

January 30, 2018
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 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

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

Community Member: B. Davidson

Regrets: R. Barnett-Cowan, K. Brijlall, J. Coutts, Y. El Rayani, K. Gettliffe and K. Tucker-Petrick.

Staff in Attendance: J. Bryant, J. Crits, K. Freeman, N. Manning and K. Sonnenberg.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by G. Anderson, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the January 30, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by S. Cranston, seconded by S. Robertson:

That the minutes of the December 5, 2017, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

J. Bryant informed members that the Director's Annual Report was presented on Monday, January 29th to the Board of Trustees. This is a ministry requirement and the Report will be posted on the website. If a parent would like a printed copy they are to call their school, who will in turn contact the Communications Department. N. Manning, Chief Communications Officer, demonstrated how to access the report online at [Director's Annual Report](#). The work of the entire system is captured in this report.

N. Manning informed members that a Communications Audit will take place to look at the gaps/strengths in communications. The company hired to do the audit will involve roughly 20 focus groups of key stakeholders and have identified 7-8 groups that will have parent representation. There are 75 spots available for parents and 212 have expressed an interest so far. Members from PIC, WRAPSC and SEAC will also form a group. The audit report is expected in June N. Manning will work with B. Davidson to identify a group of vulnerable parents. N. Manning commented that

this is not a perfect process; however, the goal is begin to build strategies for communication that serve all communities.

N. Manning advised that WRAPSC has been contacted and will look into virtual feeds to include more parents. Selected individuals will be informed by March 12, 2018.

The SCIS Subcommittee provided the following questions for Director Bryant, who was not present at December's meeting, to answer.

1. As a result of its Well-Being consultation, the Ministry of Education has announced a multi-year well-being plan that includes significant funding investments. Can you please share with us how those funds are being allocated within our board?

The following areas are being supported by EPO and Board Funding;

- Student Well-Being – Collaboration, Release Time
- Well-Being Conference
- Kognito - Mental Health Training Portal
- Playground Activity Leaders in Schools
- Safe Schools Health and Safety Training (Sept)
- Safe Schools - midyear update (February)
- Behaviour Management Systems training
- Friends for Life Training Program
- Student Injury Prevention Initiative
- Specifically within the Equity portfolios, we are being supported with funds for ongoing work with our Indigenous community and others who may be experiencing marginalization or barriers to equitable outcomes.
- Indigenous Focus/Reconciliation - direct support and services for students, capacity building sessions for educators and enhanced community partnerships with our Indigenous Community Partner agencies
- Equity - focus on increasing staff capacity regarding the areas of systemic barriers and the impact of marginalization on student outcomes.
- Safety - rolling out an enhanced approach to training staff in Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) strategies. By Feb 2, all EAs and CYWs will be formally trained and certified in BMS. On a go forward basis, all members of this bargaining unit will be trained on an 18 month cycle. In the near future all administrators, staff assigned to congregated programs and members of Emergency Response Teams will be trained. Voluntary Training Sessions will be made available to members of all other bargaining units.

2. PIC ran a well-being engagement session in February and provided a report to board trustees and staff. Did staff make any specific observations or have any feedback for PIC on that report?

- The reports provided by PIC were shared with all members of the Well-being Op Goal Steering Team, along with a number of other reports that supported our deeper understanding of the concept of well-being. This work has contributed to the further development and enhancement of our WRDSB Well-being Strategy that is focused on relationships, conditions of learning, early identification and access to resources, supports, services and engagement, all of which have explicit strategies tied to them.

3. For our May PIC meeting, members were asked to identify key questions from the well-being report. Now that funding has been made available from the Ministry, we are asking if you can provide responses to these questions.

- a) Has any consideration been given to allocating funds to allow for full time CYWs in the

majority of elementary schools?

- S. Miller, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, provided insight to the allocation of staffing enhancements. As a result of last year's extension funding, an additional 9 CYW FTE were added to our system. These CYWs were in some cases allocated to elementary schools on a half time basis resulting in only 8 of our elementary schools not having any CYW. A small number of K to 6 schools receiving a full time CYW. In addition to the increase in CYW FTE, we also added 17.5 FTE EA's across the system. At the Elementary level, an additional 11.5 Special Education Resource Teachers (SERT) was added with two SERT FTE added specifically for Kindergarten, and two FTE added to support our intermediate at-risk students (this included an indigenous focus)
- b) Will additional professional development be provided to teaching staff to better prepare them for managing and helping students displaying these difficult behaviours, while also supporting the needs of the remaining students within the school?
- As a system we will respond to further allocations as they become available. In addition to BMS, we have offered Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), Learning Series to Classroom Teachers and SERTs, as well as current training in Functional Behaviour Assessments (FBA) to Special Education Consultants and Itinerant Behaviour Teachers.

Next Steps: Supporting Well-Being for Students, Educators and Staff. - Ontario remains committed to realizing the vision of education and creating the best possible learning experience for all students. Beginning in September 2017, the government started implementing a multi-year plan to support overall student well-being. The next steps of this vision will see the Ministry of Education investing \$49 million over three years. The plan to support student achievement, equity and well-being includes;

- Supporting active transportation initiatives like walking school buses and biking to school programs.
- Increasing funding for School Mental Health - ASSIST by \$6 million over the next three years from the current \$1 million.
- Doubling the bundle of flexible funding provided to school boards to support local well-being programs to \$12 million starting next school year for breakfast programs, bullying prevention, recreational activities and staff professional development.
- Focusing on increasing the academic achievement and well-being of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in Ontario through the Indigenous Education Strategy.
- Investing over \$6 million in new and expanded programs to support staff well-being and violence prevention in the classroom.

Congratulations to N. Manning who will be leaving on March 1, 2018, as VP of Communications with University of Waterloo.

TREASURER REPORT

G. Anderson indicated that PIC needs to approve any additional spending.

3. Moved by B. Davidson, seconded by S. Robertson:

That an additional \$40 incurred at the People for Education Conference be approved.

-Carried-

4. Moved by B. Davidson, seconded by A. Keep:

That \$250 allocated for discretionary spending until the end of the term be approved.

-Carried-

G. Anderson asked members if they had any additional ideas on where to utilize funding. In the past, funds have been used for translating documents and promotional materials. Funds need to be spent so all expenditures must be approved at the May meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORT - K. Smith

At the last Board meeting, two motions were brought forward. The first motion was regarding full year schooling. An AdHoc Committee will be formed and consultation will occur with staff, community and parents.

The other motion was regarding secondary programs and partnerships and a possible change in how we offer programs to secondary students.

CO-CHAIR REPORT

Committee Membership changes: Welcome Mandi Bond replacing K. Wagner as PIC/WRAPSC representative and Kristina Brijlall replacing M. Cameron.

Promoting Parent Posts - If there is a topic that you'd like to share and write about, let Brent know. A volunteer to run the twitter account is still needed. Please let Brent know if you're interested.

L. Tremble attended the [Long Term Accommodation Plan](#) session on January 25.

N. Manning indicated there is still space available to attend the focus group, previously mentioned, on Tuesday, March 27 at 8 pm and to let B. Hutzal know if you are interested in attending.

[P4007 Approval of Research Projects](#) - Parent representation in the Research Review Committee is needed. B. Hutzal will keep members posted on developments.

Drug Education and Addictive Behaviour Policy - trustees will be discussing this at February 12 meeting. Those with specific feedback should send it to B. Hutzal and he will consolidate and send it out to members. Final recommendations will be given to K. Smith to bring forward at the COW meeting.

N. Manning - any comments on this policy can be funneled through B. Hutzal. If PIC feels there are specific recommendations, the policy can be looked at further. This is a sensitive issue and will likely involve continuous review.

5. Moved by G. Anderson, seconded by L. Tremble:

To accept the feedback discussed regarding the Drug Education and Addictive Behaviours Policy and have Trustee K. Smith request that the policy be reviewed by the March 19 or April 16 Committee of the Whole meeting.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the following: *WRAPSC Report (M. Jenkins) and the SCIS Report (R. Barnett-Cowan)*

6. Moved by S. Robertson, seconded by S Cranston:

That the Consent Agenda of the January 30, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Governance – A. Keep, S. Cranston

S. Cranston reviewed mandates and significant changes to the PIC Bylaws and Terms of Reference.

7. Moved by A. Keep seconded by S. Robertson:

That the changes to the PIC Bylaws and Terms of Reference be approved.

-Carried-

Membership report - L. Tremble

8. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by M. Bond:

That PIC approve the Terms of Reference of the Membership Subcommittee as attached to this report.

-Carried-

Pro Grant Parent Event - Registration will be up and running by mid-February. B. Hutzal needs to connect with co-chairs to provide Ministry with details of event. Any new members interested in volunteering at the event are to contact L. Tremble.

POLICY REVIEW

9. Moved by A. Keep, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the recommended changes to the following Board Policies: 6000 Safe Schools, 6008 School Discipline, 1006 Anaphylaxis Management, 4005 Procurement, 4008 Segregation of Duties and Cheque Signing Authority, as summarized by B. Hutzal, be provided to Trustee Smith to bring forward for discussion at the Board table.

-Carried-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. WRDSB Budget Presentation - M. Gerard (March 6, 2018)
2. Emotional Intelligence
3. Financial Literacy for Students
4. Detailed review of P2002 (Partnerships)
5. Food 4 Kids
6. Carizon
7. Discussion on Drug Education and Addiction Behaviours Policy
8. PIC Engagement Policy

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Not enough time to talk about Parent Engagement - Brent will prioritize this item on the next

agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

10. Moved by S. Cranston, seconded by S. Roberson:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.