

DECEMBER 4, 2012
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board Parent Involvement Committee was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue in Kitchener with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: K. Smith.

Board Staff: A. Dancey, D. Duncan-Peacock, L. Fabi and K. O'Reilly were in attendance. J. Fairhall did not attend.

Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) Parent Representatives: C. Adams, A. Allen, (Chair), T. Barker, K. Deml, C. Laughren, M.J. Stinson, L. Tremble and J. Weston.

Community Representative: Vacant.

Other Staff in Attendance: E. Roberts.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairperson A. Allen, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the December 4, 2012, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Deml:

That the minutes of the September 12, 2012, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Clarification was provided with respect to a statement from the September 12, 2012, meeting that there was 'a need to align the Parent Involvement Committee Bylaws with the Terms of Reference'. Bylaws will be developed consistent with the Terms of Reference. The Bylaws will also reflect and incorporate content from the Ministry of Education document: *Making a Difference: A Practical Handbook for Parent Involvement Committee Members*.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Manager of Communications, A. Dancey attended the meeting and provided information on the role of the WRDSB Communication Department. The Department provides information on issues and events occurring throughout the school system to media contacts and to the public. Assistance is also provided to schools and departments with the production of advertisements and publications, such as the Director's Annual Report. The Department maintains and updates the WRDSB website, Facebook and Twitter feeds to ensure that the community is kept informed about arising issues and activities relating to education in Waterloo Region.

Parent Engagement opportunities and activities will be highlighted and communicated via the various media streams once the plan for Parent Engagement, which will be developed in coming months, is finalized. The Parent Involvement Committee will be provided an opportunity to give input on the plan prior and during its implementation.

Suggestions regarding contents on the WRDSB and school websites were conveyed to Ms. Dancey. Ms. Dancey commented that input and feedback from the Committee is welcomed at any time.

BUDGET UPDATE

J. Weston provided an update on the Parent Involvement Committee budget. In addition to the approximate \$10,000 balance in the budget, \$12,000 to \$14,000 in rollover funds from school level Parent Involvement and Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants are available to be used towards holding a parent/family event in the spring of 2012-2013.

REPORTS FROM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

K. O'Reilly, K. Smith and J. Weston attended the Summit on Children & Youth Mental Health conference held in October organized by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. A. Allen, C. Laughren and L. Tremble attended the People for Education Conference in November. The attendees felt both conferences were very worthwhile and provided excellent resources. Conference material and speaker presentations are available at:

http://www.opsba.org/index.php?q=what_we_do/annual_events/summit_on_children_youth_mental_health_presentations

and <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/events-workshops/come-to-our-conference/>.

PARENT/FAMILY EVENT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

K. Deml provided an update on the proposed parent/family event for the spring of 2013. Costs, location, accessibility and logistics were discussed. A full day event to be held during the month of April in Cambridge was suggested.

3. Moved by K. Deml, seconded by K. O'Reilly:

That a family engagement event be organized by a sub-committee of the Parent Involvement Committee on a Saturday in the spring of the 2012-2013 school year with a cost limit of \$5000.

-Carried-

WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS UPDATE

L. Tremble provided an update on recent topics discussed by WRAPSC. Agenda topics highlighted included Special Education, the Magnet Showcase and Bill 115.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE HANDBOOK CONTENT

This item was recommended to be included on each agenda commencing September 2012. No discussion of items pertaining to the handbook took place at this meeting.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

L. Fabi provided an update on administrative and Board activities:

- the Board held its annual inaugural meeting on Monday, December 3, 2012. At that meeting, Ted Martin was acclaimed as Chairperson and Harold Paisley as Vice-Chairperson of the Board for a one year term each. New Trustee, Elliot Fung has also been appointed to fill the seat vacated by the previous Chairperson, Catherine Fife.

- Labour and Negotiations Status

L. T. Barker declared he had a deemed conflict of interest related to the subject of labour negotiations by virtue of the fact that he has a family member who is an employee of the Board, and exited the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Bill 115 and the status of employee labour actions were discussed. Information related to labour action is being updated as known on the WRDSB website.

T. Barker rejoined the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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L. Fabi was asked by Committee members to investigate and report back on the means by which various schools/principals provide communication to their school communities. She was also asked to bring recommendations with respect to naming an individual to fill the 'Community Member' vacancy on the Committee.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 – 6:30 p.m.
Cambridge Room, Education Centre

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Parent Engagement Plan and Video

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Allen informed members that R. Lackner and M. Rolston did not seek reappointment to WRAPSC during the elections in October. Subsequently, these individuals are no longer members of the Parent Involvement Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by C. Adams and seconded by T. Barker:

That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.