

# ***Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee***

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

A meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022

**PIC Members:** Jim Van Allen, Huma Choudhary, Ted Foster, Patrick Symister, Natalie Greaves, Kristen McKinnon, Gurleen Saggu, Barb Skinner, Israt Quazi

**SEAC Representative:** SensaRAneb Burrell

**Trustee:** Scott Templeton

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

**Regrets:** Dima Al-Akhras

The meeting was called to order at 6:34

Jim Van Allen, Co-chair welcomed and read the Land Acknowledgement and the Human Rights statements.

**Agenda Approval** was moved by Paula Mbonda and seconded by Jim Van Allen

**Minutes Approval** was moved by Kristen McKinnon and seconded by Sarah Katthab

Margaret Lazarus presented and discussed a summary of a presentation made by the Board of Trustees at the January Board Meeting by the Standing Committee. The Strategic Priorities and Operational Goals for 2021-2022. The plan has been extended until the end of school year 2023 in the light of the pandemic.

**Key Areas of Focus are:** Student learning and Well-Learning and People in Culture

Margaret discussed the work that is being done by staff to meet the goals set in the two areas.

**PIC Sub-Committees** – Members of the subcommittees met in breakout sessions to discuss upcoming PIC events.

**Parent Engagement Series** - Frank Samuels and Ted Foster explained that some planning is still in process. Discussion about the possibility of having a session on Human Sex trafficking and inviting the DDSB community

An other topic for a Parent Engagement Series could be **“Explaining how SCC runs”**

**PRO Grants** – Sarah Khattab gave an update on PRO Grants and the deadline to submit the PRO Grant projects. The committee will be meeting to review all submission.

**PIC Newsletter** - Kristen gave us update on the what to expect in the next Newsletter, March Break activities, PRO Grants updates, Mental Health and Children.

Margaret shared with us that she has been attending some SCC meetings with the North Schools along with Trustee Morton and Trustee Templeton to promote voices from the North.

**Parents as Partners (Durham Community)** James Klodnicki, shared with us the Parents as Partners - tentative dates May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Frank Samuels, mentioned that a discussion has been raised to change “Parents as Partners” with “Durham Partners”.

Margaret explained that the Parent Involvement Committee is mandated by the Ministry but the PIC Committee can rename its subcommittees if they choose to. More discussion is needed around this issue.

Margaret asked the PIC members – parents what they would like to see on the DDSB Parent Engagement Webpage site. A discussion ensued about how easy/difficult it is to find the information.

Discussions about how parents/guardians how can they find information on the Website in general. Easy accessible to the ddsb website. How can parents find out about all the different programs in DDSB.

Carolynne Water explained that the Welcome to DDSB booklet was created last year by the PIC committee and that we would need to add more information to keep it updated.

Ted Forster suggested that Schools website should be more accessible with more information but DDSB Website should be easier to search for information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on April 13, 2022