

March 3, 2020
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: J. Weston

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

Committee Members: W. Alsabbagh, M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, M. Jenkins, C. Smith, J. Wright, C. Ugwuogo and H. Holmes via teleconference.

Community Rep: B. Davidson

Regrets: A. Bell, K. Gettliffe, J. Greener, C. Mitchell, A. Plouffe

Guests: A. Allen, K. Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair M. Bond called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by J. Brown-Jowett, seconded by C. Smith:

That the agenda of the March 3, 2020, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by J. Brown-Jowett, seconded by C. Smith:

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

-Carried-

The Membership Committee would like to acclaim two new members to the Parent Involvement Committee, Rozina Shaheen and Janet Greener.

W. Alsabbagh is acclaimed as Acting Co-Chair for the May meeting. A new Co-Chair will be elected at the September meeting.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Associate Director L. Read addressed questions forwarded by PIC from the last meeting.

SCIS Teams – Every school is required to have a Safe, Caring and Inclusive Team in place, consisting of a Principal, two staff members, two student representatives, one parent/caregiver and one community member. That is the minimum requirement, a school may always have more people on the team. Unfortunately, SCIS teams have been impacted this year by job sanctions and therefore, the work of the teams has been limited this year. An invitation to parents/caregivers to join the team is usually made at school council meetings. Some members of PIC noted that they never have heard of any invitations coming from the administrator or at council meetings. L. Read will follow up. The PIC SCIS Sub-Committee would like to meet with L. Read at a future date. L. Read will connect with Sub-Committee Chair C. Mitchell to arrange this.

L. Read acknowledged that [SCIS information](#) on the Board website needs to be updated.

SCIS survey – A few years ago we presented a new tool to PIC, the Middle Years Development Instrument. The survey has been administered once and the plan was to administer it every two years. This should be happening this year but we are waiting for labour sanctions to end so staff can participate. We do have one year of data to measure progress and over time we will be able to see whether we are trending up.

Other surveys

- Every two years we do a parent survey. This may happen this year depending on the labour environment. This survey gets posted on the website.
- Staff Surveys – Guarding Minds at Work, Plasticity
- Budget Surveys – Will be coming out shortly (mid March)
- Website Survey – A. Sloan, Interim Chief Communication Officer, explained the website survey and asked PIC members to complete it at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2020/03/02/help-shape-the-wrdsbs-online-presence/>
- Student Survey – This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Mental Health Strategy – B. Ward, Mental Health Lead, provided an update on current information sessions currently being offered throughout the Board and asked for input.

Four vaping sessions have been held at various schools. The last one will be at Waterloo Oxford on Thursday, March 5. This session will also be live streamed and posted on the website for parents to access. Currently, vaping kits are used by phys ed teachers in secondary schools. Cannabis kits are also available in secondary schools and hopefully will be in Grade 7/8 schools soon.

Human Trafficking - We are currently meeting with community partners to organize a parent session at the Education Centre and in Cambridge after March Break. Activity in our area is high. Students are being taught about healthy relationships so that they can recognize the signs.

Suggestions from PIC members included;

- These sessions seemed to be targeted to a secondary group; it would be important to try and reach the grade 7/8 schools, even grade 6's.
- Principals should encourage the school community to look at the Board website as information about these sessions. Perhaps a link could be added to School Day or School website?
- Include this information in curriculum planning – B. Ward indicated that staff training needs to take place first.

B. Ward left some resources, “No Problem Too Big or Too Small”.

TREASURER REPORT – The report is included in the agenda package.

The application for the PIC Regional Grant in the amount of \$10, 000 has been approved. This money will be used for the PIC Parent event(s).

3. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by C. Smith:

That \$2,000 from the PIC Central budget be available, if required, to supplement the PIC PRO Regional Grant.

-Carried-

TRUSTEE REPORT – The report is included in the agenda package.

Trustee J. Weston will be taking the Policy Review letter to the Board of Trustees for consideration. M. Bond will forward a copy of this letter to members.

CO - CHAIR REPORT

This has been a year of re-building and M. Bond thanked all members for providing a solid foundation by working diligently in all sub-committees to increase productivity in future meetings.

A discussion about sub-committee meetings will take place at the May meeting. Members will be asked to comment: how many meetings are needed, how can we make them accessible to the public; and if they should occur before the PIC meetings?

M. Bond attended the online Children’s Mental Health Conference.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRO Regional Parent Event - This report is included in the agenda package. A sign up sheet for volunteers was distributed.

Governance Report – J. Wright

With the absence of B. Robson, the other committee member, J. Wright met with M. Bond to discuss the future of this sub-committee. The key issue is the state of the bylaws. In her experience, and in discussion with Capacity Canada, she recommends that replacing the bylaws would be easier than amending them. A discussion ensued as to the work involved, however,

J. Wright indicated that by rewriting them, the bylaws will capture the spirit of governance that we want to tackle and provide the clarity that is much needed. M. Jenkins will also join the sub-committee. Anyone else who is interested is asked to notify M. Bond.

Membership – J. Brown-Jowett

The Membership Sub-Committee is developing a handbook for parents. There currently is a provincial handbook that is used for orientation purposes but they would like to add to it. Feedback on the suggested table of contents would be appreciated.

4. Moved by J. Brown-Jowett, seconded by W. Alsabbagh:

That the Consent agenda, consisting of the Communications Report, SCIS Report and WRAPSC Report be approved.

-Carried-

NEW BUSINESS

A draft of PIC meeting dates for 2020-21 is available. An Orientation meeting will take place the Tuesday before the first PIC meeting on September 22, 2020.

Information about the upcoming Student Survey will be presented at the May meeting. L. Read will ask D. Liebermann, Senior Manager, Research and Evidence-based Practice, to provide PIC members some information in advance so they can review prior to the meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- Carizon
- Bullying-What is WRDSB Policy?

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 7:00 pm, Cambridge Room

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by M. Bond, seconded by J. Wright:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.