

# Parent Involvement Committee

Minutes - November 8, 2022

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** was held on Tuesday, November 8, at 6:30 pm, virtually on Google Meet, with the following members in attendance:

**Present:**

Trustees: K. Meissner

Board Staff: D. Ballantyne, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, M. Hoare, D. Lataille-Herdsman, H. McKinna, S. Miller, S. Shadaan

PIC/WRAPSC Members: J. Araujo, S. Awan, H. Brar, A. deVries, G. Eriamiatoe, S. Goel, S. Heroux, T. Jamieson, J. Lawrie, L. Lovelace, A. Misra, C. Needler, S. Rehan, A. Schuitema, N. Sidiqi, T. Yates

**Regrets:** j. chanicka, S. Rizik, A. Russell, G. Shantz, P. Shaw

**Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement**, D. Lataille-Herdsman

Superintendent D. Lataille-Herdsman welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered a Territorial Acknowledgement.

**Overview and Role of Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)**, Superintendent D. Lataille-Herdsman

What is a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

- PIC is an advisory body to the school board that supports student achievement and well-being by getting parents more involved in their child's learning.
- The purpose of a PIC is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level to improve student achievement and well-being.
- All school boards in Ontario are required to have a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), Ontario Regulation 612/00

How does Parent Involvement Committee's support and encourage more parents to become involved in their child's learning?

- Providing information and advice to the board on parent engagement and ways to communicate with parents
- Developing ways the board could use to help more parents support their children's learning at home and at school
- Sharing information with and supporting the work of school councils

How will Parent Involvement Committees work with school councils of schools of the board? (through the director, with employees of the board)

- Share effective practices to help engage parents, especially parents who may find engagement challenging in their children's learning
- Identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement
- Help ensure that schools of the board create a welcoming environment for parents and their students



- Develop skills and acquire knowledge that will assist the PIC and school councils with their work

#### PIC Meetings, By-Laws, Minutes and Financial Records

- PIC shall meet at least four times in each school year
- PIC meeting cannot be held unless:
  - Majority of members present at the meeting are parent members
  - Director of Education or person designated is present
  - Trustee is present or person designated is present
- PIC Co-chairs are spokespersons for the committee in communicating with the Director and the Board.
- PIC meetings are open to the public
- PIC may make by-laws governing the conduct of the committee's affairs
- PIC shall keep minutes of all of its meetings and records of all of its financial transactions

#### Roles/Responsibilities – Co-Chairs / Treasurer

- Plan meeting agendas
- Run the PIC board meetings
- Respond to requests and invitations from board staff
- Attend Ministry of Education PIC related meetings
- Attend Ontario PIC meetings

#### Roles/Responsibilities – Treasurer

- Working with the board staff, the treasurer keeps track of PIC's budget
- Provides treasurer reports for PIC board meetings

#### **Formation of 2022-2023 PIC Committee Membership**, D. Lataille-Herdsman

D. Lataille-Herdsman brought forward the names of 15 new members and 1 returning parent member. The following members of the Parent Involvement Committee are acclaimed:

- New Parent/Guardian Members: J. Araujo (2 year term), S. Awan (2 year term), H. Brar (1 year term), A. deVries (1 year term), G. Eriamiatoe (2 year term), S. Goel (1 year term), T. Jamieson (2 year term), J. Lawrie (1 year term), L. Lovelace (2 year term), C. Needler (1 year term), S. Rehan (1 year term), S. Rizik (1 year term), A. Schuitema (1 year term), N. Sidiqi (1 year term), T. Yates, (1 year term);
- Returning Parent/Guardian Member: Anjali Misra (2nd year of 2 year term)

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

PIC committee members introduced themselves.

#### **Elections/Acclamation of Executive Positions - Co-Chair & Treasurer**

G. Eriamiatoe is acclaimed as Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee and gave a brief introduction of herself.

J. Lawrie is acclaimed as Treasurer of the Parent Involvement Committee and gave a brief introduction of herself.



## **Approval of Agenda**

J. Lawrie motioned to approve the agenda for November 8, 2022, Parent Involvement Committee meeting. The agenda was approved.

## **Approval of Minutes**

A. Misra motioned to approve the minutes from May 17, 2022, Parent Involvement Committee meeting. The minutes were approved.

## **Director Update, j chanicka, S. Miller, D. Lataille-Herdsman, M. Gerard**

### Scott Miller, Associate Director

Associate Director Miller thanked the PIC Committee members for putting forward their applications to be part of the Parent Involvement Committee. It is a legislated committee and all school boards have one. Hearing everyone's excitement and desire to be involved says so much about your commitment to your students and all students in the WRDSB.

We're in the process of implementing our new strategic plan. In developing this plan and working with our Board of Trustees, we had a goal for how we would incorporate community voice: parents, community and importantly our students' voice. As we worked through the process last year, we received feedback from 10,000 people, of which 5,000 were students who provided their input and vision for what their school board means to them.

From this, we created the vision for the WRDSB to celebrate the gifts of each and every student by creating incredible opportunities for engagement allowing them to flourish and grow. We believe that parent and family engagement is an important part of this. We are grateful for parent involvement. Thank you for your willingness to be involved in PIC, we are grateful for your involvement.

Thankful for Sara Heroux to be here from the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC). Sara can take information discussed at PIC back to WRAPSC and we can continue to collaborate. Appreciate having both representatives from PIC and WRAPSC at this meeting. We are also looking to engage other community members in a variety of ways.

Oversight for the PIC committee has previously been with the Director's office. Recognizing and wanting to give focus to our parent involvement and community engagement plan, this year we have Superintendent Della Lataille-Herdsman providing that direct responsibility, with the Director, Associate Director and other members of the Senior Team still supporting and being part of meetings. Director chanicka enjoys the parent and community engagement meetings and sends his regrets for this evening.



### Della Lataille-Herdsman, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being

Superintendent Lataille-Herdsman thanked Associate Director Miller for the introduction. She supports a Family of 23 Schools and hold the portfolio of Parent, Family, Community Engagement with a focus on schools, which includes PIC and WRAPSC. The African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” is the focus of our work. Parents and caregivers play an important role in support of student achievement. One of the Ministry’s key priorities is helping parents and caregivers become involved in their child’s learning. When there is a strong connection, between parents/caregivers and schools there is a positive impact on student achievement and well-being. Community engagement and building relationships with community members is also important.

One of our strategic directions is strengthening connections through family and community engagement. We are looking at ways to restructure PIC, working with WRAPSC and seeking feedback from both groups as key stakeholders, as well as community groups, with a continued focus on helping students reach their potential. Looking forward to working together to support students.

Strategic Plan - a high-level overview of the strategic planning process. Use this as our guide as we work together to create an engagement process that includes all, parents/caregivers/families.

#### Timeline

Phase 1: Getting organized, Oct - Feb

Phase 2: Gathering information, Feb - Apr

Phase 3: Developing MYSP, Apr - Jun

Phase 4: Aug - ongoing

Process that honours Trustee input and guidance

Overall Participation from WRDSB Community - over 10,000 individual engagements where people shared feedback through a variety of methods

Summary Consultation Process (phases 2 & 3, Feb - June 2022)

- Community Leader Co-Design - sought feedback on process and approach from community leaders/members
- Interviews - gathered insights from stakeholders and community partners
- Online Survey - gathered insights from stakeholders
- Pop-up tools: i) draw your ideal day; ii) postcard for the future - students and staff completed these activities

#### Vision Statement

Celebrating the gifts of each and every student by creating limitless opportunities for them to flourish, grow and become their best selves.



Mission Statement - Creating learning environments where all students excel as they become skilled, caring, and compassionate global citizens.

### Learner Profiles

Confident, Creative and Curious, Inclusive, Change Makers, Attentive to relationships, Empathetic, Community-oriented

### Strategic Directions

- Centring students - all students' voices are important;
- Support for student and staff well-being - Students and staff experience positive well-being as part of a caring and inclusive community;
- Equitable opportunities and outcomes - Create opportunities for everyone to succeed;
- Strengthen connections through family and community engagement - Better relationships with families and community partners;
- Increase student learning through engagement - Ensure student learning opportunities lead to a meaningful sense of satisfaction and accomplishment;
- Collaboration and compassion for transformation - Working together to bring change;

### WRDSB North Star

To ensure that identity and social location no longer predict outcomes, TOGETHER we will transform our systems, structures, physical environments and practices to center the needs, lived experiences, abilities, and stories of students and staff to ensure success for ALL.

### Conditions for Learning, Framework

Relationships, Pedagogy & Assessment, and Learning Environment are all surrounded by Human Rights and Equity, creating equitable conditions and optimal outcomes for each and every student.

### PRO Grants 2022-23, Coordinating Superintendent M.Gerard

#### Background

- 2022-23 Ministry has moved PRO grant funding to GSN
- Funding to lead projects that address local parent needs and/or remove barriers that prevent parents and families from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational progress.
- District School Boards will collaboratively with their Parent Involvement Committees and are encouraged to work their Indigenous education advisory circle (IEAC), special education advisory committee (SEAC), school board's equity and access body, school councils, and community organizations.

#### Desired Outcomes

Project demonstrates parent input on how schools can improve in at least one of the following areas:



- Addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism and other prejudices toward racialized and marginalized groups

### Project Activities

PRO funding continues to support initiatives that remove barriers to parent engagement in their children's education, examples include but are not limited to:

- Anti-Black Racism, anti-Indigenous and anti-oppression initiatives
- Parent/caregiver engagement & supports (ex evening conferences, literacy, math)
- Enhanced multi-lingual and technology support (e.g., virtual presentations)
- Food sovereignty and environment (e.g., hiking, community gardens)
- Mental health and well-being (e.g., workshops for student and families)
- Physical health and wellness (e.g., Zumba) o Literacy supports
- Providing targeted resources to meet specific parent needs so parents can be resilient (e.g., parent curriculum-briefing workshops)
- 2SLGBTQI (e.g., awareness building by offering culturally responsive experiences)
- STEM (e.g., in-person learning nights) o Online learning software and safety (e.g., cyber-literacy)

### Performance Measures

As outlined in the Final Report, include:

- Improved relationship between school board, PIC and school councils in making project funding decisions
- Increased consultation with PIC and additional parent groups such as SEAC, IEAC, school councils, community groups, board's equity body
- Increase parent participation in initiatives and projects
- Increased promotion of diversity, equity and inclusion at local level
- Evidence of parent involvement in leadership roles, reporting and decision making

### Guiding Principles

These guiding principles were established in the 2020/21 school year:

- Maintain support for the Regional PRO Event
- Focus on schools that need our support the most (Social Economic Indicators)
- Partnerships with nearby schools/feeder schools
- Provide a range of funding to schools (i.e. \$250 - \$500)
- Support as many schools as possible with the funding available

### Timelines

To be determined

## Summary

- For the 2022-2023 school year, the responsibility of evaluating PRO grant submissions remains with School Boards
- The WRDSB will receive \$62,000 to support PRO grants
- PRO Grant projects will be limited to a maximum of \$750 per school and an amount to be determined for the regional project.
- Evaluation of Pro Grant Fund Submissions will be completed with assistance from the following representatives: Parent Involvement Committee (2); Special Education Advisory Committee (2); Equity and Indigenous Advisory Group (2); Trustee (1); Staff

## **Trustee Report, K. Meissner, Trustee**

The Trustee 4 year term has come to an end and a new board was elected on October 24, 2022. The new board will be sworn in on November 21, 2022.

## Committee of the Whole & Board Meetings

Committee of the Whole meeting - October 17, 2022

Trustees approved a letter to the Ministry of Education advocating for capital funding.

Staff provided a presentation and update on the WRDSB response to the 'Right to Read' report.

Board meeting - October 31, 2022

Staff shared the inclement weather procedures for the upcoming winter season.

Student Trustees also provided an update on their recent student roundtable meeting.

The Board's eleven-person elected board of trustees is responsible for approving the policies and bylaws governing the Board's operations.

## **Future Agenda Items, All**

- Subcommittees - what those will look like in support of the strategic plan, membership/onboarding
- Heather will reach out to PIC Co-Chair, PIC Treasurer, WRAPSC Chair find a time to connect and create agenda items for December meeting

## **2022-2023 PIC Meeting Dates**

### **(Google meet)**

- December 6, 2022
- February 28, 2023
- May 16, 2023

**The Parent Involvement Committee meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.**

