

**December 3, 2019**  
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, December 3, 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. Smith, J. Weston

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

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

Regrets: A. Bell, C. Ugwuogo

Absent: J. Crits, B. Davidson

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by J. Wright, seconded by H. Holmes:

**That the agenda of the December 3, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by K. Thakur, seconded by H. Holmes:

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

-Carried-

**NEW TREASURER** – W. Alsabbagh was acclaimed as treasurer of PIC.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board, provided an update on the PIC PRO grant. M. Jenkins, PIC representative, will be a member of the Evaluation Committee along with a member from EIAG and SEAC. The committee will meet in January 2020 to review applications and determine the distribution of funds.

Michael Weinert, Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource Services, provided an update on the current labour relations. If no tentative agreement is reached by midnight tonight, OSSTF will withdraw services for one day, December 4. As a result, the WRDSB has made a decision to close all schools to ensure the safety of our students. OSSTF members will be picketing at all 16 high schools with extra people at six high traffic area high schools, as well as at the three conservative MP offices. Once we are aware of OSSTF's messaging regarding the tentative walk out, we will communicate it to the system.

A question was raised as to how this will be communicated to students who may be questioning what is happening? Director John Bryant stated that caution must be exercised in what is communicated to students as we do not want to put staff in a position to comment on the bargaining process.

**TREASURER REPORT** – A. Plouffe questioned two entries from The Blend. M. Bond explained that the amounts were part of one invoice for services that we did not have a contract for. They are working with the company to apply these amounts to the invoice that was for the creation of the videos from the PIC Parent event. M. Gerard is aware.

**OPIOID CRISIS** - Chief Bryan Larkin, Waterloo Region Police, provided a historical context about the opioid crisis this region is experiencing. Fentanyl is a legal pain management drug that took hold in our community about 36 months ago. Organized crime is heavily involved in the distribution of this drug. Opioids do not discriminate; they touch every age, gender, and socio-economic group.

Why are people overdosing? The drug trade is controlled by organized crime and is profit driven. The majority of fentanyl is imported by China, arriving here through our postal service. The drug is “cut” with different agents, i.e., protein powder, flour, etc., and therefore, consistency is difficult to create. “Hotspotting” occurs and this can lead to an overdose.

How do we protect young people? The drug culture is changing. The best defence against drug use is education. It is important for the people who have contact with youth, i.e., educators, parents, to explain the dangers of cross contamination. Be aware of the effects of drug use – sudden mood changes, secrecy, asking for money, and a decline in school performance. Do not shy away from the discussion in an effort to remove the taboo stigma around drugs.

Cocaine is the largest single used drug in Canada and now dealers are cutting it with fentanyl. This is a community issue. We need to work collaboratively to help solve this issue. Current consumption sites in the region are working well with a goal of getting people the treatment they need. Covert operations have significantly reduced the drug traffic network in our region but it is not sustainable. These projects take up a lot of resources.

Chief Larkin expressed his thanks to the WRDSB for allowing his officers in the high schools to educate and connect with students. The school resource officers provide a much-needed presence in our schools and he is grateful to have a positive partnership with the WRDSB.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Smith updated members on the acclamation of Chairperson Jayne Herring and Vice Chair Joanne Weston at last night's inaugural board meeting.

## **CO CHAIR REPORT**

Election of Co-chair: M. Jenkins withdrew her request to be co-chair, therefore, M. Bond was acclaimed as co-chair of PIC.

3. Moved by J. Brown-Jowett, seconded by J. Wright:

**That M. Bond be acclaimed as Co-Chair of PIC.**

**-Carried-**

4. Moved by A. Plouffe, seconded by W. Alsabbagh:

**That M. Jenkins act as Co-Chair by proxy in the event M. Bond is unavailable to attend a meeting.**

**-Carried-**

B. Robson attended the People for Education Conference on November 2, 2019.

Vice Chair Joanne Weston, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, thanked Trustee K. Smith for her time on PIC. As bylaws dictate, Trustee Smith will step down from her position on the committee as of December 2019. The next trustee representative for PIC will be determined at the next Agenda Development meeting.

B. Robson will forward information regarding the Bylaw Consultation to members.

**PRO GRANT PARENT EVENT** – A. Plouffe updated members on the progress being made by the committee for the parent event. The event for this year will take on the same format as last year's event with speakers scheduled at three different locations on different dates. Any ideas for presentations can be forwarded to A. Plouffe. The next meeting will be after the holidays.

5. Moved by A. Plouffe, seconded by H. Holmes:

**That \$500 be allocated from one of the PIC budgets (to be determined) to fund the completion of the tool kit from the video taken at last year's parent event.**

**-Carried-**

## **COMMUNICATION SUB COMMITTEE**

The Communication Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference will be forwarded to members prior to the next meeting.

H. Holmes asked if the Immigration Sub-Committee, of which she is the only member, could possibly be under the umbrella of the Communications Sub-Committee. She will continue to do outreach work with the immigrant community. The matter was discussed and members agreed this would be acceptable.

The Co-Chairs of the Communication Sub-Committee will communicate directly with the WRDSB Communications department for their needs/requests and A. Sloan, Interim Chief Communication Officer, said they can expect a week's turnaround for requests.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

M. Bond asked if the WRDSB has a Restorative Justice model. Director J. Bryant indicated that we do have training modules and Restorative Justice is used, when needed. M. Bond asked if this topic could perhaps be included under Bullying in the future agenda items.

K. Gettliffe asked if the topic of addressing parents of students with special needs and what supports the WRDSB provides can be a future agenda item.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. Moved by B. Robson seconded by M. Bond:

**That the Consent agenda, which includes the following reports; WRAPSC, Governance, Membership, Communications, and SCIS be approved.**

**-Carried-**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Lutherwood - Youth Employment
- Newcomer Centre - Cultural Enlightenment
- Indigenous Studies - Nicole Robinson
- Food 4 Kids
- Carizon
- Bullying - What is WRDSB Policy?

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7:00 pm, Cambridge Room

### **ADJOURNMENT**

7. Moved by K. Gettliffe seconded by W. Alsabbagh:

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

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.