

Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022

PIC Members: Jim Van Allen, Huma Choudhary, Ted Foster, Patrick Symister, Kristen McKinnon, Gurleen Saggu,

Trustee: Scott Templeton

DDSB Staff: Superintendent Margaret Lazarus, James Klodnicki, Frank Samuels, Carolynne Waters, Sarah Khattab, Leandra Coore

Regrets: Dima Al-Akhras, Paula Mbonda, Sensa RAned Burrell, Natalie Greaves, Barb Skinners, Israt Quazi

The Parent Involvement Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Item	Discussion
Welcome and Land Acknowledgement	Jim Van Allen, Co-chair welcomed the members to the meeting, read the Land Acknowledgement, and the Human Rights and Indigenous Rights statements.
Agenda Approval	Moved by Jim Van Allen and seconded by Gurleen Saggu
Minutes Approval	Moved by Sarah Khattab and seconded by Frank Samuels
Electing a New Co-Chair of the PIC	The former Co-chair, Danielle Gough resigned on February 9, 2022 Nominations opened for a new co-chair. Two candidates were nominated: Huma Choudhary and Ted Foster. A vote was held and Huma Choudhary received the majority of the votes.
DDSB Updates	Superintendent Lazarus discussed the Human Rights policy and discussed the need for a parent-friendly version once the policy is adopted by the Board of Trustees. In collaboration with the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Devika Mathur, brochures will be created and shared with this committee for feedback.
Updates – Parent Involvement Sub-Committees:	PIC Newsletter

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PROGrant Applications - PIC Newsletter - Parent Engagement Series - Durham Partners (formerly Parents as Partners) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Spring Newsletter is scheduled to be posted at the end of April. The PIC Administrative Secretary, Manon Laplante reviewed the content for the newsletter <p>PROGrants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Khattab gave an update on the PROGrant projects <p>Parent Engagement Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ted Foster gave a brief summary of possible upcoming sessions: Human Trafficking in June, a session on Parenting the New Teen in the Age of anxiety and a possible fall session of School Community Council 101 to help new SCC members <p>Parents as Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - James Klodnicki described the Durham Partners conference. There will be panel discussion, breakout room dealing with a variety of topics. The theme of the conference is <i>“Building Supportive Relationships”</i>. Promotion of the event to start at the end of April - Chair Van Allen talked about the possibility of hosting a community forum with the provincial election candidates with a questions and answers format - Superintendent Lazarus that the Board does not get involved in provincial or federal elections with candidates
<p>School Cash Online</p>	<p>Superintendent Lazarus received a concern from a Parent in the north who expressed concerns regarding the fee that schools are required to pay to access School Cash Online.</p> <p>Frank Samuels confirmed that since the fees to use the software are higher, it is becoming too expensive for schools and profits from fundraising is decreasing.</p> <p>Ted Foster explained that School Cash Online is a great tool as schools no longer have to handle cash making the process of fundraising and counting monies raised more efficient for schools. The concern is who is benefiting from the fees charged to schools? When did the school Board communicate to parents that fees would be an additional cost?</p> <p>Superintendent Lazarus advised the committee that part of their role is to work on behalf of parents and make recommendations to the Director and Board of Trustees. The chair of PIC, Jim Van Allen advised that more information about School Cash Online is needed.</p>

	<p>Trustee Templeton suggested that the PIC should gather information and present the information to the Trustees</p> <p>Action: Ted Foster, parent member to work with Superintendent Lazarus, meet with Financial Department to gather information about the contract with Cash Online and report back to PIC at the following meeting</p>
Next Meeting	May 11, 2022
Meeting Adjournment	<p>Ted Foster thanked the Board and the parent community for consultation sessions about the Bell Time Review and he also thanked Grade 12 parents for making the Semi-formal proms for the graduates happen this year.</p> <p>The PIC Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.</p>