

MARCH 5, 2013
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board Parent Involvement Committee was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 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: M. Deacon, 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, C. Laughren, M.J. Stinson, L. Tremble and J. Weston were in attendance. T. Barker 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 6:35 p.m.

Introductions around the table took place. Community member, A. Hynes, Tech Jobs Connex Manager with Communitex in Kitchener was introduced. Ms. Hynes was in attendance in consideration of serving on the committee as a Community Representative. Ms. Hynes has extensive experience in the business and technology fields and an adult child who previously was enrolled in the WRDSB school system.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by M.J. Stinson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the March 5, 2013, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

-Carried-

PARENT ENGAGEMENT VIDEO

M. Deacon, Executive Officer with the WRDSB, explained that engagement, as a component of the 2012–2015 Strategic Directions, will significantly guide the work the Board will do in coming years. A system-wide engagement strategy is being developed. Parent engagement is part of the overall engagement continuum which includes various stakeholders including students, families, staff and the community at large. A video, currently in draft format, was presented demonstrating engagement opportunities and concepts. When finalized, the video will be viewed by all staff and made available to all stakeholders.

Feedback on the video was requested by M. Deacon. Suggestions on inclusion of volunteer engagement and for translations or transcripts of the video to be prepared in other languages were made. Additional stakeholder input will be obtained. Further comments and suggestions were requested to be forwarded to M. Deacon's attention at the Education Centre.

HEALTHY STUDENTS, ENGAGED LEARNERS EVENT

M.J. Stinson and J. Weston gave an update on planning for the April 13, 2013, parent workshops to be held at Galt Collegiate Institute. The event title will be 'Healthy Students, Engaged Learners'. Planned sessions include a keynote address by speaker, Ron Moorish, on 'Understanding the Teenage Brain'. Workshop topics will include: food/health/nutrition, behaviour concerns, helping children learn at home, and gaming addictions. Additional workshops are being finalized. Estimated costs and session logistics were discussed. Draft flyers for distribution to all families and posting on the PIC and school websites were distributed and discussed. Transportation and refreshments will be further discussed by the planning committee. Suggestions for media and additional promotion were requested to be forwarded to C. Bilton.

WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS UPDATE

L. Tremble provided an update on recent topics discussed at WRAPSC meetings. Agenda items have included: the role of School Resource Officers (SROs), the Accessibility Standards Act, Special Education Advisory Committee parents role, bullying, school bookfairs/fundraising and suggestions for Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant projects.

PIC WEBSITE CONTENT

A. Allen advised that committee member T. Barker plans to review the PIC website contents and to recommend updates on an on-going basis.

PIC BUDGET UPDATE

J. Weston gave an update on the PIC budget. A budget of \$5000 was allotted at the previous meeting to the April 13, 2013, parent event. Anticipated costs include speaker honoraria and promotion copying costs. The majority of the \$5000 allocation is remaining at this point. An update on costs will be provided following the event.

A balance of \$2,332.46 is remaining in the general PIC committee budget for 2012-13.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Correspondence from the Ministry of Education relating to the upcoming Parent Involvement Committee 4th Annual Symposium (April 19 & 20, 2013) was distributed. The Ministry covers the costs of registration and expenses for two members from each Board to attend the conference. A. Allen and C. Laughren will attend this year's Symposium.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

L. Fabi announced that Ministry of Education parent guides (one for early literacy and one for early mathematics) will be distributed to all families in coming days. These guides are intended to offer families a range of fun and easy ways to contribute to their children's learning and educational achievement.

An update on administrative and Board activities including next steps with respect to the Board's development of an engagement strategy, an update regarding the Ministry of Education's 34 Credit Threshold policy, and an update on staff labour negotiations were provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following future agenda items were identified: April 13, 2013 parent event follow-up, social media policies, parent engagement update, and future conference attendance.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the June 2013 meeting will be determined based on a poll of members' availability.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by C. Laughren and seconded by J. Weston:

That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.