit: <https://youtu.be/5bRc69R19no>