

PIAC Chair Report

September 24, 2024

Welcome back

Welcome back to another school year! Please welcome back our PIAC Trustee liaison Ward 4 Trustee Matias de Dovitiis. Please also welcome executive superintendent for Learning Centre 1 Jack Negro and centrally assigned principal Lisa Dilworth who will be joining PAIC meetings this this school year. As your co-chair I am looking forward to a busy year for PIAC with activities to include completing a strategic plan for PIAC, co-representatives engaging with the school councils, parents and caregivers in their wards, the annual PIAC conference that will be an in-person event for the third year since the COVID -19 restrictions were lifted. Using PIAC's voice and developing positive relationships while engaging with our ward trustees and the staff of the TDSB all to support the wellbeing and achievement of all students in the TDSB.

PIAC Meetings

A reminder to everyone online and in the Boardroom that PIAC general meetings are recorded and are attended by not only PIAC members but by Trustees, staff, and members of the general public. As well the general PIAC meetings are posted on the TDSB website to be accessed by anyone that visits the website. Let us all use respectful language, conduct during all PIAC meetings.

Code of Conduct

PIAC's code of conduct is available on the Google drive and is available for all members to read. Please make yourself familiar with the code of conduct, if you have any questions about the code of conduct please feel free to reach out to the co-chairs. PIAC's code of conduct is in place to remind all of us that our behavior is to be respectful, and allows all of us to feel safe in all PIAC spaces from small conversations to large general meetings.

This safety gives all members the space to do the great work that PIAC does, allows all of us to safely speak and share ideas. We all have to acknowledge that we may not always agree with each other all the time and understand that with those moments it provide us with the opportunity to have discussions and work through items we need to support school councils, parents, caregivers and students of the TDSB. Please understand that in a general meeting there may be times that a

discussion may need to be taken back to a working group for further discussion, this will still allow voices to be heard and important issues to be discussed but still allow for the business of PIAC to take place at our general meetings.

Moving Forward and how we can get there

Moving forward means just that, moving forward. There were bumps along the way last year and there are bound to be bumps this year but as a group we should learn from the bumps without creating a negative space.

As a committee even with our bylaws and best practices we may at times forget a process and when that happens we can look at the process and review, reflect and develop how the process could be improved. This is not an easy task and one that is a challenge with a talented group of up to 44 parents and caregivers that make up PIAC.

Let's get things done!

At conferences and at various occasions I have encouraged school council members to get ready, get set and engage. As PIAC, let's get ready, get set and engage together as a committee to support school councils and have meaningful conversations with TDSB staff, trustees and each other.

Strategic Planning Session

Planning is currently underway led by our Strategic Planning Working Group to organize and facilitate a PIAC strategic planning session. More details to follow soon. I am looking forward to seeing as many PIAC members involved to participate in this very important process that will build a strategic plan to guide PIAC's work.

Special Meeting for PICs and School Board Leads

On Wednesday September 18, 2024 co-chair Zena Shereck attended a special meeting for PICs and School Board leads. This meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Education and was focussed around Policy/Program Memorandum 128 - The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct (PPM 128). The meeting was very informative and had speakers that included the new Minister of Education the Honourable Jill Dunlop, Katelyn Abreu from the Centre for Mental Health and Addition (CAMH), Kathryn Hill from Media Smarts and Cathy Smart from School Mental Health Ontario, these organizations had spoken about programmes and resources that are available to parents, caregivers and school councils around

mental health and wellbeing and addition to support students who may be challenged at this time. There will also be \$1.5 million dollars for school Boards to work with PICs to work together in creating awareness campaigns around the policy and support that is available to students and their families. Links to these resources and to the PPM 128 are available below.

Policy/Program Memorandum 128 - The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-childs-education-parent-guide-our-school-system#section5-a>

TDSB PR585: Board Code of Conduct

<https://ppf.tdsb.on.ca/uploads/files/live/98/1714.pdf>

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/Cell-Phone-Mobile-Device-Use>

STOP (Centre for Mental Health and Addiction)

<https://intrepidlab.ca/en/stop/stop-on-the-net>

Media Smarts

https://mediasmarts.ca/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIIsqe5hP6aiAMV0jgIBR1GKQGFEAAYASAAEgIVSvD_BwE

School Mental Health Ontario

<https://smho-smso.ca/>

Board Committee Meetings

Governance and Policy Committee

Co-chairs Sharon Grant and Zena Shereck attended the Governance and Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday May 29, 2024 to answer additional questions of the recommendations brought to the Board for the School Fundraising and System Priorities Fund. PIAC's recommendations have been referred to TDSB staff and the co-chair will be following up with staff.

Program and School Services Committee

There is a Program and School Services Committee meeting on Wednesday September 25, 2024. The process for PSSC meetings will be that CAC co-chairs will only present recommendations to the committee. Prior 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>

PIAC Working Groups

The important work of PIAC happens as we support our school councils and school communities in person and direct communication as well in our PIAC working groups. As

per our PIAC by-laws each PIAC member is required to sign up and participate in at least one PIAC working group. There are two types of PIAC working groups, the governance and non-governance working groups. The current governance working groups are; Membership, Operational Effectiveness which includes Budget and By-laws, and the Strategic Planning workgroups which are open to all PIAC co-representatives and the CLG representative to PIAC. Our non-governance working groups are; Communications, Special Events, School Council Support and Consultations working groups which are open to all PIAC co-representatives, members, TDSB Parents and Caregivers as well as persons from the community. Please look out for the link from the PCCE Office to sign up for a working group and read the working group descriptions. All of our working groups are support by the TDSB PCCEO team (Parent Caregiver and Community Engagement Office). If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the co-chair.

PIAC Post Newsletter

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 Parent Caregiver and Community Engagement Office). Please send any updates or ideas for future PIAC POST editions to the co-chairs at info@torontopiac.com

PIAC Google Drive

We are encouraging all PIAC members to use the PIAC Google Drive for member resources and Working Group activities. Please complete the User Agreement to gain access to the drive: <https://bit.ly/PIACGOOGLE2021>. Thanks to all the members who have completed the PIAC Google Drive User Agreement.

To facilitate the important work which members are doing to be in compliance with security protocol, all Working Groups are to be using this shared PIAC Google Drive. If you are a PIAC Working Group lead, please move your work into the WG Google folders created in the “!Start Here-PIAC Main Folder!” and make piac.toronto the owner of the folders/documents.

Days to recognize in September

Monday September 30, 2024 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2024

Zena Shereck

Co-Chair, Parent Involvement Advisory Committee, TDSB