

January 29, 2019
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: K. Meissner, K. Smith

Board Staff: A. Bell, J. Bryant, J. Crits, A. Russell, K. Sonnenberg and K. Tucker Petrick

Committee Members: W. Alsabbagh, M. Bond, Y. El Rayani, A. Plouffe, B. Robson (Co-Chair) and T. Thinakaran

Community Member: B. Davidson

Regrets: J. Brown-Jowett, K. Gettliffe, M. Jenkins (Co-Chair), V. Toman and C. Ugwuogo

Guests: A. Allen, A. Sider

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by A. Plouffe, seconded by Y. El Rayani:

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

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

That the minutes of the December 4, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved, with minor changes.

-Carried-

PCMH UPDATE

In the spring of 2018, PCMH (Parents for Children's Mental Health) and PIC collaborated on a parent engagement project, funded by PIC. Angela Sider, Family Engagement Specialist at PCMH, provided an update of the project.

Since the time period to implement this project was short, presentations were made at targeted activities where schools already had something planned, i.e., fun fairs. In total, eight schools participated, seven of which were elementary.

The overall feedback from parents and teachers was positive. The presentations provided a direct connection with families and the feedback opportunities affirmed teachers and administrators expectations.

The limitations were in part due to a lack of planning time, a lack of central location of school

event information, responses from school administration and communication with planning staff.

It's important to continue to find new, creative and diverse ways of engaging parents. PIC will continue to partner with PCMH on future initiatives and engage parents in discussions about how they want to be engaged.

The powerpoint presentation is attached to the minutes and the updated report will be provided at a later date.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director J. Bryant thanked Angela for PCMH's involvement with PIC and emphasized that one of the areas of focus on the Board's Strategic Plan is staff and student well-being. There are many ways the WRDSB is supporting staff and student well-being - January 30 Bell Let's Talk Day and Lifespeak - a resource for staff - to name a few.

We are now at the halfway mark in the school year. The board of trustees will be working with staff in regards to the 2019-20 budget in the coming months. The Director's Annual Report will be presented to the trustees in February, and we are confident and optimistic about grad rates and our strategic plan goals.

TREASURER REPORT

Y. El Rayani presented the treasurer report, which is included in the meeting package.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee K. Smith explained what in-camera meetings were.

Trustee K. Meissner, alternate trustee for PIC, was introduced. She answered questions about what it's like to be a trustee.

Trustee Smith informed members of an upcoming event on March 2. The Coalition of Muslim Women of KW will be holding their annual dinner to recognize "Women who Inspire" at the Family Centre on Ardelt, on March 2. It's a great opportunity to learn more about this community.

3. Moved by Y. El Rayani, seconded by A. Plouffe:

That PIC will fund the cost of up to eight members attending the Women Who Inspire event on March 2, 2019.

-Carried-

CO-CHAIR REPORT

The Solutions for Learning Conference is being held in Burlington on March 21, 2019, from 8:30 - 3:00. B. Robson and M. Jenkins will be attending. If anyone else is interested, please let them know. The cost is \$235 per person.

4. Moved by Y. El Rayani, seconded by M. Bond:

That PIC will fund the cost of up to 5 people to attend the Solutions for Learning Conference (Breakthrough to Excellence) on March 21, 2019.

-Carried-

5. Moved by W. Alsabbagh, seconded by Y. El Rayani:

That an AdHoc Subcommittee be formed to investigate PIC funding allocation.

-Carried-

M. Bond, K. Smith and M. Jenkins have expressed interest in being on the committee. Members were asked to let the Co-Chairs know if interested.

W. Alsabbagh will be the PIC representative on the Internet Filtering Working Committee, replacing L. Hall.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the WRAPSC, Governance and Immigrant Engagement Reports, which are included in the meeting package.

MOTION

6. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by Y. El Rayani:

That the Consent Agenda of the January 29, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Sub Committee - Three members have resigned since the last meeting. Instead of working on a membership booklet, the focus now will be on recruitment.

PIC PRO Grant - M. Bond provided an update on the parent events being held in the spring. The grant is for \$9000 but there may be a need for additional funding.

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

That \$5000 be used to supplement any additional expenses, if needed, incurred at the Parent Events to be held in the spring 2019. This money will come from the PIC Central budget.

-Carried-

Members were asked to volunteer for at least one of the three parent events. WRDSB staff and trustees are welcome to attend as well.

Outreach Committee - The committee met with A. Russell and the Communication team to

discuss how to brand PIC. B. Robson will be drafting the Terms of Reference for the committee and members will receive the document soon.

POLICY REVIEW

8. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by W. Alsabbagh:

That the recommended changes to the following Board Policies: 4021 Use of Volunteers, 3006 Student Trustees and 4009 Student Transportation, as summarized by B. Robson, be provided to Trustee Smith to bring forward for discussion at the Board table.

-Carried-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Food 4 Kids
2. Carizon
3. Bullying - What is WRDSB Policy?
4. Nicole Robinson - Community and Student Engagements
5. A. Mercier, D. Lieberman - update on data

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 5, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

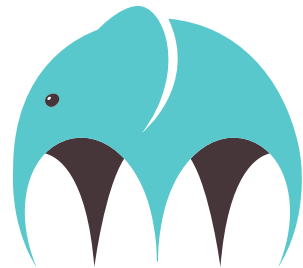
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Parents for Children's Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.



PIC-PCMH Engagement Project



Parents for Children's
Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Target Events

- End-of-year Fun Fairs
- Wellness Fairs
- Celebration Events
- Kindergarten Information Nights
- Grade 7 Information Nights

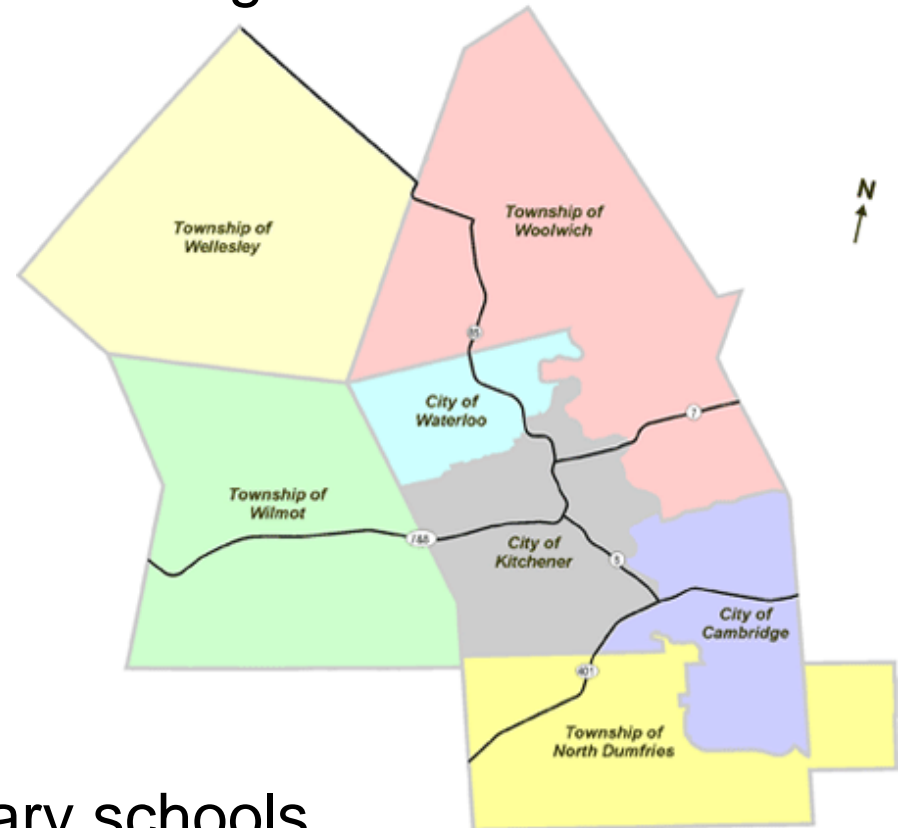


School Engagement

Outreach to 14 schools with existing events planned

- Kitchener – 4 schools
- Cambridge – 2 schools
- Elmira – 2 schools
- Waterloo – 0 schools

❖ 7 of 8 were elementary schools



School Engagement

- W. T. Townshend PS
- Elmira District SS
- Howard Robertson PS
- Silverheights PS
- Jean Steckle PS
- Park Manor PS
- Sheppard PS
- Tait Street PS



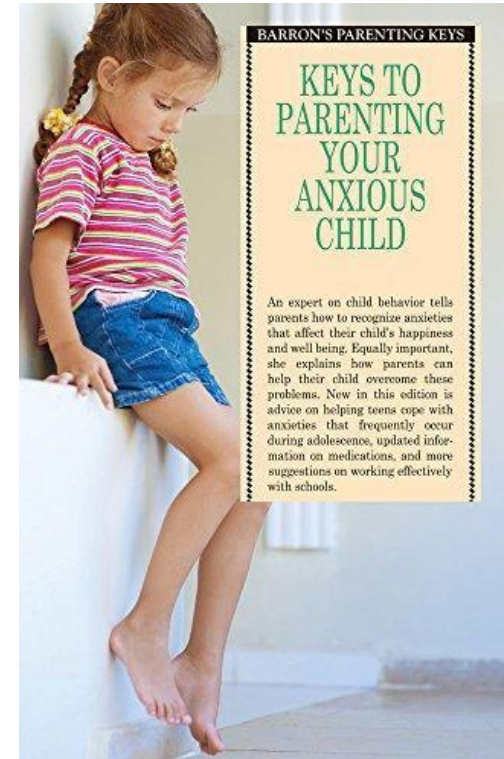
Engagement Activities

- At least 1 parent engagement activity at each event
- Decided in consultation with teachers or administrators
- All schools were provided with a feedback engagement opportunity
 - 3 of the 8 participated



Engagement Activities

- Feedback opportunity
- Free information and resources
 - PIC/Mental Health / PCMH
- Free book giveaways
 - Keys to Parenting your Anxious Child *by Katharina Manassis*
 - Feeling Good *by David Burns*
- Fidget Toys



Successes

- Overall feedback from parents and teachers was very positive
- Direct connection with families that needed it
- Books were a huge hit
- Parent recruitment for PIC
- Feedback opportunities affirmed teachers and admin



Limitations

- Lack of ideal planning time
- Lack of central location of school event information
- Responses from school administration
- Communication with planning staff



Possible Next Steps

- Continue to find new, creative and diverse ways of engaging parents
- Engage parents in discussions about how they want to be engaged – what does **ENGAGEMENT** mean to them
- Partner with PCMH on future initiatives

