

PIAC Co-Chairs Report

April 2021

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES COMMITTEE (PSSC)

PIAC Co-Chairs (D. Williams and Felicia Seto-Lau) attended the PSSC meeting on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 and presented the PIAC reports of February and March 2021. D. Williams also presented a delegation on behalf of the PIAC Consultations WG with respect to the letter to the Minister of Education stating the support of PIAC on the importance of the Priority Programs Fund (PPF) [formerly known as the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants] to school councils and regional parent engagement initiatives. Trustees voiced their support of PIAC's letter to the Minister of Education. A suggestion was made to broaden the reach of this advocacy.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that all PIAC members review the letter sent to the Minister of Education and share with their communities the importance of the PPF. Please ask your community to write and/or call their MPP to share the impact this funding has on our school communities and the importance of parent engagement in improving student achievement and well-being.

Minutes and agendas for all Board Committee meetings can be found on the TDSB website on the agenda and minutes page. <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Agenda-Minutes>

ONTARIO PIC CONNECTION

The Co-Chairs of the Ontario PIC Connection group are D. Williams (PIAC Co-Chair, Toronto District School Board) and Crystal Bevens-Leblanc (PIC Co-Chair, Limestone District School Board). PIAC Co-Chair D. Williams continues to collaborate with fellow Ontario PIC chairs of the Ontario PIC Connection:

- As previously reported, on February 24, 2021, PIAC Co-Chair (D. Williams) attended the PIC Chairs Virtual Meeting held by the Ministry of Education.

The following documents are now available:

Link to Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) Chairs Presentation February 24, 2021 >

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18RQcHMUzVq5SVzV0SWa0DnBB78ceuOkh/view?usp=sharing>

Link to Ministry of Education Parent Engagement Meeting Summary February 23 & 24, 2021 >

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12CJr7KfYgE6NvjHWIUfP4ceQqZvObtCl/view?usp=sharing>

- On April 9, 2021, PIAC Co-Chair (D. Williams) hosted and attended the Ontario PIC Connection meeting via Zoom to continue discussions of forming an “Ontario PIC Association” recognized by the Ministry of Education. Draft terms of reference/bylaws are being worked on for discussion with the Ministry of Education.

TDSB HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY P031 CONSULTATION

Presented by PIAC and the TDSB Human Rights Office on Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 7:00pm. The PIAC Consultation WG with support from the PIAC Co-Chairs are offering a presentation and consultation session, including a question and answer period, by Irit Kelman (Acting Senior Manager, Human Rights Office), Ros Salvador (Senior Human Rights Policy, Education, Organizational Change Specialist), Anu Sharma (Education, Policy and Organizational Change Specialist), and Gilary Massa Machado (Human Rights Outreach and Engagement Officer) on the Human Rights Policy and the [TDSB Human Rights Annual Report](#).

PIAC PRESENTS: BREAKING BARRIERS BY CHANGING BIAS

Join us on Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., for this virtual event. As partners in education, PIAC is delighted to present Kevin Carrington as our keynote speaker to share his experience in breaking barriers and changing bias in his career on our screens. Please join the PIAC Spring Event WG members on May 1 and May 2 starting at 10 am for engaging conversations with TDSB staff and Trustees, while learning to identify and shift bias. All PIAC members are strongly encouraged to attend and support the conversations.

PIAC POST

The PIAC Communications and Outreach WG published the March 2021 PIAC POST. Please look out for this monthly newsletter in your email and share it with those in your communities (ensure your email accounts are updated with our Committee Assistant, Latha John). Please send any updates or ideas for future PIAC POST editions to the PIAC Communications and Outreach WG co-leads (Seema Mitchell and Wilmar Kortleevever).

PIAC GOOGLE DRIVE RE-ORGANIZATION

The PIAC Google Drive Sub-Working Group with the PIAC Co-Chairs have been working on a framework to re-organize the documents in the PIAC Google Drive to better allow access for PIAC members. PIAC Working Group co-leads are being requested to begin using the Google Drive folder assigned to their WG to place meeting minutes, WG reports and other pertinent documents for records keeping and sharing with members.

Please look out for an email shortly with a survey link to understand each PIAC member’s confidence and knowledge level of Google Drive.

PIAC STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-22

Reminder for PIAC members to attend the **PIAC Strategic Planning Session** being held virtually on **Saturday, June 5, 2021 (9am-1pm)**. All PIAC representative and alternate are expected to attend and share their voices to decide our path for the 2021-22 school year.

TDSB COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) BI-ANNUAL CHAIRS' MEETING

The TDSB Parent and Community Engagement Office (PCEO) facilitated a meeting of the CAC, PIAC and SEAC chairs/co-chairs on March 25, 2021, to share experiences of continuing our advisory roles during this pandemic. Concerns shared included the challenges of keeping mandates relevant and participants engaged while meeting virtually. The PIAC Co-Chairs shared that PIAC vacancies are low at this time, PIAC members transitioned to virtual Zoom platform meetings in April 2020 and a request was made to have staff make available TDSB Equity and Inclusion training to all CAC members, PIAC members and SEAC members to assist us in supporting our parent communities.

PIAC WORKING GROUPS (WG)

This is a gentle reminder to all PIAC members that our Bylaws state that **all members must participate on at least one working group**. If you have not yet signed up for a working group, please fill out the online form at <http://bit.ly/WGsignup2020> as soon as possible. Also, for any community members who wish to sign up for non-governance working groups, please also use this link. If you have any questions about the working groups, please contact the PIAC Co-Chairs at info@torontopiac.com.

For PIAC working group co-leads: please remember to include all signed-up working group members in working group communications (including community members). For assistance to find all working group members, please contact the PIAC Membership WG co-leads (Janice Barnett and Nazerah Sheikh).

See the **PIAC Calendar** for links to meetings and events > <http://www.torontopiac.com>