

May 14, 2024
Parent Involvement Committee

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)** was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 virtually on zoom, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: M Radlein

Board Staff: S Miller, M Newlands

Committee Members: D Annable, J Araujo, H Avni-Peleg, S Datta, D Bandekar, H Bar, T Gonzalez, S Heroux, N Hydal-Khan, Ji Lawrie, J Lee, W Lin, L Lovelace, L Miller, L Monroe-Onsen, S Variath

Regrets: W. Goel

Guests:

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement,

Scott Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting and N Hydal Khan offered the Territorial Acknowledgement.

Approval of Agenda,

Scott Miller motioned to approve the May 14 PIC Agenda, seconded by J Araujo and N Hydal Khan.

Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2024

Scott Miller motioned to approve the February 27, 2024 minutes, seconded by M Radlein

J Lawrie would like an amendment to the minutes from February 27, 2024: To include the recommendations suggested by the Governance Committee for the revised and updated 2024 Bylaws. She provided the link to the document which is below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AdmtCUfsdZ4uuoPahB2EjX5lrjRwkf05BZwG8h_oEjg/edit

S Miller requested the information for himself, Superintendent Newlands, and Trustee Radlein for review and approval. A vote will then be scheduled for the next PIC meeting.

Trustee Report- Trustee M. Radlein

Trustee M. Radlein shared the trustee report with the following highlights.

- The adhoc air quality policy has not been shared with the Board of Trustees
- The new student trustees have been elected.
- The April boundary for the new south kitchener school has been approved
- The April Tim Walker award has several schools recognized.
- Information will go out to school about any new boundaries

WRDSB Leadership Update- Associate Director S. Miller

S. Miller shared a slide deck with updates which is linked below. Some of the highlights were:

- The WRDSB is currently in a deficit position for the 2023-2024 school year and this is the third year the board has been in this position
- As a result the board will have to present a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year
- The largest cost to the board is short term sick leave which is being experienced provincially
- Shared highlights from the recent Board Improvement and Equity Plan Board Report - with the focus on the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Department
- May 14th Update - [Presentation](#)

Treasurer Report - Treasurer, J. Lawrie

- J Lawrie shared that she did not receive anything new so assume there are no updates.

WRAPSC Update - S. Heroux

S Heroux shared the updates for WRAPSC and highlighted the following:

- Last week was the final meeting for the school year.
- Best meeting of the year - really appreciated the participation by board staff and their transparent approach
- There was some take away feedback from the meeting.
- There were board meeting updates sent out to members.
- There were changes proposed to delegate members.
- Recently the **principal profile** and **school council report** information was sent out to school administrators of school that could be used to supply some great data for parent engagement - unfortunately not all school councils are getting this information
- Would like PIC to consider a change in getting this information out to schools

Scott suggested that maybe it could be sent out through WRAPSC to school council chairs

M Radlein asked the question, are we looking for one response per school?

S Miller responded that the school council chair/group should be providing the response to these reports and not the principal and they are then returned to the board not the school. He suggested that this is something we can take away and determine if there is a better way to share this information

S Heroux asked if there was a way to have a better understanding of which schools have councils.

Subcommittee Report-N. Hydal-Khan

SCIS:

N Hydal-Khan reported that since the last PIC meeting the Black Brilliance event received a lot of positive feedback. They are planning to do similar projects for other topics eg. Pride Month. It was suggested that a survey be created and sent to the community for suggestions on topics that members would like to learn about. Nothing specific but would like to focus on creating content on the sexual information in the curriculum and see if we have access to content that has already been created and distributed.

Some reflections that were shared:

- Members felt there is not much clarity on the roles of PIC members.
- Some clearer guidelines for the committees at the first meeting and to set up some goals and guidelines as to where we want to be by the end of the year.

Also looking to have a event with guest speakers eg police service to answer topics such as:

- How to be an upstander in situations like bullying and racism,
- How do we respond
- What would be some strategies to use

Would like to invite someone from a youth group to give a youth perspective as well as someone from the equity dept. N Hydal-Khan has contacted the library and the museum for this event and is looking at a June 21st date. The date is on hold for the theatre at the library.

M Newlands mentioned that there could be a third guest, a parent to present a parental perspective.

N Hydal-Khan did contact the police services but has not heard back yet and it is a work in progress. She also was not sure how the funding would be provided.

J Araujo asked if any other subcommittee had any updates but no one answered.

PRO Grant Event:

There was nothing new to report.

PIC 2024/2025 Membership retention/recruitment update

It was determined that 9 members are returning, 3 are undecided and 7 will not be returning. There is a new form to recruit new members and it has been sent out.

Rooms have been booked for next year in case the meetings are in person.

It was asked if anyone had any questions.

- N Hydal-Khan asked if returning members need to complete a new application form. The answer was no.

Year in Review: Reflecting on the Parent Involvement Committee 2023/2024 school year (open floor discussion)

- S Miller asked on reflecting on parent committee involvement does anyone have anything to share
- S Heroux shared that it has been a very productive year and people were happy with the feedback and the timing of feedback.
- Thank you from M Newlands to those who worked on Pro Grant.
- M Newlands commented that there was a lot of positive feedback and clarity; she also thanked J Araujo for her leadership.
- D Bandekar believes PIC can be more productive if we have a clearer understanding of the vision. She would like to have had a bit more updating from the subcommittees. She would also like people to know more about what PIC does but not sure what the best way to do this in a more formal way.
- T Gonzalez wanted to share that there is room for improvement and that it was hard to participate. Would like to approve more funds for projects and thought communication could be better, less rushed.
- N Hydal-Khan wanted to expand on what D Bandekar shared about sharing between subcommittees. Minutes could be shared with other committee members and agreed with the suggestion by D Bandekar to have a whatsapp or a broadcast channel for information purposes
- J Lawrie commented on the good job done by the chair as well as S Miller and M Newlands. She also commented that terms are two years after that you need to reapply to continue. She also liked the idea of a potential event, funding would need to be approved by the PIC committee but there is no more time. PIC has the funds and it could be spent on an event. She also commented about the new link in school day regarding boundaries and would like to see PIC more involved in this.
- M Radlein asked whether tonight we could make a motion to allocate some money to N Hydal-Khan's event. She suggested having one additional meeting to plan for next year.
- M Radlein also wanted to thank everyone on the committee.
- S Heroux would like to share a link with PIC for the Upper Grand PIC website regarding the difference from the website and how our webpage could evolve

Closing Remarks

J Araujo thanked everyone for their involvement.

N Hydal-Khan gave an estimate of cost for the proposed PIC event as \$880

J Araujo suggested that we could put forward a motion since we have the funds

N Hydal-Khan commented that we would be looking at high school students to help out with child care and thinks that \$2000 should cover the cost.

M Radlein suggested that since cost is not certain we set forth a max amount.

J Araujo suggested that we make a motion that \$2500 be set aside for this event.

All in favour, everyone raised their hands and motion was passed.

N Hydal-Khan wanted to share how impressed she was with the system navigators and that the process was very holistic She would like to highlight some of the work that they do next year by eg. interviewing with them or families who would like to share their experience.

M Newlands gave a big thank you to everyone for their participation and the leadership of the chair

M Radlein found this year to be a very productive year for PIC

The Parent Involvement Committee meeting adjourned at 8:15pm