

Building **PARENT ENGAGEMENT** Together



ANNUAL REPORT

Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee

Our Purpose

The purpose of a Parent Involvement Committee is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the Board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. Ontario Regulation 612/00

Our Vision

We are committed to investing in parent engagement in our schools and their communities.

Our Mission

We promote the involvement of family and community in the education of children by providing resources, knowledge and training to facilitate student success in a caring, learning environment.

Our Meetings

The Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC) meetings were open to the public and were held at the Thames Valley Education Centre, usually from 6:30pm – 8:30pm on the second Thursday of the month. The 2018-2019 meetings were held in September, November (Cedar Hollow P.S. hosted), January, February, April, May and June.

Membership

TVPIC continues to build their membership each year. A call for membership was put out early in the year and again in February. Many new parent and community members joined the committee who contributed their time and skills to parent engagement.

Principal Richard Tamminga (Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School) and Principal Kim Robertson (Jeanne Sauve French Immersion Public School) acted as secondary and elementary administrator representatives to TVPIC, respectively.

Trustee Arlene Morell provided TVPIC with support and guidance with her years of knowledge of parent engagement and Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) governance.

Superintendent of Student Achievement Don Macpherson supported TVPIC as the Director's Delegate to TVPIC, contributing to TVPIC's overall strategy and direction. He was assisted by Louise Fraser, who handled a wide range of administrative and financial responsibilities and Shaun Tucker, who continued to support TVPIC with graphics, communication, social media and marketing.

Shannon Smith provided corporate support, including the preparation of meeting agendas and minutes, securing meeting rooms and sending important matters to members and trustees for approval.

Alicia Goldie, of the TVDSB finance department, helped to manage TVPIC accounts and prepared monthly statements regarding school spending with respect to the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants and Parent Involvement Funds (PIF).

Highlights

Approximately 520 TVDSB stakeholders attended an evening with 'Dr. Debbie Pushor' on February 11, 2019, at the London Convention Centre, where Dr. Pushor unpacked the differences between 'Parent Involvement and Parent Engagement'. TVPIC members were invited to attend a smaller session on February 12, 2019 with Dr. Debbie Pushor, focusing on plans to further develop family engagement throughout our system.

TVPIC hosted an information session in Oxford prior to the end of the school year to support School Councils and to increase an awareness about the role of TVPIC.

TVPIC approved the allocation of additional funds through an applications process 'Parent Enhancement Funds' to approximately 50 schools for a variety of initiatives which all pertained to developing parent/family engagement.

School Council Initiatives

TVDSB school councils continued to support parent engagement through a variety of programs and initiatives that were funded through the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Each year, all TVDSB schools may apply for parent engagement funding through the Ministry's Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. Individual schools may apply for up to \$1,000 each year, or up to \$10,000 to enhance parent engagement on a regional basis. During the 2018-2019 school year, a total of 58 schools received PRO Grant funding and 1 regional grant received funding. Of those 58 schools, 36% organized a math event, 25% organized an event relating to mental health and well-being, 24% organized an event to build family and parent engagement and 15% organized a literacy event.

In addition to the PRO Grant funding, approximately 83 schools used portions of their allocation of Parent Involvement Funds (PIF) which they received from the Ministry. A number of schools held a math event, reflecting the board's emphasis on improving math performance; several other schools held social and cultural events, some used the funds to host a technology event; and other events included family nights, tools to enhance communication with parents and meet the teacher events.

Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee Membership 2018-2019

The Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee is a partnership of the Thames Valley District School Board, Schools Councils, the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations and other parent groups.

Parent Members:

S. Thomson, Chair
S. Vries, Vice-Chair
M. Bayes, Parent Member
K. Frisa, Parent Member
L. Gonzalez, Parent Member
J. Grant, Parent Member
F. Elamin, Parent Member
L. Martinez, Parent Member

Other Members:

A. Morell, Trustee
L. Pizzolato, Trustee – alternate representative
D. Macpherson, Superintendent of Student Achievement
K. Robertson, Principal, Thames Valley Administrator's Committee Elementary
R. Tamminga, Principal, Thames Valley Secondary School Administrators' Council
T. Whaley, Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations
S. Smith, Assistant, Corporate Services
S. Tucker, Communications Department