

October 29, 2019
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: K. Meissner, K. Smith

Board Staff: A. Bell, J. Bryant, J. Crits, M. Gerard, A. Sloan, K. Sonnenberg, K. Tucker Petrick

Committee Members: W. Alsabbagh, M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, K. Gettliffe, H. Holmes, C. Mitchell, A. Plouffe, B. Robson, C. Smith, C. Ugwuogo, J. Wright

Community Rep: B. Davidson

Regrets: B. Randhawa, K. Thakur

Absent: M. Jenkins

Guests: A. Allen (WRAPSC)

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair B. Robson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. Randhawa was acclaimed as the treasurer of PIC and M. Bond was acclaimed as a returning member (2 years).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by A. Plouffe:

That the agenda of the October 29, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by C. Smith:

That the minutes of the September 24, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE - Director Bryant provided an update on the WRDSB Strategic Plan, which was presented to, and approved by the trustees at the Board meeting last night. The WRDSB's current purpose statement "Innovating tomorrow by educating today" will be reviewed and revised and an update will be provided at a future meeting. Director Bryant thanked the trustees for their hard work.

M. Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board, discussed the 2019-20 PIC PRO Grant (*see attached 2019-10-29 PIC Presentation PRO Grants*). The school board will now consult with stakeholder groups to award the grant money to different groups. In this respect, there is more onus on administration to make sure the dollars are targeted efficiently. The Ministry has provided \$36,478.40, considerably less than previous years. M. Gerard presented his rationale on distributing the funding. The parent event is important so funding (\$10,000) for this will remain. It is also important to support as many schools as possible, keeping in mind factors such as economic disparity, etc. The following suggestions were made by members;

- partnering of schools
- partnering with Catholic board
- give funding to schools that really need it, no application required
- buddy a needy school with a successful school
- partner with a community agency
- geographical representation (i.e., rural schools)

The proposal suggested that two representatives from the PIC, SEAC and EIAG committees, and a trustee form the committee that will select the schools from applications received. Please email Beth Robson if you are interested in being on this committee, which will likely meet in December or January to make the selections.

TREASURER REPORT

M. Bond presented the financial report.

CONTINUING & ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION – K. Tucker Petrick, Vice-Principal of Continuing & Alternative Education, Waterloo, discussed the school programs that are offered by the WRDSB to increase opportunities for students in a flexible alternative learning environment with the end goal of getting these students back in school to graduate. (*see attached Alternative & Continuing Education*).

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Smith reminded members of the upcoming People for Education Conference this Saturday, November 2. Those interested in joining her and B. Robson are to let her know.

Trustee Smith provided an update on the tentative strike action and advised members to continue to check the WRDSB website for future updates.

CHAIR REPORT

3. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by J. Wright:

That Sub-Committee reports be included as part of the consent agenda, unless a motion is pending or important information should be communicated.

-Carried-

4. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by M. Bond:

That PIC approve up to six (6) members to attend the People for Education Conference on November 2, 2019.

-Carried-

Chair Robson and A. Sloan, Interim Chief Communications Officer, will discuss how PIC and the Communications department will work together.

H. Holmes provided a brief description of the function of WRAPSC (Waterloo Region Association of Parent School Councils).

Chair B. Robson suggested that she chair PIC and select a co-chair in a few months. Members expressed concerns regarding this decision, as it does not comply with current bylaws.

5. Moved by C. Ugwuogo, seconded by W. Alsabbagh:

That applications for the position of Co-Chair be accepted until November 8, 2019, and a Co-Chair selected, by ballot, at the December 3, 2019 meeting.

-Carried-

B. Davidson will share some questions that applicants should be prepared to answer prior to the voting. Chair B. Robson will send out an email to all members asking for applications for the position.

POLICY REVIEW

B. Davidson summarized the reason for the letter regarding PIC's involvement in policy review. Trustee Smith will present it to the Board of Trustees and will notify the PIC Chairperson when the trustees respond.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Opioid Crisis – Chief Larkin confirmed he will speak at December 3 meeting
- Food 4 Kids
- Carizon
- Bullying – What is WRDSB policy/definition?
- Youth employment – Lutherwood
- Newcomer Centre – Cultural Enlightenment
- Nicole Robinson – Indigenous Studies

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 7:00 pm, Cambridge Room

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by C. Ugwuogo:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.