

May 21, 2019
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, May 21, 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 and K. Smith

Board Staff: J. Bryant, M. Gerard, A. Russell and K. Sonnenberg

Committee Members: M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, M. Jenkins (Co-Chair), A. Plouffe, B. Robson (Co-Chair), V. Toman and C. Ugwuogo

Community Member: B. Davidson

Regrets: W. Alsabbagh, J. Crits, K. Gettliffe and K. Tucker Petrick

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the May 21, 2019, 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 March 5, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director J. Bryant thanked PIC members for their work during this past year.

Director Bryant provided an update of current news;

- Budget – at this time we do not have technical paperwork to break down the budget. We have FAQ's on our website to answer community questions and will keep it updated as we receive more information. We hope to have the information we need by the end of May. We appreciate the work that our Finance department, Human Resource department and trustees are doing in regards to the budget. The WRDSB is a growing board and therefore we anticipate that the budget will be balanced. We are not anticipating any reduction in staff (i.e., someone losing their job).
- Negotiations – OSSTF has filed to start negotiations with the government. Other unions/associations have not yet filed. This is a lengthy process but the WRDSB has a history of good relationships with our union partners.

- A. Russell, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the new website. The process is well underway. Vendors have submitted proposals and the selection will be made in June. Hoping for a January/February 2020 launch. The plan, going forward, will have stakeholders provide input on the website content and design.

ArtShine Presentation – Elana Chand, General Manager, Kemahee Lee, Regional Manager and Instructor

Elana provided an overview about what Artshine offers. A copy of the presentation will be provided to members. They requested feedback about a new initiative they want to implement “Artshine in a Box”, a monthly subscription mail-order service. Any questions or feedback should be directed to M. Jenkins or B. Robson.

TREASURER REPORT

M. Bond reviewed the reports provided in the package.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee K. Smith provided an update on the various events she attended – WLU Music Event at Kitchener City Hall, Ramadan Festivals, Voices Conference at Conestoga College, Huron Heights Powwow.

Trustee Smith encouraged PIC members to send concerns about education to their local MPP’s and copy Premier D. Ford.

Trustee K. Meissner announced the election of two new student trustees – Narein Chenthivelnathan from WODSS and Myah Robinson from ECI. Their term will begin September 2020.

Trustee K. Meissner congratulated PIC on the parent events held this spring.

CHAIR REPORT

The Co-Chairs thanked members, trustees and board staff for their work this year.

Co-Chair M. Jenkins provided an overview of PIC’s accomplishments this past year. It was suggested that this overview be posted on the PIC website to provide information to parents on what PIC does. It’s also important to share this information at PIC’s orientation. A. Russell will follow up on this request.

M. Jenkins encouraged PIC members to take advantage of the conferences that are available to them.

Plans for 2019-2020

The application for the PRO grant will be submitted this year, although they have not yet received any information on that yet. Looking at doing a math/art night to encourage parent/child engagement.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consists of the WRAPSC and Governance Reports, which are included in the meeting package.

3. Moved by M. Jenkins, seconded by A. Plouffe:

That the Consent Agenda of the May 21, 2019, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - J. Brown-Jowett provided an overview of the current membership status and recruitment of new members. Interviews are underway and will be completed in the next few weeks. The committee has developed an exit interview to assist departing members in providing feedback.

PRO Parent Event – The committee received good feedback on the new format that was used this year. Currently waiting on video editing and working with a retired teacher to get this completed.

Outreach Committee – Members have agreed to put the subcommittee put on hold until we have a more definitive direction of what will be most advantageous and the website is updated.

A discussion regarding left over funds and where to spend the money took place. Director Bryant has investigated if these funds could be carried over to next year and, unfortunately, they cannot be.

4. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by C. Ugwuogo:

That up to \$5000 will be allocated out of the PIC Central Budget to be used for translation purposes and creating a parent engagement video.

-Carried-

B. Robson discussed a change in the format of future meetings, including time before the beginning of each meeting where members can review meeting norms.

POLICY REVIEW

B. Davidson provided a copy of a letter that he drafted to ask trustees about policy review and how PIC is involved. Trustee Smith provided some background information regarding a policy and bylaw committee and the decision to bring PIC on to review policies. Director Bryant informed members that the role of the trustees is to set policies. Members discussed the role of PIC in policy review and whether the current role is effective.

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

That B. Davidson amend the letter to trustees about the policy review process and have the letter presented to the board of trustees.

-Carried-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Food 4 Kids
- Carizon
- Bullying - What is WRDSB Policy?
- Opioid Crisis - Chief B. Larkin
- SCIS - Angie/Dana in October

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 6:30 pm, Cambridge Room
Orientation starts at 6:30, Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

7. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by J. Brown-Jowett:

That PIC meetings commence at 7:00 p.m. on the designated dates, after the initial September orientation meeting.

-Carried-

NEW BUSINESS

C. Ugwuogo thanked J. Brown-Jowett and A. Russell for all their work this year.

A discussion regarding members attending PIC meetings remotely took place. M. Jenkins explained that although accommodation can occur on a case by case basis, this is a parent engagement committee. We have phone capacity but not skype. PIC meeting dates are set in advance and each member has time to make arrangements to attend meetings. A suggestion was made that a member could attend one meeting a year, remotely, in addition to the two meetings they can miss due to other commitments. Having said that, we should be mindful of any disability, financial or social, and we need to continue this conversation.

ADJOURNMENT

8. Moved by B. Robson, seconded by M. Jenkins:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.