

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting Notes - November 26, 2008, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Report by OCASC representative at meeting, Anne Teutsch

The OCDSB has a new Diversity and Equity Coordinator. Her name is Jacqueline Lawrence. She gave a very interesting talk on her experiences, her role at the OCDSB, what she has done in her first month with the District, and what she wants to accomplish over the next year or more.

Jacqueline Lawrence on Diversity

- many drivers for diversity, including: aging population, immigration, technology (what tools are available to students to engage them).
- some goals: close the gap in terms of representation, ensure that the organization reflects the client base, build awareness, break down barriers, work to graduate "the total child".
- OCDSB diversity and equity goals for 2008/2009:
 - continuum for OCDSB - community consultations and dialogues; equity continuum scale;
 - provide training and awareness for senior staff, principals, vice-principals, and HR staff;
 - district wide census and survey;
 - employment systems review;
- work already happening at OCDSB in terms of diversity and equity:
 - aboriginal education is being looked at;
 - accessibility issues are being addressed;
 - a respectful workplace initiative is in place;
- December 10 is date of first community dialogue at Board offices;

OCDSB PRO Grant (Parents Reaching Out)

- grant application is for a programme being called "Connected Conversations" :
 - a series of three guest speakers to talk with both parents and staff (likely separately)
 - Barry MacDonald, author of Booy Smarts, on mentoring boys for success at school
 - James Cummins on at-risk students in the ELL (English Language Learners) programme
 - Debbie Pushor on parental engagement and leadership strategies;

PIC Governance Discussion

- PIC is mandated by the provincial government to increase parental involvement in the school system
- discussion centered around "how do we separate the roles of OCASC and PIC?"
- it is required by the province that the Director of Education be a member of the PIC