

May 23, 2017
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: K. Smith

Board Staff: J. Crits, K. Graham, M. Gerard, L. Read and J. Windsor

Committee Members: G. Anderson, M. Cameron, S. Cranston, K. Gettliffe, B. Hutzal (Co-Chair), A. Keep, J. Magazine, J. Ortiz, H. Shalan, L. Tremble (Co-Chair) and C. Waterfall

Community Member: B. Davidson

Regrets: R. Barnett-Cowan, A. Christiansen

Absent: H. Shalan

Other Staff in Attendance: E. Burns, N. Manning, A. Mercier, K. Phillips and J. Woolley

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair B. Hutzal called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by J. Magazine, seconded by S. Cranston:

That the agenda of the May 23, 2017, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by J. Ortiz, seconded by J. Magazine:

That the minutes of the March 7, 2017, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DRUMFIT PRESENTATION

V. Shah was invited to the meeting to provide a demonstration of the DrumFit program. This was one of the sessions provided at the Parent Conference on April 8, 2017.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

In J. Bryant's absence, M. Gerard and L. Read attended the meeting. L. Read introduced A. Mercier, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, and System Administrators K. Phillips and J. Woolley, who were invited to provide an update on Graduation Rates, Assessment and EQAO – all under the umbrella of "Using Data and Evidence-Based K-12 Strategies to Increase Our Grad Rates". Within three years we will increase our five-year grad rate by 5% through the implementation of an evidence-based K-12 strategy. A K-12 focus will help identify students who at a young age exhibit risk factors so intervention can occur before they reach the secondary level.

The group participated in a brainstorm activity to identify possible reasons why a student might not graduate. The resulting word cloud is attached.

Kristin outlined the various sources of data available - at a student, school and board level – to make data-informed decisions, such as EQAO results, report cards, attendance data, safe, caring and inclusive schools survey input, reading assessments and regular classroom assessments. The question is which to use and when? Staff is using a new program this year – Compass for Success – that is an online data tool that talks to other systems we use in the Board. It is easy to use and produces meaningful data that is continually updated for each student. Teachers also have access to class profiles and to WRDSB-created groups that help to identify and track students who are at risk.

Jim provided an update regarding graduation rates. The number of Grade 9 students obtaining eight credits is an indicator of the graduation rate for the cohort. Recently we have been plateauing and staff need to look at strategies to increase graduation rates. This past January, two secondary teachers found 40 students who left school with only one semester needed to graduate. There were two common traits: the first being the students had no real connection with the school - staff or peer wise – and if they had a connection with peers, it was usually negative; and secondly, there were often social issues or barriers to continuing such as mental health, anxiety or financial issues. The teachers worked to re-engage the students and eight students have since graduated and a significant number are on track to graduate.

Staff recognize they cannot rely only on reactive measures – to be proactive a change in culture and mindset is required. Students are being prepared for postsecondary education; however 55% of our students do not apply to university or college. More pathways need to be provided for the majority of our students, with a focus on 21st century competencies that will allow them to be successful. The WRDSB also needs to include and engage the community in this strategy. Community partners can provide students with options and alternatives so students are not just hearing about university and college.

PIC/STAFF PRESENTATIONS – REACHING OUT TO UNDER-ENGAGED PARENTS

At Preuter Public School, Principal Jennifer Crits and School Council Chair, Angie Wendroth, focus on relationship building to create engagement. They also recognize that wellness of the whole family is key to a student's academic success. Some examples of initiatives they have implemented through school council include:

- Monthly lice checks by parent volunteers. Every child is checked – no one is singled out. Parents are invited in for education and assistance in dealing with lice;
- Community Food Bank supporting 8-10 families in the school;
- Coffee Connections program run by Carizon. These regular meetings provide parents with advice and tips on many different parenting issues provided by trained Carizon staff and supported by school council volunteers;
- Math Connections program teaches parents about some of the differences in the new math curriculum, i.e., what is a hundreds chart?
- Strong Start early literacy program using parent volunteers;
- Council members make an effort to talk to other parents at school events or on the playground, etc., to generate interest in council and awareness of what council is doing. In addition, this gives council members insight into what members of the community are talking about.

Bill and Kerrie Lynn provided an overview of the services provided by Langs in Cambridge. They have been serving the socially and economically challenged for over 40 years with approximately 100 different programs and services, from prenatal to seniors, with an emphasis on youth. Prevention

and wellness are their focus. Their Healthy Beginnings program is a community-coordinated approach to the prevention of chronic disease, creating awareness and changing behaviour. They have received funding for the next three years for their Healthy Beginnings program which focuses on health, nutrition physical literacy in the classroom and community. They would like to expand this experiential learning program across the region and see an opportunity for strategic alignment with the board's healthy schools initiative.

Josh Windsor, Vice Principal, Eastwood Collegiate, provided a number of examples of the diversity of both ECI and KCI and the numerous programs they offer. ECI has an ESL magnet program with 300 students. There are 30 first languages spoken and 40 countries represented at the school and many newcomer families. Some of the general engagement strategies they offer: Grade 9 study skills offered over 2 nights, human library, engagement and pathways information sessions for newcomer parents and the ECI holiday hamper program which served 622 families this year. With respect to KCI, the Ministry of Education has designated KCI as an urban priority school. It is a magnet school for the French Immersion and Fast Forward programs. There is a youth drop in every Thursday in conjunction with the Waterloo Region Police Services. Staff and students gather resources and host a community dinner each year where between 200 and 300 families receive Christmas dinner.

TREASURER REPORT

G. Anderson advised that between the two budgets there is approximately \$8K still available for parent engagement initiatives. Discussion ensued regarding suggestions such as: additional items for translation (ELL and pathways documents for secondary schools, documents related to transitions such as Gr 6-7 and Gr 8-9 when families need help, public health documents related to immunization/suspensions); the purchase of a couple of the Langs' Healthy Nutrition Learning support kits; DrumFit kits and/or additional small sets for sensory rooms; providing funds to schools who have overspent on their PRO grant so they don't have to dip into council funds and a program that provides summer/weekend food to kids in need. Members were reminded that in order to use the 2016-17 remaining funds, purchased items need to be shipped and invoiced prior to August 31, 2017.

3. Moved by J. Magazine, seconded by K. Gettliffe:

That an Ad Hoc subcommittee be formed to meet and apportion the remaining PIC parent engagement funds to support student well-being, nutrition and translation.

-Carried-

Subcommittee volunteers include: G. Anderson, K. Gettliffe, L. Tremble and K. Smith.

4. Moved by J. Ortiz, seconded by J. Magazine:

That the meeting be extended to 9:30 p.m. be approved.

-Carried-

CO-CHAIR REPORT

L. Tremble met with Nick Manning about a content blog for the website. The transition from Waterworks to Gmail is underway. Nick is investigating ways to overcome CASL restrictions in order to be able to email minutes and agendas to all school councils. The annual school council report is being revised. L. Tremble has a collection of resources accumulated over the years. She plans to create a resource list, complete with a short summary and turn them over to N. Manning. B. Hutzal will use the feedback gathered earlier in year and continue to investigate other PIC websites to determine best practices. The PRO Grant deadline has been extended in order to provide more

time to add a new component to the application – an emphasis on promoting the value of postsecondary education, the OSAP program and financial aid. This could be an idea for a session at next year’s conference. L. Tremble will act as the parent representative on an Internet Content Filtering Working Committee headed by G. Shantz. The group will meet twice a year to discuss challenges and opportunities and will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees re content filtering strategies.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the following: PRO Grant Parent Event, WRAPSC, Trustee and Governance Reports.

5. Moved by J. Magazine, seconded by J. Ortiz:

That the Consent Agenda of the May 23, 2017, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

IES – no update was provided as H. Shalan was unable to attend.

SCIS – J. Magazine

J. Magazine has spoken with N. Manning and he advised that he had not been able to promote the School Climate and Well-Being pamphlet and other SCIS resources designed by PIC and the WRDSB as intended as he did not have the resources to do so. J. Magazine offered for the SCIS subcommittee to collaborate with the communication department so that good news messages related to well-being can be shared with parents and caregivers in the fall. N. Manning was receptive to this idea and further discussion will occur in June. Feedback from the meeting requested by the Ministry to help define well-being identified a couple of things to bring to PIC for discussion: CYW hours and whether teachers are feeling equipped to address the demands re student anxiety, mental health issues, etc. An inquiry was made as to whether the WRDSB would consider making a summary of the SCIS survey data public, similar to EQAO data. This idea will be put forward to staff in the fall.

Membership – J. Ortiz

Returning members have been confirmed for next year. There is one opening for a PIC member. The parent application is ready to go on the website. The application deadline is October 13 at 4:30 p.m. New members will be in place for the November 8, 2017, meeting.

POLICY REVIEW

6. Moved by J. Ortiz, seconded by M. Cameron:

That the recommended changes to the following Board Policies: 6005 – Alternatives In Education, 6006 – Adult and Continuing Education, 6012 – Prevention and Response to Student Concussions, 3007 – Membership in OPSBA, 6010 – Student Dress Code, 4001 – Opening of New Schools and Additions, 1012 – Faith and Religious Accommodations, 4000 – Pupil Accommodation Review (Consolidation or Closure), 1011 – Facility Partnerships, P1008 – Equity and Inclusion, 4014 – Extreme Temperatures, 5003 – Recognition of Retiring Employees, 4017 – Fundraising, 4018 – Fraud Management, 2010 – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting, 3006 – Student Trustees, as summarized by B. Hutzal, be provided to Trustee Smith to bring forward for discussion at the Board table.

-Carried-

A recommendation was also made to make concussion information included in the administrative procedure available for parents in the parent resources section of the website (with links). It was noted that the majority of parents are not likely to review a policy or procedure for information but would benefit from parent-focused resources. This recommendation will be included along with the other policy feedback and will also be shared with N. Manning.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition – Toronto – April 4-5, 2017. Information from the conference was provided in the agenda package.

PIC Symposium – London - April 1, 2017 – attended by B. Hutzal, H. Shalan and L. Tremble. Write-up included with the agenda package.

There were no comments or questions on either report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Food4Kids
2. Carizon
3. Family Engagement – A. Sider, PCMH

Any other ideas for agenda items can be emailed to L. Tremble and B. Hutzal.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room. This is the last meeting of this group.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2017-18. All meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Cambridge Room.

- Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – rather than a later start time, Trustee Smith will try and find a trustee alternate to attend. If she cannot, she will join the meeting in progress. The first part of the meeting will consist of new member introductions and information presentations. J. Bryant is not available for this meeting and will send an alternate.
- Tuesday, December 5, 2017
- Tuesday, January 30, 2018
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Tuesday, May 22, 2018

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

ADJOURNMENT

7. Moved by K. Gettliffe, seconded by J. Ortiz:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Disinterested behind motivation

bullying

underperformance

Disengaged

secondary

making Unsupportive

issues

work

mental

graduate

feel

environment

point caregivers

pressure teachers

students

Peer

home

even credit role

go curriculum catch

grades goals fallen Having

caring priorities academics

wrong far sports

support

choices

bad

manage

arts

less

parents

Pushed

Other

post decisions

friends

focus

working

enough

see

risk

gang make

resulting follow

due

family

illness need

model life

labelled

involvement

road

Give

health

Addiction

through environments

achievement

drugs/alcohol

academic

Lack

learning

struggles pregnancy

accumulation

support/understanding

school

important

Traumatic