



**Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)  
Minutes**

March 7, 2013  
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Present:** Eva Rosenstock (Co-Chair – Ward 12), Jerako Biaje-Wendt (Co-Chair – Ward 10), Virginia Ludy (Ward 2), Laurie Green (Ward 3), Tina Chan Kim (Ward 3 Alt), Norman Perry (Ward 4), Suban Abdullahi (Ward 5), Devon Forbes (Ward 5 Alt), Jane Withey (Ward 7), John Trafananko (Ward 15), James Rycman (Ward 19), Sharon Kerr (Ward 21), Saida Sabrie (SPLC), Samy Ramachandran (Canada Tamil Parents Association), Trustee Howard Goodman, Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos, Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB – Coordinating Superintendent), Michelle Munroe (TDSB – PCIO Central Coordinator), Cathy McCulloch (PIAC Coordinator)

**Tele-conference:** Vivek Rao (Ward 1), Kainani Dana (Ward 14), Sudershan Singh (Ward 20)

**Regrets:** Trustee Glover, Dagmar Grasser (Ward 8); Allen Schacht (Ward 11); Diane Enhorning (Ward 13); Kate Wallis (Ward 16); Gary Lochhead (Ward 17); Hilary Wollis (Ward 22)

**Observers:** Conrad Rattray (Ward 21), Nadia Judunath (Ward 21), Gurcharan Singh (Ward 4), Eric McKay (Ward 10), Tehmina Khan (Ward 12), Mona R.

**Recorder:** Cathy McCulloch (PIAC Coordinator)

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions (Co-Chairs)</b>	Eva called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.  Visitors/observers were welcomed to the meeting. Trustee Goodman was introduced and welcomed in the absence to Trustee Glover.	
<b>2. Approval of Quorum(Co-Chairs)</b>	Michelle Munro confirmed quorum for the committee. Approved by consensus.	
<b>3. Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)</b>	The agenda was reviewed and approved, with the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Add:</b> Virginia to Item #6 (Participatory Working Group)</li> <li>▪ <b>Add:</b> Ward forum updates - Young Women on the Move under other business</li> </ul> <p><b>*Motion</b> to approve the agenda with the above amendments moved by John Trafananko, seconded by Norman Perry. Motion carried.</p>	
<b>4. Approval of Minutes</b>	The minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the following omission noted	Linda to check notes and make change to Feb. 12

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Saida S (SPLC) noted that two events offered by SPLC that were announced were not noted in the minutes. These events are March 8<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><b>*Motion</b> to approve the amended minutes by Virginia Ludy, seconded by John Trafananko. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>Business arising</b> – John T. spoke with Supervising Principal Ted Libera following his presentation at the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was felt that he should return for a further discussion. Jane W. indicated that she would like to hear about security at the secondary level.</p>	<p>minutes before posting on the website.</p> <p>John T to follow up with Ted Libera</p>
<p><b>5. PIAC Budget</b></p>	<p>Tina reviewed the PIAC budget, however indicated that new numbers were only received yesterday (March 6) and therefore not reflected in the budget handed out in the package. Please note that “mileage” is for outreach on behalf of PIAC – not for attending PIAC meetings. A motion to accept the report was moved by John Trafananko, seconded by Sharon Kerr. Motion carried.</p>	
<p><b>6. Update: TDSB Committees (consultation procedures/AC Review)</b></p>	<p>Community Advisory Survey has been sent to all PIAC members and CAC’s to be completed. The deadline is <b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b>.</p> <p>The proposed School Year Calendar went through Board without discussion – this will stand as the dates for the 2013/2014 school year</p> <p>There was concern that Friday, October 11 was a PA day as this is the day many high schools choose for commencement. It was pointed out that this date was mandated by the Ministry and is one of the unpaid days for teachers.</p> <p>Virginia and John attended the Participatory Working Group meeting (formerly participatory budget committee) – it was very poorly attended which was very disappointing. The information discussed at the meeting was only provided 24 hours before full Board meeting. This did not provide enough time to bring information back to the Wards. The notification of this Participatory Working Group meeting was circulated only four (4) days before the meeting. It was suggested that PIAC should have Finance staff come out to a meeting to make a presentation.</p> <p>Superintendent Spyropoulos indicated that 67% of the Budget was decided at the Full Board Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents can participate and have input through Ward Forums and Advisory Committees.</p> <p><b>***Motion:</b> That the Board provide sufficient notice of meetings being a minimum of 14 days prior to a public consultation meeting and that the meeting be held a minimum of 14 days prior to the Board deliberating on the item. In addition PIAC will depute that a motion was previously passed and accepted by the Board and is not being followed by staff. Motion moved by Virginia Ludy and</p>	<p>Deputation to PSSC</p>

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	<p>seconded by Norman Perry. Motion carried. (<i>See PIAC Meeting Motion Addendum – Appendix 1</i>)</p> <p><b>*Motion:</b> That PIAC invite the business service department to a PIAC meeting to present the proposed budget prior to it being deliberated by the Board. Moved by Virginia Ludy and seconded by Jane Withey. Motion carried.</p>	
<b>7. Advocacy Working Group – Pools</b>	No Report	
<b>8. Outreach/SC411</b>	Mirian would like information about SC411 presented at Ward Forums by the Ward reps as they are available to help whenever needed.	
<b>9. Superintendent’s Report</b>	Board passed motion committed 67% of budget– would cut approx \$27 million <i>Report available on the TDSB website –(Board Meeting-agenda March 6,2013)</i>	
<b>10. Special Events</b>	The School Council Appreciation Dinner and Information Evening was a great success.	Co-chairs to organize a debrief meeting about this and Parent Conference
<b>11. Other Business</b>	<p>L. Green – presented letters that were approved at the last meeting – PIAC reps are encouraged to present these letters at Ward meetings to encourage a letter writing campaign from parents with students in the elementary panel. These letters will also be available on the PIAC website. Trustee Goodman recommended that these letters be sent from PIAC.</p> <p>PIC Chair Conference to be held April 19/20 in Toronto – Eva will be attending – 1 more spot available Cathy will email information to PIAC members – anyone interested in attending email their interest to Cathy (<a href="mailto:info@torontopiac.com">info@torontopiac.com</a>)</p> <p>Eric Mackey gave a brief report on the Ministry meeting regarding FDK. – No decision regarding the use of report cards.</p> <p>Kate Wallis would like to be the PIAC liaison – and work with Anne Kerr with respect to Ministry Parent Tool Kit being put together re Bill 13 – Deferred until next meeting</p>	
<b>13. Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward 17 – Pleasantview JH event – Jennifer Kolari guest speaker</li> <li>• Model Schools – May 17<sup>th</sup> event (3 locations East, Central, West) – information to be sent to Michelle or Linda</li> <li>• Saida – SPLC will be hosting event on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. – PIAC members are encouraged to</li> </ul>	

Item	Information/Discussion	Action/Recommendation
	attend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 17<sup>th</sup> – SPLC – requesting space for event from TDSB and support of PIAC</li> </ul>	
<b>14. Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm	

## **APPENDIX 1: ADDENDUM TO PIAC RECOMMENDATION**

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

**Date:** Thursday, March 7, 2013

**Time:** 7:10 pm to 10:30 pm

**Location:** TDSB, 5050 Yonge Street

**Co-Chairs:** Eva Rosenstock & Jerako-Biaje-Wendt

**Members present;** Eva Rosenstock (Co-Chair – Ward 12), Jerako Biaje-Wendt (Co-Chair – Ward 10), Virginia Ludy (Ward 2), Laurie Green (Ward 3), Tina Chan Kim (Ward 3 Alt), Norman Perry (Ward 4), Suban Abdullahi (Ward 5), Devon Forbes (Ward 5 Alt), Jane Withey (Ward 7), John Trafananko (Ward 15), James Rycman (Ward 19), Sharon Kerr (Ward 21), Saida Sabrie ( SPLC), Samy Ramachandran (Canada Tamil Parents Association), Trustee Howard Goodman, Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos, Jim Spyropoulos (TDSB – Coordinating Superintendent), Michelle Munroe (TDSB – PCIO Central Coordinator), Cathy McCulloch (PIAC Coordinator)

### **Recommendation:**

- That the Board provide sufficient notice of meetings, being a minimum of 14 days prior to a public consultation meeting and that the meeting be held a minimum of 14 days prior to the Board deliberating on the item. In addition PIAC will depute that a motion was previously passed and accepted by the Board and is not being followed by staff.

### **Recommendation Process:**

- The recommendation was forwarded to Board Services on March 25, 2013 for presentation at the (April 4 2013) Program and School Service Committee.
- PIAC was able to depute at the PSSC meeting on April 4, 2013.

### **Deputation to PSSC on behalf of PIAC - Thursday, April 4, 2013 – Prepared by Laurie Green**

Thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight on behalf of PIAC. It is exactly this moment...this standing deputation opportunity for PIAC to address PSSC that is one clear example of what I am here to discuss tonight. It is representative of this board's commitment to parent consultation. Parent involvement and meaningful consultation has been a longstanding goal of the TDSB. The TDSB has been a leader in parent engagement that extends back to legacy boards. It is the TDSB that has established the Parent and Community Involvement Office that demonstrates an understanding of the pivotal role parents play in student success and the staff support that this requires. It is the TDSB that has taken steps to reach all parents regardless of their socioeconomic or cultural background or language barriers by creating official board advisory committees, by creating Community Liaison groups who sit on PIAC, by developing parent academies in model schools, by holding parent engagement meetings across the board on a variety of topics including transitions and secondary destinations, etc.

These large measures are attributable to three groups: passionate trustees, passionate board staff and passionate parents/community members. It is a partnership that has shown tremendous potential.

Recently, this access has been challenging. I come here to speak to you tonight because of feedback I have received that individual parents as well as those representing advisory groups within the board are having difficulty having their voices heard and, in the wider context, having sufficient time to consult with their membership prior to giving their input to the board. This has been a repeated problem that we hear about frequently from school councils across the city – timelines are too short for them to consult and provide meaningful feedback or notice for meetings is too short for members to attend. This has been the experience of PIAC as well. Because of this problem, Trustee Dandy put forward a motion that brought about the recently approved Consultation Policy and our understanding is that the procedures will be completed soon. We are hoping that this process will alleviate these difficulties. However, we also recognize that the rules and/or interpretations around deputations may also be creating some barriers that we would like to see examined and addressed.

Parents have had difficulty arranging deputations to board committees within their guidelines for deputation request even though, in some cases, the agenda for the meeting had not yet been released. For example, deputations to be presented to SEAC must be requested by 4 pm ten working days prior to the meeting but the agenda for the meeting is distributed the weekend before the meeting. Recently, notification of the Participatory Budget group was 2 working days in advance of the meeting and attendance by parents was poor. We heard concerns about this from both our members and members of the Equity Advisory Committee. This meeting was not broadcast. One AC has been declined the opportunity to depute to a standing committee, even though their request met all the criteria. Deputations to standing committees are parents' only direct access to the board since there are no longer deputations to the board as a whole. Recently, phase 1 budget information was released on the board's website with less than 1 week prior to decisions been made which resulted in true parent consultation by only 1 trustee. While we recognize that the purpose of elected trustees is to represent and advocate for students and parents across the board, we understand that this is not an effective strategy for all parents nor are trustees remunerated in a way that is commensurate with the workload true parent engagement requires.

Dr. Joyce Epstein is a well-known researcher in the field of parent involvement and she has demonstrated its benefits on student achievement with all 6 types of parent engagement, including decision making at the school and system level. The outcomes encompass improved attendance, grades, test scores, graduation rates, motivation and self-esteem and this positive effect holds true whatever a family's background or income level. We recognize that your staff has used this framework to develop strategies for parent engagement in schools in the system and we look to the board to continue and improve its engagement of parents and community at the system level by removing barriers to deputations and facilitating timely and effective communication and consultation.

Thank you for your time.

### **Outcome – PSSC Meeting – Thursday, April 4, 2013**

The end result was that PSSC moved our motion with the amendments in red:

“The Board provide sufficient notice of meetings, being minimum of 14 days prior to a public consultation meeting **where possible and feasible** and that the meeting be held a minimum of 14 days prior to the Board deliberating on the item **where possible and feasible**.”

The next step is that this motion will be recommended at the next Board Meeting (April 17)