



2013-2014 Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report

This year, our PIC committee experienced large turnover in that five of our eight parent members were new to PIC and to our Waterloo Regional Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC). Along with that, we welcomed a new Director of Education and a new Executive Officer, Communications/Engagement.

Over the last seven months our team has worked hard to foster good working relationships with our board and with our parents. Along the way, improving communication in its many forms has been one of our key goals. We also believe that educating and empowering our members will help us to do a better job as members of PIC.

We invested some budget into fostering the engagement of PIC members by sending them to conferences, where they could learn and network with other parents, administrators, PIC members and Ministry staff.

- ✓ Eight committee members attended People for Education 2013 Making Connections Conference.
- ✓ Our co-chairs attended the People for Education 2013 Network Meeting.
- ✓ February 2014: two members attended the Safe Schools Conference in Toronto.
- ✓ Three members attended the Healthy Schools Conference in London.
- ✓ Our PIC co-chairs attended the Ministry of Education's PIC conference in Toronto in April 2014.
- ✓ One of our co-chairs was able to attend the Equinox Summit in Waterloo in September.
- ✓ As guests of the Director of Education, our co-chairs (along with approximately 6000 students) attended We Day in Waterloo Region on November 20, 2013.

We had four meetings this year, and always made sure to have guest speakers at our PIC meetings, to further engage and educate our members.

- ✓ Secondary Program Pathways: Applied and Academic was presented by Mark Harper--Superintendent of Learning Services and Scott Lomax, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Learning Services-Program and Special Education JK – 12.
- ✓ Peter Rubenschuh, Assistant (to) Superintendent of Learning Services (Equity & Inclusion, Character Development, Safe Schools, Alternative and Continuing Education) presented on the Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools initiative underway in our board.
- ✓ Our new Communications and Engagement Executive Officer, Marty Deacon provided an update on the WRDSB Communications and Engagement Strategy. We also had a chance to brainstorm with her about ways to improve communication in our board.
- ✓ The Ontario College of Teachers Francine Dutrisac and Gabriel Johnston came to increase public awareness about the College and their mandate.
- ✓ Special Education Services, Mental Health Lead, Barbara Ward presented an overview of the WRDSB Mental Health Strategy Framework and polled our parents for input on the mental health survey.

We struck several sub-committees to continue development of the following:

- ✓ PIC website: a severely underutilized tool is getting a full makeover.
- ✓ Bylaws: to review/finalize the PIC bylaws.
- ✓ Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools: diligent work with the board to ensure our schools/parents are getting the information they need.
- ✓ Terms of Reference: review existing and determine if any updates/changes need to be drafted for review with full PIC committee.

Our PIC was also busy with events:

- ✓ In January and in conjunction with our board, we helped host a free evening event for our parents: An Evening with Dr. Ross Greene. Dr. Greene spoke about Collaborative and Proactive Solutions to help parents, guardians and caregivers work to resolve the challenging behaviours of children of all ages. This event was sold out well in advance of the date.
- ✓ In April, our PIC planned and held our third annual board-wide family event. “Rise to Success: Helping Your Child in School” was made possible by a PRO regional grant we acquired for \$10,000. The event had approximately 225 attendees, which was doubled from the 2013 event.

To further stay in the loop and make PIC’s presence known, we also try, when possible to have one of our co-chairs or other parent member, attend our Board or Committee of the Whole meetings.

PIC financial report for school year 2013-2014

PIC EXPENSES	2013/2014 School Year	Sep-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Subtotals	Totals
Starting Balance	\$8,556.90												<u>\$8,556.90</u>
Conferences													
People For Education			\$216.98	\$216.98				-\$120.00				\$313.96	
Canadian Safe Schools							\$540.64					\$ 540.64	
Ontario Healthy Schools										\$682.58		<u>\$ 682.58</u>	
Total Conferences													<u>\$1,537.18</u>
Catering for Meetings		\$96.29			\$58.73			\$45.97			\$32.00		\$232.99
Rise to Success Event								\$211.03		\$81.73			\$292.76
Member Expenses				\$210.65				\$73.23		\$359.90			\$643.78 ¹
TOTAL by Month		\$96.29	\$216.98	\$427.63	\$58.73		\$540.64	\$210.23		\$1,124.21	\$32.00		\$2,706.71
TOTAL spent 13-14 year(10 months)		\$96.29	\$216.98	\$427.63	\$58.73		\$540.64	\$210.23		\$1,124.21	\$32.00		\$2,706.71
Remaining Balance = Starting Balance - Total spent (\$8,556.90 - \$2,706.71)													<u>\$ 5,850.19</u>

¹ Member expenses all relate to various expenses for conferences and/or conference travel.

Next year's plans include:

- ✓ We are moving forward with a new PIC parent engagement initiative. The 'Director's Forum' will be held in Fall, 2014 and its purpose is to provide a networking opportunity for school councils, WRAPSC & PIC members to meet informally with Board representatives, the Director of Education, Senior and school Administrators, educators and others, to discuss education and matters of interest and will promote relationship building. These are scheduled for November 6th, 13th and 27th.
- ✓ We are looking to utilize PIC funds to provide much needed translation services for commonly used documents.
- ✓ Our committee is considering holding or partnering with community agencies to hold other types of parent/guardian workshops.
- ✓ Create various promotional materials to help get our PIC into our schools and the homes of our families.
- ✓ We have applied for another regional PRO Grant for \$17,500 and with it, are planning an even bigger/better event for April 18th, 2015.

This report was prepared by:
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