

**May 22, 2018**  
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: K. Smith

Committee Members: A. Allen, G. Anderson, M. Bond, S. Cranston, K. Gettliffe, B. Hutzal (Co-Chair), M. Jenkins (Co-Chair), S. Robertson and L. Tremble

Community Member: B. Davidson

Board Staff in Attendance: J. Bryant, J. Crits, K. Freeman, M. Gerard, L. Read, K. Sonnenberg and K. Tucker-Petrick

Absent: K. Brijlall, A. Christiansen, J. Coutts, Y. El Rayani, A. Keep

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair B. Hutzal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by S. Cranston, seconded by G. Anderson:

**That the agenda of the May 22, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.**

**-Carried-**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by S. Robertson, seconded by L. Tremble:

**That the minutes of the March 6, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved as amended.**

**-Carried-**

Financial Literacy for Students: Bryan Huck, CPA, provided information about the Financial Literacy School Workshop Program. The program has been in place since 2012 to boost financial literacy. A number of hour long sessions are available for students in grades 4-11 and adults (see attachment; *Waterloo Region Financial Literacy School Workshop Program*). They have partnered with Carizon and are providing a workshop at Conestogo Public School but would like to see more pilot schools offer the program to engage parents and students. Bryan fielded questions from members. Any further questions about the program can be forwarded to B. Hutzal.

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Director Bryant thanked PIC members for their participation at the April 25, 2018, Town Hall, which was a great success. The event had over 200 participants, many of them students. Feedback from this event will be collected and reviewed. Eastwood Collegiate hosted a "New Canadian" Town Hall on May 17. Information obtained from this session will assist us with transitioning students. Director Bryant, along with some trustees, also attended a meeting with the City of Cambridge to obtain additional feedback on community needs. Director Bryant will provide an update on all feedback at a future meeting.

M. Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board is working to provide a balanced budget for the end of June. The Grant for Student Needs can be accessed [here](#). Highlights of the grant include;

- Special education supports - a substantial investment
- Transitions of Gr. 8 to high school.
- Continued enhancements to labour agreements
- Still waiting on information re capital priorities (new schools) and with enrolment increasing, this is creating a challenge.
- WRDSB may be a beneficiary in enhancements to transportation - there is pressure on the Ministry to assist.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

G. Anderson reviewed the current financial status and acknowledged that PRO grant event items are not included in the current report and will be reported when finalized.

M. Gerard discussed the distribution of gift cards at the PIC Parent Event for speakers. The WRDSB has administrative procedures regarding staff receiving gift cards for their services and there are certain items that do not qualify as expenses to the grant. This year, the gift card expense will be covered by the PIC Central budget, however, going forward staff should not be receiving any remuneration for their services. Suggestions regarding expressions of thanks to staff were discussed (i.e., student artwork). M. Gerard will investigate some options and report back. He will make himself available to brainstorm with organizing committee next year.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Smith thanked PIC members for their participation in the PIC Parent Event.

## **CO-CHAIR REPORT**

Co-Chair Hutzal thanked members for their work this year, particularly those who will not be returning.

Members were encouraged to send any new ideas for Parent Posts to B. Hutzal.

PIC and WRAPSC participated as a focus group in the communications audit in March. Feedback will be provided in September. All focus groups were well attended.

The French Immersion Ad Hoc Committee has wrapped up and recommendations have been made to trustees.

The Research Committee wrapped up in April and will pick up again in the new school year to review requests from organizations/associations wanting to gather information from staff/students.

Co-chairs will write the annual report and forward it electronically for feedback. It will be discussed at the September meeting.

B. Hutzal met with Wanda from the Early Years Centre to discuss how the “First 2000 days” program can be leveraged in our school board. He connected her with different schools that host Kindergarten information nights.

Feedback was provided on the April 12 - 13, 2018 Children & Youth Mental Health Conference, attended by M. Bond, A. Allen and Y. El Rayani. Most of attendees were teachers or social workers, not parents. Some good workshops but most were intended for administration. Trustee Smith suggested that this feedback be sent to organizers of the event.

Feedback was also provided on the PIC Symposium - April 20 - 21, 2018 - attended by B. Hutzal, M. Bond, M. Jenkins, J. Hembruck. The agenda included high level, operational items that didn't apply to PIC parent members. It was interesting to talk to other PIC members of different boards.

L. Tremble and A. Allen joined the Full Year Schooling Committee and have attended one meeting. The Committee will attempt to do more outreach, i.e., Town Halls. The goal is to have something to present to trustees by the end of November 2018.

S. Cranston and B. Hutzal attended the Festival of Trees event. It was well organized and hosted 1500 students between grade 2 and 8.

B. Hutzal provided an update on how to spend the PIC surplus. He is currently working with A. Sider of PCMH to identify events that can be jointly attended. The strategy of partnering with other organizations is helpful.

Funds are being used to translate documents for new-comers and schools will be provided with electronic copies.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

3. Moved by K. Gettliffe, seconded by M. Bond:

**That the Consent Agenda of the May 22, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.**

**-Carried-**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Governance* – (as per agenda package)

*Membership* - L Tremble. Currently have 7-8 vacancies for PIC. Dates have been set for

interviews and only two applications have been submitted. Communications have put ads on Facebook. Members are encouraged to recruit people. May have to recruit again in September. A reminder to current members to submit an application by June 1 if they are at the end of their term and wish to remain on PIC.

PIC Parent Event - Attendance was down this year: 263 registered but only 50% showed up. An application for next year's grant will be submitted in June.

4. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by A. Allen:

**That PIC support a PRO grant application in the amount of \$20,000 for the following project for 2018-19:**

- **A free parent-focused event including speakers, child care, translators and refreshments to take place at a WRDSB school in the spring of 2019;**
- **The event will take place on a Saturday and be a half-day event. It will feature a number of "Ted-style" talks by other parents as well as staff and community members;**
- **The event will be broadcast live through Facebook Live, or similar technology, and will be recorded and stored on the PIC website for future viewing.**

**-Carried-**

**PIC Strategy and Operations** - Co-Chair B. Hutzal provided a report -Strategy Discussion and Recommendations. The reviewed ten recommendations that were formalized from work done by PIC over the last year. Some additional recommendations were suggested (i.e., share resources with WRAPSC).

### **POLICY REVIEW**

5. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by S. Cranston:

**That the recommended changes to the following Board Policies: 1013 – First Nation, Metis and Voluntary Self-Identification , 2011 – Sun, Safety and Shading, 3001 – Travel, Meals, Hospitality - Trustees, 5010 – Employment and Placement of Relatives, 4003 - Trespassing, 3006 – Student Trustees, as summarized by B. Hutzal, be provided to Trustee Smith to bring forward for discussion at the Board table.**

**-Carried-**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Emotional Intelligence
2. Detailed review of BP 2002 - Partnerships
3. Food 4 Kids
4. Carizon - partnership with the Board
5. JB report back on ECI Town Hall
6. Deepa Ahluwalia - Equity Discussion
7. Results of Communications Audit in the Fall
8. Angela Sider- debrief
9. Junior Achievement - Financial Literacy

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room

**QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD**

Co-Chair B. Hutzal will send out 2018-19 Meeting dates as requested.

Internet Content Filtering Committee - Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, G. Shantz, is revising Digital Citizenship and will be looking for feedback on that subject (June 2018).

Also G. Shantz will follow up on school councils having gmail accounts.

Director Bryant thanked Co-Chairs Hutzal and Jenkins on behalf of WRDSB staff for the work done on PIC this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

6. Moved by K. Gettliffe, seconded by S. Robertson:

**That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.**

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.