

**January 28, 2020**  
**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: J. Weston

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

Committee Members: W. Alsabbagh, M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, H. Holmes, M. Jenkins, C. Mitchell, A. Plouffe, C. Smith, C. Ugwugogo (via teleconference), J. Wright

Regrets: A. Bell, B. Davidson, K. Gettliffe, B. Robson, Kunal Thakur

Guests: A. Allen, K. Smith

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Co-Chair M. Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by M. Jenkins:

**That the agenda of the January 28, 2020 Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Moved by A. Plouffe, seconded by C. Smith:

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

-Carried-

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Director J. Bryant demonstrated how to navigate through the [2019 Director's Annual Report](#) on the board's website and briefly discussed some highlights in the report. This is a digital platform, which makes it very accessible. This platform can also be translated by Google Translate.

A Sloan, Interim Chief Communications Officer, provided updates from the Communications Department;

- Good news - Grand River Transit have come to an agreement; still needs ratification.

- Labour Communications - working with senior team to get messaging out to employees, trustees and the community in a timely manner.
- Website Redesign will contain new technology. WRDSB will be well represented on social media. The new website is slated for September 2020 launch.
- Director's Report/New Tools - digital platform, saving on printed material, translation abilities, live streaming, videos.
- Social Media - 40,000 views on facebook (mostly regarding labour situation), 10,000 followers on instagram (#2 in province).
- Media Themes and Sentiment - highlighted where we get our media - athletics, vaping (negative), labour, Political visits policy, NBA trophy at KCI, A Time of Giving.
- Current Issues - Coronavirus - we have a contact with Regional Health. Overall message - stay calm and use preventative measures to protect yourself.

Director Bryant addressed a question about elementary report cards. Marks alone do not indicate a child's progress and he encouraged parents to contact their child's teacher to have the discussion about his/her progress. A suggestion was made that more clarification could be provided regarding the reasoning behind job sanctions (i.e., why can't report cards be issued?) so that parents could be better informed.

#### Youth Employment - Lutherwood (Jessica McQuistin)

[This presentation](#) highlighted the challenges and opportunities youth encounter in our region with respect to employment. The current youth employment rate is at 12.2% (2018). Age, lack of experience, lack of skills, lack of education, transportation, lack of network, lack of self confidence, mental health, addictions, disabilities, academic difficulties, poverty, lack of support, newcomers. ESL, LGBTQ, pregnancy, etc., are some barriers that youth may encounter when looking for employment.

Youth Job Connection (YJC) is a program that builds employment related skills and work experience. To be eligible youth must be aged 15-29, unemployed, attending high school and returning to school next year or not in school or training, resident of Ontario, legally able to work in Canada, and experiencing barriers to finding a job.

Components of YJC: workshop information, job placements & financial supports, program benefits.

Jessica fielded questions from members.

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

The Treasurer's report is included in the agenda package.

#### **TRUSTEE REPORT** - J. Weston

##### Bylaws

Trustees passed a motion in March 2018 to do a comprehensive review of their By-laws. It is currently in the consultation phase. It was on the website from early Dec to mid January for input from the general community. PIC feedback is due February 15, 2020. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Equity & Inclusion Advisory Committee and Student Senate are also groups providing feedback. For major changes, see 2020-01-27 folio 6. Next steps include reviewing and considering the feedback, finalizing the draft, a legal review and final recommendation for Trustees to consider.

## Policies

Trustees are working through a new policy regarding visits to Schools by politicians after a writ is dropped. There were a few amendments that needed to be discussed and it will be coming back to Trustees on February 10, 2020.

## Committees

Participation on committees is considered struck work during the labour negotiations. Teacher voice is important to the Board of Trustees. For this reason, two of our ad hoc committees (French Immersion review and Suspension review) are on hold.

## School & Community Engagement

Trustees attended the KCI community dinner, the Eastwood Arts Gala, Huron Heights MyArt and visited various schools.

Nine Trustees attended the Public Education Symposium hosted by the Ontario Public School Boards of Ontario (OPSBA) in Toronto last week. This is the main professional development offered to Trustees each year and is a good opportunity to network with Boards across Ontario.

I will be attending the Canadian Children's Mental Health online conference this weekend.

<https://instituteofchildpsychology.com/product/2020-canadian-childrens-mental-health-online-conference-3-day-pass/>

## Advocacy

Trustees wrote a letter to the Minister of Health to advocate for more regulations on vaping (age 21 & banning flavoured vapes) to help curb vaping by youth.

Chair Herring, Trustee Woodcock and I presented to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs during their pre-budget consultations. We advocated for local priorities: capital funding (timely and sustainable funding), temporary accommodation funding (while we play catch up on capital funding) and class size funding gap (attrition funding protection wasn't enough). And provincially: equitable & sustainable funding, mental health and transportation.

This is a very comprehensive explanation about the Suspension & Expulsion process

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/NeedtoKnowSExp.pdf>

## **CO CHAIR REPORT**

Co-Chair M. Bond thanked everyone for their time preparing all the subcommittee reports. In addition, the questions posed in the reports will be addressed under new business.

## **PRO GRANT PARENT EVENT**

### **COMMUNICATION SUB COMMITTEE**

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

**That the Terms of Reference for the Communications Sub Committee, with a revision to section 1.5, be accepted.**

**-Carried-**

4. Moved by C. Mitchell, seconded by M. Jenkins:

**That the Terms of Reference for the SCIS Sub Committee be accepted.**

**-Carried-**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A discussion about how increase the public awareness of Sub Committee meetings took place. We would need to establish consistent times during the year and hold them in a public place (i.e., schools?).

It is not possible to have meetings at Education Centre after 7 pm if no board staff is available. Non-employees are not issued passes.

C. Mitchell posed questions regarding the SCIS handbook (out of date) and web content. This will be discussed at the next agenda setting meeting and will be answered at a future PIC meeting.

H. Holmes is unsure of the communication process with Communications Department. A. Sloan clarified that communication with Sub Committee Chairs would go through Kylie Penticost, with a copy to Andrew Sloan so he is aware.

M. Bond will look into Google storage for PIC information.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Moved by H. Holmes, seconded by J. Brown-Jowett:

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

**-Carried-**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Carizon - M. Bond will reach out to Carizon
- Bullying - What is WRDSB Policy?
- Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council - Barbara Ward will be presenting at March 3 meeting

6. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by A. Plouffe:

**That Food 4 Kids be removed from the Future Agenda Items.**

**-Carried-**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 7:00 pm, Cambridge Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

7. Moved by M. Bond seconded by C. Ugwuogo:

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

**-Carried-**

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.