

**Parent Involvement in Education Plan: PIC & Councils**  
**April 11, 2006**

**BOARD LEVEL PIEP**

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**Implementing the Board Level PIC (Parent Involvement Committee): The Who**

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- Ensure that all activities not happen at Board level, i.e. “Highlights” are communicated to school council, parents, teachers, principals, i.e. help us to know what’s going on rather than us finding out
- Building a community between schools
- One representative from each school
- Representation around diversity
- A member of School Council
- Different school ages
- Geographical reps from elementary team – French Immersion, Special Education
- Trustee presentation of the entire region – JK to graduation
- How long?? 1/3 New – 2/3 reoccurring
- 1 or 2 parents from Family of Schools representing whole group of school
- Socioeconomic classes
- Different levels – k-6, 6-8, high school
- Small schools need representation as well
- Vote – have chairs vote?
- Wayne Joudrie
- Jacki Oxley
- Parent Reps
- Special Education Rep
- Regional Reps
- 16 Secondary School council reps
- 76 Elementary School Council reps
- Trustee
- Rotate members?
- Community members
- City Councillor
- Program Coordinator
- School Council
- Parent per district
- One School Council for elementary/secondary
- Representatives from: Council or PTO, primary school, middle school, high school from all geographic areas

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**What do you want PIC to provide to your council?**

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- Ideas from other schools
- Shared events e.g., guest speakers
- Surveys – e.g. If a survey impacts more than one school in a community
- Parent education, e.g. Participation in school effectiveness plan
- Clear grant criteria
- Website of best practices
- Communication – speakers – website
- Leadership in .....
- Recruitment
- Best practices
- Principal training to facilitate PIC
- Packet to parents
- Communication
- Send rep out to every council meeting
- Meeting open to public
- Posted agenda
- Conference i.e. fundraising
- “sharing best” package
- Info on Board/Ministry resource and directions for students
- Assistance to reach out to the schools being represented
- Information
- Strategies
- A voice to the Board
- Information from the Ministry
- Support for recruiting more parent volunteers
- Information source from board
- Best practices
- Program co-coordinator
- Opportunity to contribute and be heard
- PIC needs to communicate directly with schools
- Sharing of best practices trends and demographics
- Sharing and vetting of policy information
- Easier access to resources and info, i.e. website difficult to maneuver
- Information from school to school
- Be a conduit for information within
- Organizational
- Transitioning from one year to next
  - Orientation
  - Budget
  - Grant applications

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**What activities do you want PIC involved with?**

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- E-mail?
- Dissemination of information, i.e. communication
- Consistency between schools with respect to what gets communicated
- Ensure communication is done through administration, can't count on the volunteers who come and go
- Resource support when councils need it
- Communication
- Tools to recruit parents and volunteers
- Weekend conference – P.D.
- Training and support
- Input budget
- Direction/goals of system
- Strategic planning
- Day at Board's various curriculum
- Participate (Quarterly on Board Agenda – Part of Agenda\_
- More effective communication channel
- Broader perspective of issue
- Meaningful involvement for parents in schools
- Role in facilitating communication
- Advise the Director
- Information sharing
- Advisory Body
- Encourage ethnic diversity
- Information support – help in getting more parents involved
- Modeling and training in how to engage communities
- Training for council members
- Sharing and developing models and best practices for student success
- Educating parents on educational issues, i.e. teen issues, tribes
- Funding issues
- Providing input on Board policy, i.e. health and Safety, education, accommodation and student placement
- Focused involvement in recruiting a more diverse representative group

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**Meeting times & locations?**

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- Regionally 2x/yr – (North/South)
- Locally (Family of Schools) 2 – 4x/yr at local schools
- Four times a year
- Milton (Central)
- At night – 7:00 – 9:00 - Central
- Central for all areas
- Quarterly
- Quarterly max. Rotate centrally to each community
- Once every other month
- Book meeting before Parent Council meeting
- Conference calls
- Meet more frequently at the beginning
- Quarterly – Rotate from Burlington, Oakville, Milton
- Central location
- Quarterly meetings
- Rotate meetings each quarterly
- Central to all
- Possibly rotate to accommodate everyone
- Initially, at least monthly
- Community to community rotation
- Evening or over dinner
- Must be flexible to accommodate parents who stay home and work
- Every other month
- Locations to vary, i.e. north, south, east, west, central
- Opportunity to invite a partner school or buddy to meetings

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**Outreach Strategies**

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- Homework clubs, All Star Reading – continue to engage parents
- Identification of language barriers with staff – so that the dissemination of information in different languages could be possible
- What’s in it for me?
- Advertising
- E-mail addresses on e-mail to Parents from Council
- Personal speak to as many parents
- Set up “meet council tables” at school events
- Continue to grow – not inclusive “not club:
- Newsletter
- Guest Speakers
- Volunteer Programs
- BBQ
- Open House
- Fundraisers
- Flyers
- Parent Training – CHATT, Communications
- Tim’s Welcome
- Arts Presentations/Night
- Guest Speakers
- Parent Help Night
- JK/SK orientation
- Solicit for grandparents/older siblings and neighbours
- Electronic format
- Access community resources – i.e. Public Health Nurse
- Free Parent involved community events
- Information packages – parents – local residents
- Website (school)
- Community event – e.g. BBQ
- Family of Schools
- Community Events through media avenues
- At community Events include current events that are happening at the school, i.e. new technology introduction
- Communicating educational topics via Newsletters
- Identify and invite diverse community leaders to create a bridge between parents and school
- Meaningful focused discussion

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**Outreach Strategies**

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**Outreach Strategies: (x2):**

- Creating an e-mail list – Board wide – ensure content is what we need
- Important distinction between the ones being on parents to go to the HDSB website for info vs. the HDSB being proactive about sending it out, especially highlights
- Website x4
- Posted agenda
- Conference, i.e. – fundraising
- “Sharing best” package
- Mentor Club
- All Star Reading
- Homework Club
- Breakfast Club
- Volunteers In class
- Nutrition Break Clubs
- Websites
- Literacy Week
- Reading Program
- Newsletter
- Convey specific information regarding time involved in activities
- Open dialogue to represent members
- Website as a communication tool
- E-mail – newsletters
- Information meetings
- Engage local businesses
- JK/SK evening/educating families on what School Council’s mandate is and isn’t
- Advertising and reaching out to “feeder” schools for specific topics, i.e. bullying
- Opportunity for Councils to add their input to PIC

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**What help do you need?**

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- Administrative support at the school level and at the Board level
- Provide tools to build communication
- Website
- E-mail
- More informed of Board policy
- Volunteers strategies to reach out
- Full time/part time paid staff to operate
- Continue to pas on information
- Conduit of information
- Present how School Council works
- If the information is available for similar schools with similar demographics – it would be feat to buddy up similar schools to share ideas
- Assistance in focusing efforts with respect to effective fundraising
- Cash
- List of resources
- Access to family (parent e-mail addresses for electronic newsletters)
- Literacy and numeracy program support
- Training – board-wide for new council members and new Chairs
- Funding re covering costs for media, photocopying
- Ideas for other types of communication
- Training/workshops for councils/chairs to assist in recruiting, facilitating meetings and workshops/communicating with families
- Communication strategies to ensure more “father’s” engaged in process
- Information sessions
- Training volunteers in safety/precautions
- Training School councils

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**How do you want to receive assistance?**

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- Provide daycare for those attending meetings in evenings
- Recognition of the School Council's role by staff and administration, especially in those activities that are non fund-raising!
- Seminars
- Training to School Council
- Workshops
- Proven strategies that will work in specific communities
- Translation
- Ethnic understanding/outreach strategies
- Lose silent majority Seminars
- Printed
- E-mail
- Web links
- Cash (financial support)
- Best practices
- Training
- Strategies
- Workshops
- Resources
- Contact List – administration – Support Staff
- Manuals
- Through a School Council representative