

## Minutes of the Parent Involvement Committee

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

An online meeting of the Parent Involvement Committee was held on this date.

**PIC Members:** Dima Al-Akhras, Karen Carter, Huma Choudhary, Ted Foster, Patrick Symister, Danielle Gough, Natalie Greaves, Igor Kras, Kristen McKinnon, Gurleen Saggu, Jim Van Allen, Barb Skinner,

**SEAC Representative:** SensaRAneb Burrell

**Trustee:** Scott Templeton

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

**Special Guests:** Norah Marsh, Director of Education, Devika Mathur, Human Rights and Equity Advisor

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

**Land Acknowledgement and Human Rights – Margaret Lazarus**

**Greetings from Director of Education Norah Marsh**

Margaret Lazarus introduced Director of Education, Norah Marsh

- Director Marsh thanked and welcomed everyone on behalf of the Senior team and appreciate the time that the Parent Involvement committee is investing during their busy life and how important is to have parents' voices throughout the district.

**Agenda Approval**

- Frank Samuels and Paula Mbonda

**Minutes Approval**

- Sarah Khattab and Patrick Symister

Superintendent Lazarus introduced herself as the new superintendent assigned the portfolio of the Parent Engagement

**Purpose of PIC**

It was discussed that PIC is following the Ministry of Education Mandate – Support, Encourage, Engage and enhance the engagement of parents and improve student achievement and well-being at the board level.

One of the purposes of PIC is to Communicate with and support local school councils and undertake activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and school.

Margaret explained the difference between School Community Council and the Parent Involvement Committee. SCC focused on individual schools and the PIC is supporting engagement throughout DDSB.

It was discussed that all PIC members should always avoid situations in which they could be deemed to be in a conflict of interest. It was suggested that if a PIC member perceives they are in a conflict of interest they have to declare it before discussion on the issue commences.

It was explained that to have an effective PIC meeting is to ensure that we listen to each other, all ideas are heard and discussed and always try to reach a consensus and respect each other. The Superintendent and trustee have to be present at each PIC meeting with a majority of parents.

### **Introduction of the Parent Involvement Committee 2021-2022**

- PIC members introduced themselves and the reasons why they wanted to be part of the Parent Involvement Committee
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### **Roles and Responsibility of Co-Chairs**

- Margaret explained the responsibilities of PIC Chairs/ Co-Chairs
  - Call in PIC meetings
  - Prepare agendas and Chair PIC Meetings
  - Act as a spokesperson on behalf of the PIC

### **Selecting Co-Chairs**

- Patrick Symister
- Danielle Gough

**Date of next meetings – 6:30 p.m.**

- **December 8, 2021**
- **February 9, 2022**
- **April 13, 2022**
- **May 11, 2022**

### **PIC Sub-Committee**

It was decided to send a description of the different Sub-Committees to the PIC members and submit their choices in a Google Form

It was suggested to send the SCC email accounts to the PIC members per their areas.

**Presentation:** Human Rights Policy by Devika Mathur, Human Rights and Equity Advisor

Devika Mathur presented the Human Rights Policies and explained the different phases that align with the Provincial and DDSB Commitment. Devika shared her presentation explaining in detail, the Human Rights Policy, roles and responsibilities of duty bearers and the accountability framework.

Devika Mathur will send the PIC members the link with the Human Rights Policy and public survey.

Devika answered questions from the PIC members.

**Next Meeting**

December 8, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.