

December 4, 2018
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board **Parent Involvement Committee** was held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cambridge Room at the Education Centre, 51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener, with the following members in attendance:

Trustees: K. Smith

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

Committee Members: W. Alsabbagh, R. Bissoondial, M. Bond, J. Brown-Jowett, K. Gettliffe, L. Hall, M. Jenkins (Co-Chair), A. Penny, A. Plouffe, B. Robson (Co-Chair), T. Thinakaran, and V. Toman

Community Member: B. Davidson

Regrets : Y. El Rayani

Absent : J. Crits, C. Ugwuogo

Guests: A. Allen

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Co-Chair B. Robson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Co-Chair Robson welcomed T. Thinakaran as a new member of PIC.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by A. Penny, seconded by V. Toman:

That the agenda of the December 4, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Moved by L. Hall, seconded by A. Plouffe:

That the minutes of the October 30, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Parents for Children's Mental Health (PCMH) UPDATE

A. Sider was unable to attend due to illness so her presentation will be deferred until January 29, 2019.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director J. Bryant indicated that the board has not received any new information regarding the status of the PIC PRO grant. Many other grants are also on pause. We hope to hear an update in January 2019. Director Bryant assured PIC that the board is committed to assisting with funding for projects should they require it.

The board's United Way campaign is wrapping up. Our board does an incredible job in giving. An update on final numbers will be forthcoming.

The second stage of Smart Waterloo kicked off on November 20. The WRDSB along with community partners and the Region's cities are involved in a partnership. An update will be forthcoming.

Alanna Russell, Chief Communications Officer, informed PIC that trustees approved funding for a new external website. There will be a parent component for feedback on parent communication. The Communications department will work with PIC's Outreach Subcommittee.

On Thursday, December 6 at 4:00 p.m., there will be a kick-off for the #Art4WEFI Campaign in the Artrium. Student artwork will be featured on a pack of blank cards, available for \$10 per pack. The student artists, ranging in age from SK to grade 12, will be present.

EQUITY & INCLUSION

Deepa Ahluwalia, Equity and Inclusion Officer, discussed her role at the WRDSB and shared a personal story about growing up as a daughter of Indian immigrants and the inequality she experienced.

She provided an overview on the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee and suggested that PIC invite Superintendent P. Rubenschuh to speak about the Equity and Indigenous Action Plan at a future meeting. Funding for this plan is currently on pause.

In the spring of 2018, a Ministry supported initiative was planned to host a conference for African, Caribbean and black students. Student feedback was used to plan Black Brilliance, a conference that was held on November 30, 2018 and included 70 students, 15 educators and numerous mentors. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the event was a great success.

[Administrative Procedure 1235 – Accommodation for Persons who identify as Transgender](#)

D. Ahluwalia provided an overview of what schools are doing to support these students and their families. She suggested that when PIC is hosting events, name tags that include preferred names and pronouns be provided and introductions made with preferred pronouns. It is one way that we can support the transgender community. A video on [Supporting our Transgender Students](#) is available on our website.

Parent engagement was discussed through a lens of equity and inclusion. It is important to increase representation as it applies to diversity of our staff. The Parent Engagement Plan, Harmony Movement and SCIS teams are all ways the board has supported parent engagement. Climate surveys, undertaken in the spring, were translated into several languages which increased participation. Dana Lieberman, Manager of Research, could share the results of this survey at a future meeting. The Director hosts town hall meetings each year and outreach town halls go out into the community to get feedback. This week, the second round of outreach town halls are

starting, under the leadership of Lila Read, Coordinating Superintendent, Student Achievement & Wellness.

Please contact Deepa Ahluwalia (deepa_ahluwalia@wrdsb.ca) if you would like more information on the topic of Equity and Inclusion.

TREASURER REPORT

M. Jenkins reviewed the financial report.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee K. Smith provided an overview on last night's Inaugural board meeting. Chairperson Jayne Herring and Vice Chair Joanne Weston were elected. The Board of Trustees consists of 11 trustees, five of which are newly elected.

Trustee K. Smith had originally scheduled PIC members to be introduced to trustees on Monday, December 17, however not many can attend. A new date in January will be arranged.

CO-CHAIR REPORT

Six members attended the November 10, 2018 People for Education Conference. It was a worthwhile event and M. Jenkins encouraged PIC members to consider attending it in the future.

On March 21, 2019, [Solutions for Learning Conference](#) will be held in Burlington. Please indicate if you would like to attend by January 15, 2019.

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

That six members consisting of PIC and WRAPSC members be approved to attend the Solutions for Learning Conference at a cost of \$225 per person.

-Carried-

PIC would like to continue with Parent Posts. Please contact M. Jenkins or B. Robson if you are interested in writing about a topic. The Communications department will assist in editing.

B. Davidson suggested that parents other than PIC members could provide interesting articles, as demonstrated by Deepa Ahluwalia's presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda includes the WRAPSC and Governance Reports.

4. Moved by B. Robson seconded by K. Getliffe:

That the Consent Agenda of the December 4, 2018, Parent Involvement Committee meeting be approved.

-Carried-

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Report – J. Brown-Jowett provided an overview of the report as included in the meeting package. A discussion around changes to the Terms of Reference took place and it was determined that a clear and transparent selection process occur to ensure adequate knowledge transfer.

PRO Grant – M. Bond provided an overview of the report as included in the meeting package.

Outreach Report – B. Robson and A. Penny provided an overview of the report as included in the meeting package.

Immigrant Engagement Report – R. Bissoondial provided an overview of the report as included in the meeting package.

PIC STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS

B. Robson indicated that the three goals for PIC are;

- Parent posts
- Facebook
- More community involvement. PIC would like to be invited to more community/board events.

POLICY REVIEW

P2007 – Board Advertising Expense and P6009 – Student Bullying Prevention and Intervention were reviewed but no suggestions were provided.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Food 4 Kids
2. Carizon
3. Bullying – What is the WRDSB Policy?
4. Extended Communication Audit Report

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., Cambridge Room

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

A. Russell discussed future plans regarding communication development and informed members of two new hires in the department.

ADJOURNMENT

6. Moved by K. Gettliffe, seconded by M. Jenkins:

That the Parent Involvement Committee Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.