



Parent Involvement Committee
(GRADUATION) MINUTES
April 6th, 2021
MS Teams
Meeting 6:30 - 7 :30 pm

| Time | Topic | Lead | Guests |
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| | 1. Welcome & Introductions Amanda thanked all for participating in this special PIC meeting. | Amanda | |
| | 2. Land Acknowledgement | Amanda | |
| | 3. Ministry Letter re: Staff Vaccinations PIC would like to support sending a letter to the Ministry re: vaccinations for educational staff. This will add a “parent voice” to the situation of vaccinations. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First: Amanda Lloyd• Second: Mike Palma | Amanda | |
| | New Business | | |
| | 4. Elementary and Secondary Graduation Update Sharing some of the plans we have started and put in place for Graduations. Many people are working behind the scenes including an Elementary and Secondary Advisory Committee. Both committees are working towards alignment with graduation plans. | | Jane Macpherson Mike Castellani Paul Dennomme Beth Woof |



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| | <p><u>Agenda:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Considerations • Equity Considerations • Feedback already gathered from Parents and Students • Graduation 2021 Protocols and Logistics • Questions and Conversation <p><u>Power Point Presentation Include:</u></p> <p><u>Safety Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New policy in place for safety considerations • Safety is number one concern • Policy is constantly evolving from Public Health <p><u>Equity Considerations</u></p> <p>We looking through equity lens for all students and schools Inclusive for all gradating students across Hamilton</p> <p><u>Thoughtexchange</u></p> <p>Throughout February two surveys were available. Feedback was looking for input in how students and parents see graduation during these times.</p> | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One for secondary students eligible to graduate this year<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 710 participants• One for secondary parents<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 422 participants• Some ideas/thoughts gathered were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Socially-distanced outdoor celebration• Caps and Gowns• Family to participate• Videos and photos• Don't want a virtual ceremony; want to see their friends and teachers• Photos of students walking across the stage <p>Currently Public Health protocols won't permit the "ideal" graduations that are mentioned in the feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to follow protocols to plan for a safe and celebratory graduation <p><u>Protocols and Logistics</u></p> <p>Some ideas that offer system-wide goals during Covid times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on Grade 8's and 12's only• Walk-in and/or drive-thru celebrations | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School specific options • Awards • Lawn signs <p>Plan is to honour grads and still be safe with whichever public health protocols are in place</p> <p><u>Focus on Grade 8's and 12's</u> Encouraged schools that typically have Kindergarten and Grade 5/6 school leaving celebrations, to celebrate their students in alternative ways</p> <p><u>Secondary Common Communications and Practices</u> Students/Parents would like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo opportunities • Provision of celebration items • Additional social media and video components <p><u>Secondary Walk-in and Drive-thru</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled times for students and family • Photo opportunity • Pick up of celebratory items | | |
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| | <p><u>Secondary Commencement Model</u> Commencement is for all students in their Grade 12 year honouring both the traditions we had and those we are going to make.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Valedictorian will still be in place via virtual platform.• Details to be determined <p><u>Elementary Graduation Model</u> In School Graduation Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By class during instructional day• No outside guests• Remote students to host own online class celebrations <p>Outdoor Graduation Celebrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By appointment after school• Pick up of celebratory items• Family members accompany student to take photos• Inclusion of remote students and their families | | |
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| | <p><u>Elementary School Specific On-going Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personalize class experiences to honour school traditions• Where possible honour site-based awards• Dates for scheduling coordinated between feeder elementary and secondary schools• Inclusion of remote students in awards and celebrations <p><u>System and School Awards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given at each elementary/secondary school• Grade 8 remote students are considered for System Awards• Where possible to be presented to students <p><u>Distribution of Materials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distancing of stations for pick up of items• Staff supporting PPE• Participants wear mask where possible• Frequent sanitizing of surfaces• Grade 8 and 12 students have the option to pick up a lawn sign that will be purchased centrally | | |
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| | <p><u>Celebration Time Periods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary – June 14 to 28 • Elementary – June 21 to 28 <p><u>Financial Supports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn signs will be centrally purchased • Schools may access SGF and School Budget to replace fundraising shortfalls <p><u>Questions and Comments</u></p> <p><i>Prom Project was cancelled and students in Grade 8/12 relied on this for their graduation dresses. Can schools do individual Prom Projects?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Denomme will take this question away to ad hoc committees • Not sure what Public Health Protocols around this would be <p><i>Will each school plan their graduation through school council or is this an administrative process?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Secondary Thoughtexchange we took this information and looked at Public Health Protocols | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools can gather feedback from their councils <p><i>Are you factoring in enough pivot room with your plans given the rapidly changing Public Health changes?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constantly reviewing Based plans around what's in place now Continuing to meet with Public Health and monitor We continue to meet and have conversations around grad plans in all schools <p>Grad Caps and Gowns are appreciated by parents as a keepsake.</p> <p>Last year all my daughter's graduation info came in the mail in November. Was very sad for her. Good to celebrate students' accomplishments in a celebratory way.</p> <p><i>Doesn't seem equitable to have remote students celebrate on their own.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is representation on the committee from remote Discussing what this might look like | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in remote have been at their schools for a number of years and want to be part of celebration• Remote students cannot be part of the indoor ceremony but can be part of any outdoor activities• Remote students will be considered for school/system awards | | |
| Adjournment | Adjourned at 7:35 p.m. First: Shelley Stacey Second: Mike Palma | Amanda | |
| Next Meeting | Regular PIC Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 11, 2021 | | |