



Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting

November 26, 2019



MINUTES



Present: Michael Bowman, Stephanie Spencer, Scott Templeton, Derek Mereweather, Robyn Skube, Margaret Ogunkoya, Valrie Estridge, Adriana Fajardo-Chadha, Sarah Khattab, Patricia Clark, Tiffany Sherwood, Heather Mundy, Tim Ralph

Online- Kavita Kanavalli, Jennifer McLaughlin, Rupal Patel

Call to Order

Heather Mundy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Tiffany Sherwood read the land acknowledgement

Welcome

Tiffany Sherwood welcomed the group and suggested round table introductions. Norah Marsh, our new Associate Director introduced herself and expressed her excitement to be working with the DDSB.

This is my story

In the second episode of And This Is My Story Volume 2, we meet Katie who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy when she was born. She has been a champion for inclusivity all her life. Having been raised by parents who instilled in her a “never give up” attitude, Katie has not let her disability define who she is. Now she teaches her children and her Kindergarten students to do the same and to face their challenges head-on.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from June 4th

1st – Valrie Estridge 2nd Margaret Ogunkoya

Note: Since we did not meet quorum at our last meeting on October 16th, the Information recorded from the last meeting was reviewed but did not need to be approved.

Purpose of PIC

The purpose of PIC was reviewed and the roles and responsibilities were explained. Co-Chair was reviewed and Tiffany Sherwood stated that she is able to continue to be co-chair. Treasurer is a new role to PIC. Now that we have funds from the ministry for PRO grants we feel it's necessary to have this role.

Nominations for Co-Chair and Treasurer – let us know at the end of the meeting or send an email.

By-laws

In our last meeting, bylaws were brought forward to change but we could not bring a motion to change. Group reviewed the changes.

Motion to approve the Bylaw changes:

1st – Robyn Skube, 2nd – Adriana Farjardo-Chadha

Communications with SCC

Role of the PIC committee was given out to group indicating the Trustees Role and the PIC role. The focus is supporting Parent engagement. Any safety, operations, etc need to be directed back to principal. Action: SCC emails will be created for PIC parent members. A possible email has been shared with the SCC Chairs. Login is same as SCC. An email list will be sent directly for each area representative with login information and draft email.

Feedback on Events:

VOD

- Good pace and well organized
- Reception in Atrium was good – in the past it was too crowded in Café
- Music was nice and worked well having SASS performers during the set up of Areas.
- Suggestion – to have a bag to carry all their goodies – swag bag.

Regional SCC

- Attendance was very low
- Ajax was best attended
- 30 schools represented,
- Feedback from survey – people who attended were very engaged and collaboration was great
- Re: Pro Grants - Would have been helpful if we had examples of the proposals, as it took time to get the group started.
- Suggestions to improve attendance for Regional SCC
- Face to face messages is better then sending emails – we need the personal connection
- Schools should not be booking events on the same date as Regional SCC, etc.
- Save the date email should be sent along the same time as VOD.
- Phone chain, school messenger could be used
- Schools need to help us promote – reminders in their newsletters
- FOS meetings – needs to be promoted at these meetings
- Raffles / door prizes
- In the past, Area Trustees would attend SCC meetings, and would help promote Regional SCC
- Communication needs to be improved on the dates
- Perhaps when the SCC Principal Characteristics request from Operations is sent out – a reminder of the dates of Regional SCC
- Connecting with other schools to help promote.
- Perhaps the perception is only SCC Chairs attend BUT It can be any parent who attends
- Flyers
- Share highlights of the Regional SCC – get them excited for the next one.

Role of the PIC and Working groups

Superintendent Mundy emphasized how she wants the PIC group to feel valued and to have a role in our parent engagement events. It would be great if members could sign up for specific events. A signup sheet was provided.

Working Groups:

- ProGrants
- Regional SCC
- VOD
- Parents As Partners Symposium
- Welcome to DDSB Resource
- Communication

8:00 pm – Break

8:15 pm- Meeting reconvened

Your Voice Matters – 10 minutes at each activity to provide feedback

1) Podcasts - Tim Ralph explained how there will be podcast videos created for parents to access online. These podcasts will talk about who we are as a school board. Tim will be the host and a series of topics are already created. 1) Mental wellness 2) Your child digital life 3) The changing face of the Principal
What is your burning questions on these three topics?

2) PRO Grants - Brainstorming specific criteria from proposal

3) Safe Schools Department – gather voice on Dress code

Adjournment

Tiffany Sherwood adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.