



Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

October 29, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams – [Click here to join the meeting](#)

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Welcome & Introductions**
3. **Appointments to the Committee**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
5. **Review of Minutes**
 - a. December 11, 2024 ([p.2](#))
 - b. February 19, 2025 (informal) ([p.15](#))
 - c. April 16, 2025 (informal) ([p.24](#))
6. **Presentations**
 - a. 2025-2029 Strategic Plan (Superintendent Elvestad)
7. **Strategic Plan Vignette:** [October: Building inclusive communities](#)
8. **Correspondence**
 - a. Ministry Memo: Fresh from the Farm (2025-08-21) ([p.28](#))
9. **Other Items**
10. **Future Meeting Dates & Topics**
 - a. Meeting Dates:
 - i. December 10, 2025
 - ii. February 25, 2026
 - iii. April 22, 2026
 - b. Topics for Discussion:
11. **Lollipop Moments**
12. **Adjournment**



District School Board
Ontario North East

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

December 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

Skye Pomainville	Chair of the Committee, Parent - Timmins
Ashley Mitchell	Vice-Chair of the Committee, Parent - Temagami
Angele Samson	Parent Representative – Timmins
Natalie Robinson	Parent Representative – Kapuskasing
Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Education
Shannon Sayeau	Principal Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Deepak Datta	Parent Representative – Timmins
Tanya Bernard	Parent Representative – Cochrane
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee, Chair of the Board
Jonathan Byer	Trustee, Vice-Chair of the Board

Guests in Attendance:

Billie Doucette, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Presenter)
Rita Leukert, School Council Chair - TDSS
Tara Ollis, School Council Chair - RRBPS

Recording Secretary: Sharyn Bradford, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Skye Pomainville, Chair of the Committee.

We acknowledge as a School Board, that we are guests on the lands of the Anishinaabe, Algonquin and Cree people, located in the Robinson-Huron and Treaty 9 territory. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

2. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with introductions, participants sharing their role or interest in PIC, as well as the school community they are a part of.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was shared and reviewed. No changes were requested.

MOTION: That the agenda for the Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated December 11, 2024, be approved.

- Moved by: Tara Ollis

CARRIED

4. Review of Minutes

The Minutes from the Parent Involvement Committee meeting held on November 6, 2024, were reviewed. No changes or corrections were requested.

MOTION: To approve the Minutes of the PIC meeting held November 6, 2024.

- Moved by: Ashley Mitchell

CARRIED

5. Presentations

a. Special Education Portfolio Information (Superintendent Pladzyk)

Superintendent Pladzyk said that he will be deferring this presentation to a different meeting, in the interest of keeping this meeting within a reasonable time.

b. Hearing Screening (Teacher Billie Doucette)

Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Billie Doucette, gave a presentation about our Board's hearing screening program. The goal of the project is to identify and eliminate barriers for our young learners which could be impacting their ability to be successful in a school setting. The board has formed partnerships with local service providers to provide free screening. The project began in spring of 2022, screening all kindergarten students, and has expanded in the years since. They have found that providing these screenings has opened up lines of communication for both parents and teachers to talk about and follow up on possible hearing difficulties. She explained the importance of identifying hearing loss, as it impacts brain development, and leads to many difficulties when left undiagnosed. She shared the results from the screenings since its inception, as well as stories of how this program has had a positive impact on various students across the board. The presentation slides are included [at the end](#).

Superintendent Pladzyk thanked her for the presentation and added that this screening is not a requirement for school boards. It is something that we, as a Board, have chosen to do at Billie's recommendation, which she brought to our Special Education depart. It is a way that we can support those essential primary reading and writing skills by removing barriers. It shows the passion and commitment that Billie has for her work, and the commitment we have as a Board to ensure all of our students have the tools they need to be successful.

Discussion followed:

- The screening takes place at the school. It is a brief screening, not a complete assessment. If they fail the screening, further testing is recommended.
- A barrier we are finding is the parents not being able to follow-up with full assessments at the hospital, due to financial, travel, or time constraints.
- When a student is recommended for further testing, the Special Education department will work with families on a one-to-one basis to assist if it is needed.
- The program is not funded by the Ministry, but we do get special education funds from them that we can apply for initiatives. We endeavor to help where we can.
- The waitlist like for the audiologist is not too long. Follow-up generally happens within a few weeks, not months and months.
- It is great to see teachers taking the initiative and reaching out to refer older students for screening when they see a possible issue. And to see how this results in such a positive impact in learning and behaviour.

6. Strategic Plan Vignette

The Strategic Plan Vignette for November (Fostering personal excellence) was played. The link is available in the agenda, or you can visit the DSB1 [YouTube](#) channel to view this vignette and more.

7. Budget Discussions

Superintendent Pladzyk proposed having this agenda item as an additional stand-alone meeting, for anyone interested, and this was agreed. He asks anyone interested to please think of ideas to increase parent engagement, and to create parent education and awareness, as outlined in the budget discussion documentation on pages 17 and 18 of the agenda. The meeting would be an informal and focussed discussion, without time constraints, to come up with a plan of action. Superintendent Pladzyk would then write up the proposal developed, to bring to next formal PIC meeting for review and approval. We will plan to have this meeting in January. More information will follow.

8. Correspondence

Nil.

9. Other Items

On behalf of Michelle Oulton, School Council Chair at THVS, Shanyyn Bradford shared information regarding a video contest being held by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. This contest is for students aged 13 to 19, to make a video up to 2-minutes in length, about the importance of health and safety in the workplace. Winners, and their schools, receive cash prizes. The submission deadline is February 21, 2025. Full contest details are available here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/youth-video-contest-safety-workplace#section-3>

10. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

a. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- February 19, 2025
- April 16, 2025

b. Suggested Topics for discussion previously submitted:

- Transition to Post-Secondary
- Board work toward inclusion; assistance for newcomers experiencing racism.

11. Lollipop Moments

Chair Pomaineville shared that her daughter has enrolled in her first after-school program, for gymnastics. Last year she was discovered to have a heart defect, and had to have surgery. With the long recovery, she hasn't been able to participate and was really missing it. Her first day back is tomorrow and she is so excited! She is 5 years old.

12. Adjournment

Chair Pomaineville thanked everyone for their time and engagement. With this being her first time chairing a meeting, it was nerve-wracking! She thanked everyone for making it great.

MOTION: To adjourn and report to the Board.

- Moved by: Ashley Mitchell

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Land Acknowledgement and Commitment to Action

We respectfully acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional territories of the Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Algonquin peoples and the Métis who have chosen to settle in this area.

We commit to actions to better serve our students, families and staff who identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit.



District School Board
Ontario North East

Vision

We empower all
learners to
achieve personal
excellence.

Mission

Together, we
inspire innovation
and a passion for
learning.



District School Board
Ontario North East

Our Three Priorities

Culture
Equity
Innovation



District School Board
Ontario North East

Strategic Actions

- **Equity** – over the past three years DSB1 has been proactive at trying to identify/eliminate barriers for our young learners that could be impacting their ability to be successful in the school setting. Providing hearing screenings at our schools assisted with identifying students who may be struggling with their hearing. Not being able to hear properly impacts a child's brain development. It also has an impact on their social interactions with peers and adults.



- **Innovation** - for the past three years we have developed partnerships with Northern Ontario Audiology Services and Timiskaming Hearing Clinic to provide free hearing screenings to our kindergarten students. We also consulted with schools to identify older students who appear to be struggling with listening in the classroom setting. As a school board we realize that it is important for our students to have “clarity” in the classroom. Providing each elementary classroom with a Sound Field has assisted our students with obtaining “Clear Audible” information.



- **Culture** – Providing the hearing screenings in the school setting has opened up the lines of communication with school staff and families regarding the impact hearing loss has on a child's ability to learn. Schools are beginning to reach out to the board to see if a child has been screened or had full hearing assessments to assist with ruling out barriers that are impacting a student's ability to be successful in the classroom. Parents are following up with audiologists for further testing and being referred to ENTs/family doctors for medical attention.



Billie Richer
Teacher of the Hard of Hearing LSLS Cert. AVEd

- I have been employed with DSB1 since 2001 and I have been the Teacher of the Hard of Hearing for 21 years.
- In 2011 I became certified as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist Cert. AVEd through A.G. Bell Academy for Listening and Spoken Language. Currently there are 1105 certified in the world, and 83 in Canada. This past month I finished up 17 hours of Continuing Education Credits to renew my certification.



Leanne Nielson
Clinical Audiologist M. Sc(A) Reg. CASLPO

- Leanne's practice is Timiskaming Hearing Clinic and has offices in Kirkland Lake and Temiskaming Shores.
- Our school board has worked with Leanne, and her staff for many years meeting the needs of our DSB1 Hard of Hearing students and students with Central Auditory Processing difficulties in the Southern region of our board.



Marjo Luomala
Clinical Audiologist M. CL SC. Reg. CASLPO

- Marjo's practice is Northern Ontario Audiology Services and is in Timmins and Kapuskasing.
- Our school board has worked with Marjo, and her staff for many years meeting the needs of our DSB1 Hard of Hearing students and students with Central Auditory Processing difficulties in the Timmins and Northern regions of our board.



Why are Hearing Screenings Important?

- School-age hearing screenings are an important tool in identifying children with hearing loss who were not identified at birth, lost to follow-up, or who developed hearing loss later. Without routine hearing screenings, students with unilateral, less severe or late onset hearing loss may not be identified or will be misdiagnosed and managed.



Ears are the Doorway to the BRAIN! We Listen with the Brain!



Children with **Undiagnosed Hearing Loss** may have the following difficulties:

- hearing or understanding what's being said to them in a noisy room or from far away (sometimes called selective hearing)
- paying attention (they may be easily distracted)
- following spoken instructions and conversations
- acting out because they're frustrated
- keeping up with classroom work
- developing speech and language, including grammar and vocabulary
- missing small words (e.g., an, the)



Continued

- spelling, reading, and being able to recognize the different sounds in words (this is called phonemic awareness)
- hearing sounds clearly enough to be able to tell small differences in words (e.g., talked vs. talk vs. top, word endings including "-s", "-ing", "-ed")
- getting along with other children and being confident in social settings
- becoming tired more easily than classmates
- missing important information when the conversation is not directed towards them
- being sensitive to loud sounds
- knowing where speech, warning sounds, environmental noises are coming from



The Process

- Spring of 2022 DSB1 approved the pilot project to screen all the 1st and 2nd year Kindergarten Students in the board.
- Spring of 2023 the school board screened 1st year Kindergarten Students (2018). Our 2016/2017 students who were absent in 2022 and new to the school board students were also screened. The audiologists also re-screened students who were referrals in 2022 that didn't follow up with further testing. The schools also referred older students that they had concerns about.



- Spring of 2024 the school board screened 1st year Kindergarten Students (2019). Our 2016/2017/2018 students who were absent in 2023 and new to the school board students were also screened. The audiologists also re-screened students who were referrals in 2023 that didn't follow up with further testing. Some of the schools also referred older students that they had concerns about.



- Our Teacher of the Hard of Hearing worked with schools to coordinate dates for screenings and sent home permission forms with a brief parent survey. There was also email follow up with parents and phone calls to get permission for students who didn't return forms.
- The audiologist and their teams went into all the schools in DSB1 to screen students.
- Results were sent home with students, and a copy of the screening was left at the school to be placed in the OSR.
- Audiologists followed up with parents for students who required further testing.
- Hearing Screening Data for each school has been compiled into charts and will be shared with schools for further follow up. We need to identify the barriers families are facing regarding following up with assessments.

The Hearing Screening Results



Screening Results for 2022

Total of Students Screened (1 st & 2 nd Kindergartens)	Referrals for Full Evaluation	% of Referral
563	143	25%

Screening Results for 2023

Totals Number of Students Screened (2018, 2016/2017 – Absent in 2022, or new DSB1 students or Older Students)	Referrals for Full Evaluations	% of Referral
596	193	33%

Screening Results for 2024

Totals Number of Students Screened (2019, 2016/2017/2018 – Absent in 2023, or new DSB1 students or Older Students)	Referrals for Full Evaluations	% of Referral
646	230	36%

Southern Schools 2024

School	Screened	Referrals	Percent of screened students with "hearing" concerns
Federal PS	25	9	36%
Kerns PS	7	1	14%
Central PS	66	19	29%
Englehart PS	49	21	43%
Temagami PS	8	1	13%
Elk Lake PS	6	2	33%
New Liskeard PS	75	20	27%
Total	236	72	31%

Timmins Schools 2024

School	Screened	Referrals	Percent of screened students with "hearing" concerns
Schumacher PS	44	15	34%
Golden Ave PS	22	8	36%
Bertha Shaw PS	43	18	42%
Pinecrest PS	50	17	34%
Timmins Centennial	73	35	48%
WE Miller PS	71	34	48%
Total	303	127	42%

Northern Schools 2024

Northern Schools	Screened	Referrals	Percent of screened students with "hearing" concerns
Cochrane PS	32	15	47%
Iroquois Falls PS	28	5	18%
Joseph H. Kennedy PS	14	2	14%
DJPS	23	6	26%
Clayton Brown PS	2	0	0%
Smooth Rock Falls PS	8	2	25%
Total	107	30	28%

The Impact of the Screenings

(3 years of information that has been shared with the board)

- Referrals to an ENT (Ear Nose and Throat Doctor)– 15
- Referral to Family Doctors – 6
- Middle Ear Dysfunction/Conductive Hearing Loss – 36
- Unilateral Sensorineural Hearing Loss – 12
- Bilateral Sensorineural Hearing Loss – 4
- Hearing Aid Recommendations - 3
- Central Auditory Processing Reports - 2
- Objects in ears – 5
- Sound Field Recommendations – 18
- Psychoeducation Recommendation - 1

Next Steps

- Follow up with schools regarding their data to see if they have had success getting a hold of families regarding referrals. To date we have screened 1744 students. The schools are currently following up with 399 families to see if they have followed up with audiologists and if there are any barriers for the families.
- The school board will continue hearing screenings in the spring of 2025 for new 2020 students.
- In the new year we will be discussing the students who have been screened multiple times and have had no follow up with the audiologist.



Meegwetch

Merci

Thank you





District School Board
Ontario North East

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

February 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

Informal Meeting Notes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Skye Pomainville	Chair of the Committee, Parent - Timmins
Ashley Mitchell	Vice-Chair of the Committee, Parent - Temagami
Angele Samson	Parent Representative – Timmins
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee, Chair of the Board
Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Education

Committee Members Absent:

Deepak Datta	Parent Representative – Timmins
Natalie Robinson	Parent Representative – Kapuskasing
Tanya Bernard	Parent Representative – Cochrane
Jonathan Byer	Trustee, Vice-Chair of the Board
Shannon Sayeau	Principal Representative

Guests in Attendance:

Dina Festarini, School Council Member IFSS
Jaydip Dodiya, Parent Council Member CoPS
Karli Ellis, School Council Member IFSS
Michelle Oulton, School Council Chair THVS
Rita Leukert, School Council Chair TDSS
Stacey Kemp, School Council Member TCPS

Recording Secretary: Shanyn Bradford, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Skye Pomainville, Chair of the Committee. She confirmed we do not have quorum, but will proceed with an informal meeting.

We acknowledge as a School Board, that we are guests on the lands of the Anishinaabe, Algonquin and Cree people, located in the Robinson-Huron and Treaty 9 territory. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

2. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with introductions, participants sharing their role or interest in PIC, as well as the school community they are a part of.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was shared and reviewed. No changes were requested.

4. Review of Minutes

No quorum. This item will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

5. Presentations

a. Special Education Portfolio Information (Superintendent Pladzyk)

Superintendent Pladzyk gave an overview of our Special Education portfolio, from foundational support, to prevention and interventions. Our philosophy is that even those requiring a high level of support and specialized programming should be given every opportunity possible to integrate into regular classrooms and school experiences.

He outlined the needs across the board and how they have changed over time, as well as how needs are met and how we assign staff supports. Most of our high support programs are at maximum capacity. He highlighted some stories of specific students, the challenges they face and how we have met them. He also shared some of the barriers the board is facing and how we are working to remove them.

The presentation slides are included at the end of these meeting notes.

Discussion followed:

- How many students are those 160 supporting? And how many are the JPEAs supporting?
 - Standard assignment in high support classrooms is 1 teacher with 2 EAs, with some variance depending on need.
 - JP funding applications are by student. They are 1 student to 1 EA in all cases.
- In Saskatoon they have had issues with JP funding not being provided for approved applications, and they've had to lay off some EAs. Does this happen here?
 - We are keeping close eye on this. We have seen some service providers who are having difficulties in getting their funding, but we are confident the Federal government will ensure the funding comes through.
- EAs support for our students is very important. The Board is continues to be highly committed to providing supports for our students, though it may look different with any changes around Jordan's Principle Funding.

6. Strategic Plan Vignette

The Strategic Plan Vignette for February (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM)) was played. The link is available in the agenda, or you can visit the DSB1 [YouTube](#) channel to view this vignette and more.

7. Budget Discussions

a. PIC Annual Budget

Superintendent Pladzyk shared what our budget looks like, and what it has been used for in the past. He asked members to please consider these options as we look to decide on this year's spending.

No quorum. This item will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

b. Parent Education and Awareness Campaign

Superintendent Pladzyk shared that this campaign meshes well with current Mental Health Ontario and DSB1 mental health programming and supports. Our Mental Health Team has offered to plan this campaign, using their existing connections. As suggested in the campaign outline, this would include workshops and seminars, online webinars, collaborations with organizations, etc. Plans would be coordinated with local organizations, such as DSSAB, EarlyOn, Youth Wellness Hubs, Porcupine Health Unit, and other local services, such as police and counselling services. This would include things like workshops for parents to support their students, information sessions on such things as screentime, cannabis, vaping, digital technology, connections, and communication. There is also a plethora of information free online that can be shared.

They would plan for one session April, and one May. By March 6, Steve will send PIC the plan as a draft document for the committee to review and give feedback by email. If the plan doesn't use up all the funding, we would flow the remainder to schools for specific programming.

Everything would be promoted through social media platforms, to make it open for anyone interested to join online, with attendees able to ask questions through chat.

It was confirmed that, if some organizations have the capacity to do multiple sessions in different locations, in-person events, or even hybrid presentations, could be possible. There has been variable success with in-person events in the past. In-person events also tend to have higher costs, with travel, hotels, etc.

No quorum. This item will be moved to the next meeting agenda. Superintendent Pladzyk will provide a draft plan for the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

Nil.

9. Other Items

Nil.

10. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

a. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- April 16, 2025

b. Suggested Topics for discussion previously submitted:

- Transition to Post-Secondary
- Board work toward inclusion; assistance for newcomers experiencing racism.

11. Lollipop Moments

Stacey Kemp shared the exciting news that they haven't had a snow day this week!

Superintendent Pladzyk noted that some may disagree that that's a good thing. His son is certainly disgruntled. 😊

12. Adjournment

Chair Pomaineville thanked everyone for coming out and participating.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Vision

Empowering all
learners to
achieve personal
excellence.

Mission

Together, we
inspire innovation
and a passion for
learning.

Our Three Priorities

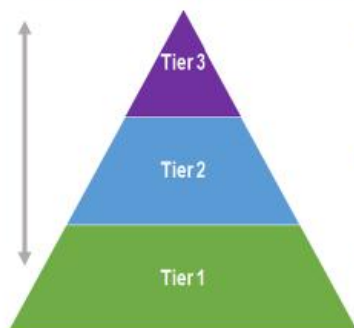
Culture
Equity
Innovation



Framing the Story



Early Identification and Intervention: Tiered Intervention Approach



Intervention for select students

Assessment and treatment from community professional services (Psychologist, Speech and Language Pathologist, Pediatrician, Physiotherapist, Mental Health and/or Addiction agency).

Targeted Prevention for some students

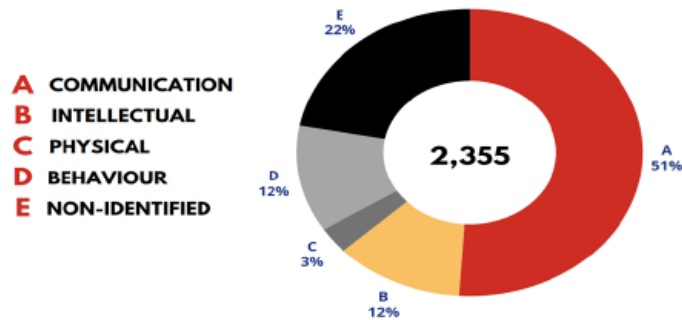
Specialized in-school assessment and interventions from support staff (SERT, EA, SSC, CYW, and/or SW).

Foundation Support for all students

Sound pedagogy, core classroom instruction, ongoing school-based assessments to monitor progress/identify early learning challenges and mental health concerns.

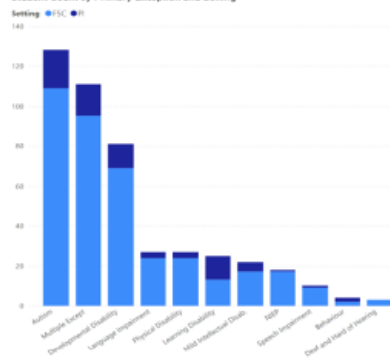


Students with Special Needs

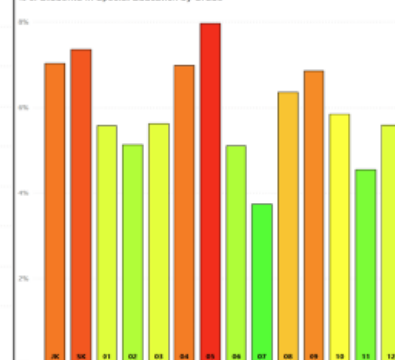


Students in High Support Classrooms

Student Count by Primary Exception and Setting



% of Students in Special Education by Grade



High Support Classrooms Over the Years

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Elementary	22	26.5	29	34	37	40	42
Secondary	23.5	23	22	20	23	23	24
Total	45.5	49.5	51	54	60	63	66

High Support Classrooms

North

School	# of HS Classrooms	# of HS Placements
Clayton Brown Public School	1	10
Cochrane Public School	3	26
Diamond Jubilee Public School	3	26
Ecole Secondaire Cochrane High School	2	20
Iroquois Falls Public School	2	12
Iroquois Falls Secondary School (Ele)	1	10
Iroquois Falls Secondary Schools	1	10
Joseph H. Kennedy Public School	1	10
Kapuskasing District High School	2	16

High Support Classrooms

Central

School	# of HS Classrooms	# of HS Placements
Golden Avenue Public School	6	36
Pinecrest Public School	2	12
Roland Michener Secondary School (Ele)	3	22
Roland Michener Secondary School	8	60
R. Ross Beattie Senior Public School	2	16
Schumacher Public School	6	52
Timmins High and Vocational School	2	16
W. Earle Miller Public School	2	16

High Support Classrooms

South

School	# of HS Classrooms	# of HS Placements
Englehart Public School	2	16
Englehart High School	1	10
Federal Public School	2	16
Kerns Public School	2	16
Kirkland Lake District Composite School	2	20
New Liskeard Public School	3	18
Temiskaming District Secondary School	5	46

EA Allocation Over the Years

	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025
Permanent EAs	121	125	138.5	142	150	155	160
Transitional EAs	N/A	11	11	11	10	15	15
Jordan's Principle EAs	0	7	21	44	107	149	189
PSWs	0	0	0	0	1	2	3

Stories



Student Story
#1 Medically
Fragile



Story #2
Behaviour



Barriers to Supporting Student Needs



Geographical
diversity



Building
modifications



System navigation



Waitlist times



Recruitment and
retention of staff



Gaps in service for
students transitioning
into adulthood



District School Board
Ontario North East

How We Are Working to Remove Barriers

- Hearing screenings
- Language screenings
- Fee for service
- Psychological assessments
- Growth of the Special Education Team
- Building staff capacity
- Transitioned from BMS to CPI



District School Board
Ontario North East

Meegwetch

Merci

Thank you



District School Board
Ontario North East



District School Board
Ontario North East

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

April 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

Informal Meeting Notes

Committee Members in Attendance:

Skye Pomainville	Chair of the Committee, Parent - Timmins
Ashley Mitchell	Vice-Chair of the Committee, Parent - Temagami
Steve Pladzyk	Superintendent of Education

Committee Members Absent:

Angele Samson	Parent Representative – Timmins
Deepak Datta	Parent Representative – Timmins
Natalie Robinson	Parent Representative – Kapuskasing
Tanya Bernard	Parent Representative – Cochrane
Cindy Pye-Reasbeck	Trustee, Chair of the Board
Jonathan Byer	Trustee, Vice-Chair of the Board
Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Shannon Sayeau	Principal Representative

Guests in Attendance:

Amy Elston, School Council Member WEMPS
Elizabeth Kazienko, Mental Health Lead (Presenter)
Michelle Oulton, School Council Chair THVS
Oladipupo Disu, School Council Member TCPS

Recording Secretary: Shanyn Bradford, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Skye Pomainville, Chair of the Committee. She confirmed we do not have quorum, but will proceed with an informal meeting.

We acknowledge as a School Board, that we are guests on the lands of the Anishinaabe, Algonquin and Cree people, located in the Robinson-Huron and Treaty 9 territory. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

2. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with introductions, participants sharing their role or interest in PIC, as well as the school community they are a part of.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was shared and reviewed. No changes were requested.

4. Review of Minutes

No quorum. This item will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

5. Presentations

a. Budget Consultation (Superintendent Pladzyk)

Superintendent Pladzyk shared an overview of the results from this years' annual budget survey. This survey gathers feedback from our school communities, stakeholders, and the public. Among the areas they feel we need to prioritize were Special Education (resources and personnel), Communications (social media, school platforms/programs), supports for students who identify as Indigenous (connections with Elders, communities, languages), and information services (new equipment/software, and upgrades). He noted that there were not a lot of survey responses, but what we did receive was very similar to previous years. All responses will be taken into consideration when preparing the budget.

b. PIC Funding Plan (Mental Health Lead Kazienko)

Board Mental Health Lead Elizabeth Kazienko shared the details of the plan she has put together for the Parent Education and Awareness Campaign funding. It will include a series of four webinars. The first two are being help in partnership with Northeastern Public Health, and the last two in partnership with Clarity Counselling.



All webinars will take place from noon to 1:00 p.m.:

1. The Truth About Cannabis: Thursday, April 17
2. Clear the Clouds: Thursday, May 1
3. Promoting Connection and Communication - Thursday, May 15
4. Helping Your Child Manage Digital Technology - Thursday, May 29

They will share information and supports, and provide tools on how to communicate and discuss these topics with children. As of today, the webinar about helping your child manage digital technology has the highest registration. It is very encouraging to see so much interest in this topic. Participants for each webinar will also have chance to win a prize basket with different games/activities for families to share together.

The Board website where you can register for a webinar, or view past webinars is:
https://www.dsb1.ca/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1126696&type=d&pREC_ID=1397568

We are also partnering with Planet Youth Temiskaming and Drug Free Kids Canada to do in-person seminars for parents at TDSS, EHS, and KLDCS. These would provide in depth information and tips on how to support and to talk to kids. They will also include pizza and salad for folks to enjoy food while attending.

All of our initiatives are being advertised on our Board website and through social media. You can find links to our Facebook and Instagram on our website, in the top right corner. We are also asking our principals to send out details to their school communities.

Superintendent Pladzyk noted that Lead Kazienko has been able to be very frugal in organizing the spending for these. After arranging all of this, there was just over \$9,000 left. The suggested plan is to allocate all remaining funds equally between schools, to apply to any activities they have planned toward the end of the year.

Discussion:

- The funding received was based on these topics
- Idea is to share information with parents, who can then decide if, when and how to talk to their kids about any given topic
- The first two webinars are more relevant to grades 6 and up
- The second two are more applicable to all grades, even younger elementary

6. Strategic Plan Vignette

The Strategic Plan Vignette for April (Innovative and alternative learning methods) was played. The link is available in the agenda, or you can visit the DSB1 [YouTube](#) channel to view this vignette and more.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Other Items

Michelle Oulton shared that the National Day of Mourning is coming up on Apr 28. Memorials are organized at various sites across Canada. In Timmins, it will be at the Miner's memorial in Schumacher at 11:00 a.m. She provided the following link to resources for schools to get involved: <https://www.whsc.on.ca/Resources/For-Young-Workers/Day-of-Mourning-in-the-Schools>

Steve thanked for highlighting that. Our Health & Safety Lead does share resources with schools, and we are happy to share this resource as well.

9. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

a. Suggestions for the 2025-26 School Year:

- Steve shared that we will send out a poll to ask the Committee if they want another meeting toward end of May. If no desire to meet virtually, will try to get email/virtual minutes/motions out to hopefully wrap things up for the school year.
- No changes to days/times were requested
- Presentation Topics:
 1. New Strategic Plan (start of year)
 2. Overviews of any changes to curriculum.

10. Lollipop Moments

None

11. Adjournment

Chair Pomainville thanked everyone for coming out tonight and participating.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Memorandum to: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Executive Director of Provincial and Demonstration Schools

From: Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Trevor Jones
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

Subject Enrolment is now open for *Fresh from the Farm: Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools 2025*

Enrolment is now open for *Fresh from the Farm*, an initiative that supports both school communities and Ontario farmers!

Fresh from the Farm enables students to raise funds for their school community by selling fresh-grown produce from local producers. Each school keeps 40 per cent of total sales, while 50 per cent is returned to Ontario's farmers and 10 per cent is retained by *Fresh from the Farm* to support the program's operational costs.

We are inviting publicly funded school boards, school authorities, provincial and demonstration schools, and First Nation Schools to confirm eligibility and enroll in this popular fundraising program by visiting: www.freshfromfarm.ca.

Fresh from the Farm offers two bundles of Ontario produce for sale:

- 14 lb/6.35 kg Vegetable Bundle (3 lb/1.36 kg carrots, 3 lb/1.36 kg yellow onions, 5 lb/2.27 kg potatoes, 3 lb/1.36 kg sweet potatoes)
- 8 lb/3.63 kg Apple Bundle

Fresh from the Farm is led by the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, with partnership supports from the Ministry of Education and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness. This innovative program provides schools, students and their families with a healthy fundraising alternative while supporting local farmers and the economy.

Through the [Grow Ontario Strategy](#), our government will continue to protect Ontario farmers and recognize the significant economic benefits of increasing the consumption of Ontario grown and made food, especially in the face of economic uncertainty. *Fresh from the Farm* supports our goal of increasing the consumption of Ontario grown food by providing a direct route from farm to fork. Now more than ever, it is critical to support Ontario growers.

Since *Fresh from the Farm's* launch in 2013, almost 3,500 schools have participated in the program from across Ontario, selling almost six million pounds of produce. Historically, participating schools have each raised \$900 a year on average to help pay for:

- travel and entry fees for sports competitions or school band trips
- student retreats
- upgrades to sporting facilities
- school yard improvement projects
- scholarships or bursaries
- charitable purposes

Students build their understanding of food literacy through mandatory learning across various subjects and grades. In 2022, Ontario issued the revised Science and Technology curriculum that enhanced food literacy learning, such as learning about where food comes from, the importance of sourcing local food and how food is grown and prepared. The *Fresh from the Farm* program is another way in which we can support student learning and increase food literacy.

Based on surveys of past *Fresh from the Farm* participants, Ontario schools are pleased with the program, with more than 90 per cent reporting a high satisfaction level regarding the quality of Ontario produce.

We encourage you to promote participation from both elementary and secondary schools within your board. In addition, please share the program link www.freshfromfarm.ca with your Parent Involvement Committee.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to promoting student well-being.

Sincerely,

Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
Agribusiness

Trevor Jones
Minister of Agriculture, Food and

c: Denise Cole, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
Conseil ontarien des directions de l'éducation de langue française (CODELF)
Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)