

JUNE 4, 2013
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board Parent Involvement Committee was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 7:45 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: 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: A. Allen, (Chair), C. Bilton, J. Davies, C. Laughren, L. Tremble and J. Weston. K. Deml and M.J. Stinson did not attend.

Community Representative: A. Hynes.

Other Staff in Attendance: E. Roberts.

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairperson A. Allen, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. J. Davies was introduced and welcomed as a new WRAPSC Parent Representative on the committee. Regrets received from K. Deml and M.J. Stinson were announced.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by C. Laughren:

That the agenda of the June 4, 2013, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by C. Bilton, seconded by C. Laughren:

That the minutes of the March 5, 2013, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved as amended

-Carried-

Amendments: Parent Representative T. Barker was absent from the meeting. Under the Healthy Students, Engaged Learners Event heading, suggestions for media and additional promotion had been requested to be forwarded to C. Bilton.

HEALTHY STUDENTS, ENGAGED LEARNERS EVENT FOLLOW-UP

A report on the April 13, 2013, family event and workshops held that day was distributed and discussed. There were 148 attendees at this event held at Galt Collegiate Institute and Vocational School. Feedback and survey comments from attendees were very positive. A keynote address on *Understanding the Teenage Brain* by speaker R. Moorish was well received. Overall, attendees expressed enthusiasm for having had an opportunity to attend an event of this nature and they found the topics to be useful and informative.

Consistency between schools in informing families of the event was raised as an area of concern and requiring improvement. Additional advertising and promotion through WRDSB/school websites and social media was discussed. Event goals and alignment with system directions and engagement strategies when identified will be considered for future events. Planning and further logistical suggestions were shared including a comment around inviting media outlets and community service agencies to future events.

A decision concerning the holding of a parent engagement event during 2013-2014 will be included on the September 24, 2013, meeting agenda. A discussion of whether the event will involve workshops similar to the 2012 event or an alternate format will also be discussed. A. Allen informed members that a grant has been applied to towards holding an event in 2013-2014.

Members of the planning committee were congratulated and thanked for their efforts and success of the April 13th event.

Director of Education, Linda Fabi, entered the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

BUDGET UPDATE

J. Weston distributed a PIC budget report and provided an update. A balance of \$4,888.64 was carried forward from 2011-2012. The allocated amount for 2012-2013 was \$5,000, totalling an opening balance of \$9,888.64. Expenditures to date during 2012-2013 are \$5,755.79 (which includes \$2,886.48 for the April 13, 2013, parent event), leaving a remainder of \$4,132.85 that will roll-over to 2013-2014.

PIC WEBSITE

Maintenance and content of the PIC website were discussed. L. Tremble offered to review and forward updates and changes to the PIC website to E. Roberts for posting. A request from WRAPSC had been received to advertise all school council activities on the PIC website. L. Fabi stated that there may be a way to achieve this by linking to the school websites. It was suggested that L. Tremble contact the WRDSB Information Technology and Communications Departments to discuss options around this. This item will be brought back for further discussion.

FUTURE CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION/REPORTS FROM CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

A. Allen and C. Laughren attended the Ministry of Education's Fourth Annual PIC Symposium on April 19 and 20, 2013. A keynote address was provided by Dr. Jean Clinton, an expert on children's mental health. Dr. David Booth spoke about 21st Century Learning and challenges of literacy in an increasingly technological society. Attendees visited displays and spoke with ministry staff about the various programs.

Modes of sharing information received at conferences was discussed. The ability to share information with school councils, families and school administrators was raised. Means of doing this will be discussed at WRAPSC and brought back to PIC for consideration. A suggestion was made to invite Elementary and Secondary Principal and Vice-Principal group representatives to a PIC meeting or to meet with a working group of the committee. The People for Education 17th Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2013, at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health conference will be held April 3-4, 2013 at the Allstream Centre in Toronto. Selection of committee members to attend these or other conferences during in 2013-2014 will be discussed at the September meeting.

WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS UPDATE

L. Tremble provided an update on recent topics discussed at WRAPSC meetings. Agenda items have included: Risk Factors for Self-harm and Suicide in Children/Teens; Screen-Free Week: "Turn off your screens, Turn on life"; WRDSB Mental Health Strategy; Shade in Public Places and Impact on Children's Health; Provincial Parent Reaching Out Grants; and the WRDSB Parent Engagement Plan. A request for parent representation from the WRDSB Early Year's Committee was discussed. A comment was made that the 4:00 p.m. meeting time of the meeting is difficult for parents. There was discussion around the table that language in literature provided to parents contains a significant amount of educational jargon which should be avoided where possible.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Future meeting dates were discussed and will be posted on the PIC and Board websites.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

L. Fabi gave an update on Board activities and initiatives and announced that a search is underway for a Director of Education as she will be retiring effective August 31, 2013. Committee members were thanked by L. Fabi on behalf of school councils and parents for all input provided.

PIC BYLAW REVIEW – BYLAWS 5 AND 6

Copies of draft PIC Bylaws 5 and 6 were distributed and reviewed. It was noted that these bylaws had been prepared based on draft Ministry of Education bylaws. The Ministry has since distributed finalized bylaws. Bylaws 5 and 6 will be updated to correspond with the Ministry bylaws and will be brought back for approval at the September meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items were discussed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2013
Cambridge Room, Education Centre
6:30 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

C. Laughren and J. Weston announced their resignations from the Parent Involvement Committee and provided letters of resignation to Chair, A. Allen.

ADJOURNMENT

3. Moved by L. Tremble and seconded by C. Bilton:

That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.