



Interim Expectations for Parent/Family Engagement in the School Improvement Process

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 9 June, 2021

Report No.: 06-21-4109

Strategic Directions

- Transform Student Learning
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

The extension of the 2019-2020 interim expectations for parent/family involvement in the school improvement process to 2021-2022 with the addition of data sharing with parents and caregivers be received.

Context

The Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Community Engagement Action Plan (p.46) states that staff will: establish expectations for parental and student engagement in the school improvement process. It is recognized that diverse student and parent perspectives are important to transform student learning, raise achievement and well-being, and address opportunity gaps. On March 20, 2019, the Board received a report which outlined a consultation process for the development of *interim* expectations for parent involvement in the school improvement process until related policy statements are developed through the formal review of P:023 Parent and Community Engagement Policy.

A consultation group was established through outreach to community advisory committees and staff groups. Staff met with the consultation group before creating any expectations. The first meeting focused on establishing a common understanding of the Toronto District School Board's school improvement process and soliciting their ideas about the things staff should consider when developing expectations for family

engagement in the school improvement process. The feedback gathered from the group informed the development of interim expectations which were then shared with the consultation group at a second meeting. Some of the themes raised in the discussion included:

- Enhanced outreach strategies are required for families of students who are under-served,
- Regulation 612 requires school councils to be consulted on school improvement however this practice varies widely,
- Families aren't aware that they can participate in the school improvement process
- Capacity needs to be built to fulfill these new expectations,
- Explore a variety of methods and strategies for engaging families and value multiple forms of family engagement,
- Some diverse voices and perspectives must be considered,
- School councils aspire to engage a variety of parent voices,
- Identify and promote current effective practices for an engagement at the elementary and secondary panels and school councils and
- Provide families with information about the school improvement process.

The 2021-2022 proposed interim expectations for school teams will focus on:

- explaining the school improvement process and the value of family involvement in it.
- Principals will seek input on the initial thinking regarding SIP goals with the school council (as required under Regulation 613) and from all parents and caregivers, particularly those, under-represented and under-served.
- Share School Data with parents/caregiver on (Wellbeing, Equity, and Achievement).

Both the staff and consultation group members agree that there is value in continuing to work together to support positive implementation from various perspectives.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Upon approval of the extension, staff will ensure communication to all staff by September 2021. Additionally, several resources will be created to assist with the involvement of parents and caregivers. This will include protocols for engagement and communication tools

Superintendents will work with Community Support Workers, where applicable, to build capacity among principals/vice-principals to engage families and school councils.

There will be further consideration of strategies to monitor implementation.

Resource Implications

Not applicable

Communications Considerations

Staff will work with the Community Relations Department to develop resources and all other communication needs and support required.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

P.023: Parent and Community Engagement Policy

Appendices

NIL

From

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