

**October 30, 2018**  
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: K. Smith

Board Staff: J. Bryant, J. Crits, L. Read, K. Sonnenberg.

Committee Members: R. Bissoondial, M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, Y. El Rayani, K. Gettliffe, L. Hall, M. Jenkins (Co-Chair), A. Penny, A. Plouffe, B. Robson, V. Toman.

Community Member: B. Davidson.

Regrets: W. Alsabbagh, K. Tucker Petrick, C. Ugwuogo.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair M. Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Beth Robson is acclaimed as Co-Chair of PIC.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by K. Gettliffe, seconded by L. Hall:

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

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by A. Plouffe, seconded by J. Brown-Jowett:

**That the minutes of the September 25, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Director J. Bryant provided an overview on Town Hall Insights. The purpose of town halls is to receive input from the community and get insight on what we need to know to help implement our strategic plan.

L. Read, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, discussed the Conditions for Learning Framework. Parents that attended both Town Halls told us what mattered to them were the relationships that children and parents had with educators, not just teaching practice and assessment. This formed the basis on how we go about implementing the strategic plan.

L. Read provided an overview on how the board and Overlap Associates worked together to get feedback from community groups using focus groups, surveys that were translated into different languages and town halls. Feedback was consolidated and the senior team landed on three insights:

- Parents and students value development of students' agency, autonomy and sense of self;
- Parents and students value individualized student centered learning, and;
- Parents and students value supportive communities that embrace their unique identities and dynamic needs.

As a system we still have a lot of learning to do to get to really know our students and respect their lived experience and how to support them in their learning and well-being.

Work continues to be done to build our equity consciousness and meet the needs of our diverse community, such as:

- An equity speaker will be presenting at the next System Leaders' meeting on November 1.
- Providing Power and Privilege training to senior team. Equity thought leaders are being brought in to work with the team around white privilege and bias and build equity consciousness.
- Hiring an equity officer to continue to help us understand where gaps are.

Trustee Smith suggested that members of the senior team attend community events, particularly those involving marginalized people, to promote engagement. L. Read mentioned that a 21 day challenge will be discussed at the System Leaders' meeting to help build capacity in equity and inclusion. Also a voluntary staff census will be done to see who is represented in our staff because our educators do not mirror what is seen in our community.

B. Davidson mentioned that there is still geographic diversity (rural areas, Cambridge) when engaging parents. Also, he doesn't see a connection with many community groups. L. Read suggested that although many community organizations were represented, some may have been missed and we will be looking at improving this at our next Town Hall. We are also working with the Smart Cities initiative and hoping to grow that this year.

We will continue to get PIC's input to enhance the next Town Hall.

A discussion continued around engagement and suggestions were made to promote communication between parents and administrators, such as having the superintendents provide a message through School Day, build relationships between principals, staff and parents and celebrate superstar principals.

A Russell, Communications Manager, will provide an update on the Communications Audit at a future meeting.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

Y. El Rayani provided an update on the PIC budgets, as per the agenda package.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Smith provided an overview of the recent municipal elections and offered her personal

opinion on the outcome.

Trustee Smith attended a community event on Sunday, October 28 in remembrance of the victims of the Pittsburgh shooting.

Members are encouraged to attend conferences that are offered throughout the year.

### **CO-CHAIR REPORT**

The orientation session on October 23 was successful. Thanks to board staff for their presentations.

Six PIC members and Trustee Smith will be attending the Making Connections Conference on November 10, 2018.

The plan for the PIC PRO event this year will be to offer three “TedTalk” type presentations in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge. The topic of the talks will be around mental health. Since the PRO grant is currently on pause, the committee will examine the costs involved to determine how to go forward with planning.

**PIC Engagement Strategy** - B. Robson led a discussion on what members would like to see happen in PIC this coming year. Members brainstormed and B. Robson will consolidate these ideas and send them out to members.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Outreach Report, Governance Report, PRO Grant Parent Event - M. Jenkins - *as per agenda package*.

3. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by J. Brown-Jowett:

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

**-Carried-**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Membership Report - M. Bond – Thurka Thinakaran will replace A. Mudawi and be acclaimed at the December meeting.

WRAPSC Report - A discussion around changing the name of *WRAPSC Sub Committee* to *School Councils’ Sub Committee* took place. Due to time constraints, it was decided to have this topic as an agenda item at the December meeting to provide more clarity around this decision.

### **POLICY REVIEW**

No policy review available. There were only four responses to the policy review and M. Jenkins will discuss this further with Trustee Smith.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Emotional Intelligence
- Junior Achievement – Financial Literacy

- Angela Sider- debrief (Dec.)
- Deepa Ahluwalia- Equity Discussion (Dec.)
- Nicole Robinson- Indigenous education (Dec.)
- Detailed review of P-2002 (Partnerships)
- Carizon

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** December 4, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

4. Moved by V. Toman, seconded by B. Robson:

**That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.**

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.